



MEETING OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO REFLECT ON INDIGENOUS MIGRATION IN OUR TIME

On 25 and 26 June we met in Ocosingo, Chiapas, to share our opinion about the kind of migration that our communities and people experience. We reflect in particular on how this young people live this situation. The meeting was convened by three organizations working in the area: Comité de Derechos Humanos Fray Pedro Lorenzo de la Nada (Human Rights Committee Fray Pedro Lorenzo de la Nada), Servicios y Asesoría para la Paz (Services and Consultancy for Peace, Serapaz) and Enlace, Comunicación y Capacitación (Liaison, Communication and Training).

35 people participated in the event: 22 men and 13 women, of the municipalities of Ocosingo, Palenque, Tila, Yajalon, Salto de Agua, Villa Las Rosas, and a person from Guatemala. During our presentations, we said that we come from different organizations: Casa de Apoyo a la Mujer, Centro de Derechos de la Mujer de Chiapas, Red de Defensores

Comunitarios, Centro de Derechos Indígenas-Cediac, Yip Lumaltik, Kichan Kichañob, Misión de Bachajón. There was also the participation of promoters the Comité de Derechos Humanos Fray Pedro Lorenzo de la Nada and Enlace, Comunicación y Capacitación. We were so happy that there was significant participation by women and most of them young people.

The main objective of the meeting was: To provide a space of exchange, analysis and visibility of experiences, problems and views of migration, to generate a joint discussion with communities and social and civil organizations that allow feedback to our work. We accomplish this goal, working in three small tasks, which are also called specific objectives:

- 1) To share experiences of young migrant in our communities
- 2) To have an approach on the topic of migration, from the perspective of social organizations, the community authorities and migrants from the region to seek ways to face the problem.

Ocosingo, Chiapas June 25-26, 2009

NOTE: Capture and design: Verónica Melgoza 26/06/2009.



3) To analyze in depth the phenomenon of migration and its forms in the region of the glens to recognize elements of context and conflict.

TESTIMONY OF INDIGENOUS MIGRANTS

The same government officials discard their goods to migrants. In the canyon of San Quentin, there is a transport company, which deceives the people from Central America. Among themselves, they stop the cars and say they must pay fine, because they are being coyotes. But the transporter does not pay, but they charge the amount to the migrant people in the bus.

In the first part of the job, two brothers shared some experiences that men and women of our indigenous peoples have lived by migration. Later, some of us also gave our testimonies of migration.

EFRAÍN GARCÍA HERNÁNDEZ, HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTER, REGION INDIGENOUS TOWNS, CAÑADA DE SAN QUINTÍN

In this area, migration is extensive and has severely beaten the communities. Many people have left, many have stayed in another country, but some of them have returned but with no profit. In the region, there two forms of migration: 1) from the communities to the U.S. and 2) the migrant people Central American that passes through the canyon. The brother Efraín told us two experiences of indigenous migrants.

A) A brother migrated to the United States. He had to work for two and a half years just to repay the trip. When he began to pay, they

grabbed him, put him in jail for 3 months and he was deported to Mexico. When he reached the north of our country, he spent 3 days without money, without food and unable to communicate with his family. Some people helped him to call his home, where they managed to send him money so he could come back. It took him a week to arrive home and he arrived penniless.

B) A man sent his 14 year old son to USA to find his other son, because they had no news of him. The young man was detained at the border, then in addition to paying the 15 thousand pesos of the trip, the father had to have a loan of 8 thousand pesos to go pay the fine and get his son because U.S. officials do not let go, because he was a minor. With the interests, his debt was 15 thousand pesos. Since he had no money, he had to sell his pasture to pay. This brother was left only with its plot, because he had to sell his land to retrieve his sons.

TESTIMONY

Brother Manuel, of Santa Elena

I traveled to America to look work, because of the poverty. We are 5 brothers and my dad has no lands. I was invited by one guy of the same community already migrated. When we crossed the border the border patrol persecuted us, we hid and they couldn't stop us. It's a hurting to go find a job on the other side. There is no respect to people, by the Gringos. Some employers abuse much of its workers. Many friends who are



already there do not have jobs. Some are dedicated only to assaulting people, drink liquor, and have drugs. Some are arrested and their parents are hoping that they send money. When I traveled and did not speak Spanish, so I did not understand anything. Thank God I'm back here. I brought a little resource with which I bought 3 acres and built a home.

DOMINGO GUZMAN PEREZ,
BACHAJON LUMALTIK YIP, CASA DEL MIGRANTE
AND MAIN COURT HOUSE OF THE CHURCH

Brother Domingo is involved in a project of the Diocese of San Cristobal to support our brothers and sisters who go looking for work to Playa del Carmen, Cancun, Chetumal and other places in that area. When they went to visit them, they saw how they are suffering because there is not much work and the pay is tiny. There are many indigenous brothers who are unemployed and sleeping under a tree because they have no money. They spend the week on Saturday hoping to reach the contractors to see if they hire them. But when they arrive, they choose people who know a bit about the work.

The project in which he is participating has an office in the Riviera Maya. The brothers and sisters who have problems find help there. Approximately 15 days ago a boy who worked there burned with electric light and the employer was not going to answer. His dad came to Bachajon to tell us, and then we warned the office of Playa del Carmen

and ensured that the employer paid the healing of the boy. The boy is better now and soon he will come out of the hospital so he can come back home.

- *People are leaving because there is no land where to work, problems, abandoning their parents or wife.*

- *Some when they leave forget the family. The man does not care because he can find another woman. But the woman is suffering with their children.*

- *Workplaces are far from the city, they have to walk about 2 or 3 hours.*

- *On Saturdays, when they receive their pay, in that same place a lot of women arrive and invite them to spend their money with them drinking. When they fall in jail for drinking have to pay a fine of around 600 to 700 pesos.*

- *When you want to send their money by Elektra, for a thousand pesos they charge 150 pesos.*

- *There is a lot of drug abudt, because they say it helps not to feel the weariness of work. This creates many problems, even death.*

- *The minority get a high paying job so they can return with money to buy land and build a house.*

- *Most of them return already changed: they speak another language, they forget their manners, and they have another way to live. Many come without money. Sometimes just bring tape recorders and modulators.*

- *There are other migrants, young students who leave to study and return well, do not forget their family. But there are young people who leave and join with others and are committed to being just thugs.*



- *In communities, older people are left alone because young people are leaving.*

- *In the community Peña Limonar there are 150 women without their husbands, only with their children. The husbands never returned no one knows why. The women have to work on their land to survive. This also happens in other communities as Tuliljá.*

- *Those who go to USA, can be lost or even die because it is very difficult to cross without a guide. If they cross, they have to walk long distances to places where there are snakes or people who shoot at them, just because they are migrants. When they arrive they are always hiding so they do not stop them, send them to jail and then deport them.*

- *The people seeking other people to work abroad deceive people: they say there is a lot of work, that the pay is good and that they are going to connect them with the employers. But they charge too much money and when they arrive, they leave them alone, abandoned. And they cannot return because there is no money.*

TESTIMONY

Brother Gilberto of the north zone

I was also a migrant. I represent a group of the North where an armed conflict was suffered. From 1995 to 1998 we tried to promote the return of displaced people. In 1996 I had an apprehension order. In 1998 I had to leave the country for a while, so I went to the U.S. to seek refuge for a while.

I worked in the pinch of tobacco and onion. Many people are used to

pinch, but unless you know you suffer. There you can win 4 thousand pesos a week, but life is very expensive, because what you earn is what you spend on food and rent.

For 5 months I didn't report to my family because I didn't know how to dial to our country. Of the money that is sent, only half of it arrived to its destiny. In addition, there is a lot of discrimination. There are friends that only want to offer drugs. They say that way you can work more and painless that way.

There are many migrants from Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero. A colleague from Oaxaca helped me to learn some things, because I did not know the language. I had to ask for thing in the store by signs.

Because the friend I went, turned into a «pollero». He came to Mexico gather more people and earned as a thousand dollars per person, but I think that is selling the people. He died there in a crash he suffered. It took more than a month to take the body at home with his family. We achieved a little compensation.

You have to think why many people migrate. Is it because they want to or because there is a need? The responsibility can be of the crisis we are experiencing. We have the task to meditate and see who are responsible for such migration.

Group Work/Migrant Characterization

We answered the following questions: Who is the migrant?, How does he/she live?, why he/she migrates?, what kind of works he/she does? The



responses were pasted in the drawing of a man and a woman. In addition we present a sign to share with the rest of the group.

MIGRANT WOMEN

Who is the migrant?

- Myself
- My daughter
- My cousin
- My sister
- My sister in law
- My neighbor
- My niece
- A girl who want to have her own money
- A person who has ambition for money

How does she live?

- A Little bit better than before
- Poor and miserable
- Is a student
- Is housewife, divorced, with two kinds
- She makes men job
- She suffers of hunger while she is away from home
- She lives thinking about her family
- She lives afraid to be deported
- She lives with other customs
- She wants to come back, but has no money for the return trip

What kind of work she does?

- Crafts and candies seller
- Waiter
- In the field, she cuts tomatoes
- Cooker
- Cleaning

- Domestic services
- Employee
- In the kitchen
- In the maquila, sewing

Why she migrates?

- Because of the poverty and lack of money
- Because of betray of the boyfriend (anger, sadness)
- Because she didn't find a job
- Has no money
- Problems of domestic abuse
- Because of an armed conflict
- Because a relative is sick
- For the lack of food
- Because she has nothing at home
- Because the pay is good
- To find a mate
- To discover another place
- Because she has a lot of necessities
- Because she wants to have the best things and start a business
- She has no attention from her family
- She has necessity to give her family welfare

MIGRANT MEN

Who is the migrant?

- Myself
- My friend
- My brothers, brother or young brother
- My neighbor
- My compadre
- Someone I know
- The human rights promoter
- A person from the community

*How does he live?*

- In the streets, as a gangster
- Good
- Before single, now who knows
- He is a family man with a lot of kids
- Is a student
- Is penniless
- He is a farmer
- Plagued because of the debts
- With small economic resources
- Happy to be with his family
- With hunger and sadness because he doesn't know how his family is

Why he migrates?

- For ambition
- For necessity
- To discover other things
- Because of family issues
- His Work does not leave money
- Abandonment of his wife (anger, sadness)
- He cannot find a job
- To improve his economic and familiar situation
- To discover another place
- Because he has debts
- He is going to save money for his wedding
- Has someone sick in his family
- Because of laziness of working in his land
- Because he has no land
- Because he doesn't want to support his kids

What kind of work he does?

- He was a farmer before, now who knows
- laborer

- Asking for money
- Security guard
- Dish washer
- Waiter
- Cooker
- Gardener
- In the construction
- As a helper in the construction
- As a charger
- Pollero
- In tomato, cucumber, apple and grape pinching
- Cleaning houses
- In prostitution

SIGNS

Some migrants, who just arrived from the United States, convinced a young guy to go north to work instead of staying to continue studying. The young said goodbye to his family and goes along with other men. Upon reaching the border they couldn't go by, and then they look for the coyote to help them to pass. They arrived with the employer, but he didn't hire them because they did not know how to speak English.

A girl travels north with 13 other people, only two women. They walk several nights in the desert. They got caught by some migration agents who tied their hands together with shoelaces. They lead them to the immigration station, which is like prison. The next day they lead them to Sonora. The girl calls to borrow some money from a cousin to return home.

A man persuades another to go pinching in the United States. He said it was very easy to go, that he had contacts to get a job. The boy tells his dad that he is going to earn 100



dollars a day. With he gets this pay, along with his friends he starts drinking. He returns because he didn't find work and he wants his dad to give him more money to continue drinking. But his dad has no money, because he still owe the money from the trip. The son goes away angry. A young woman goes to work in Playa del Carmen because they need money to buy medicine for his mother who is very ill. Because she is not able to speak spanish, she is abused. A friend gets her cleanup work from 6 am to 10 pm. After a month, she decides to call her mother. The mother seeks for help in the mission of Bachajon, that informs her that the daughter must go to the office they have in Playa del Carmen. There the lawyer accomplished the employer to pay the young lady all her money and with this money she is able to return to her community.

Here in Ocosingo there are women that work in a Bar.

All the things we saw are stories of the real life. Poverty is very strong but is nothing new. That is the way our ancestors suffered in the farms. They also migrated but they didn't go to other places but they introduced themselves in the jungle.

Although it looks like a cancer, I think there is a solution for this situation. The fact of communicating our experiences already helps us.

There are women that have already 3 years abandoned and they have no news of their husbands. The men said they won't take long to come back. They are still waiting. To survive they have their land where they sow corn

with their kids. There are people that help them with their work. Children are unable to continuing studying because there is nobody to help them. They participate in the communal land assemblies and are recognized instead of their husbands as communal lands holder.

Complement/moor

This is a reality we know because we've lived it. That's why we can share it. These are things that have happened to some of us. We're not making that up.

A problem such as migration affects both men and women. It may seem that affects more men, but what we found is that it affects both men and women.

Our migration is more oriented to Playa del Carmen. Those who go there are closer, they can return. In the United States is another culture, another language, is more money, is a bigger danger.

When we speak of migrants we do not have to forget the guys who come from Central American countries: Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. They go through the places where we live. Sometimes, in our own communities injustices are committed against them.

When a young man says in his house he is going to leave, the answer of the parents is very important, which is to not to stop the way of the son, but of concern and respect for their decision. This is very valuable.



THE ROOTS AND PROBLEMS OF MIGRATION

To meditate about this subject we did listen the opinion of other men and women colleagues that helped us to understand more deeply the causes of migration and its consequences. After listening to the all the assistants also gave our opinion

Alma Padilla and Flor Pérez, from the Centro de Derechos de la Mujer (Center of Women Rights) in Chiapas

The two colleagues shared some of the things they found in the hearts of many women who suffer from migration. Some of the words of the women were:

- Migration affects lives of women in all the fields. Its main cause is poverty. They migrate to look for job opportunities to get economic resources. Those who are more used to migrate are men and young women

- Because of the Migration of the husbands, the wives have to do their Works and also the ones the men used to do: assembly reunions and responsibility of the children. Some of them feel abandoned, because a lot of the mates never come back

- Women migrate for different reasons than men: they travel to meet with a relative, to look for a mate, as a way to solve familiar issues as violence, abuse, divorce and expulsion from the community. They also migrate because of natural disaster. They migrate to look for a better way of life.

- Women in the migration corridors suffer of sexual and physical violence. Some «polleros» abuse of them or sell them for prostitution purposes. In the border of Chiapas there are a lot of bars and whorehouses where to take the girls to work

- To get a job women face discrimination. They have to handle enormous charge of work for low salaries. Or they get informal works such as saleswomen or domestic employments with no benefits or rights.

- Women that migrate suffer of fear and many times quilt for leaving their children and family. They live in a very tough way, of the money they earn the keep a very small amount for their rent and food and they send the rest to their families.

- Migration of men not always release women of the violence they suffer at home. Many times husbands want to keep controlling them by the phone. Or the in-laws exercise violence against them (they hit them, take their ands away, give them no money that the men send). Some times when they gather with the husbands, they find out that they drink more alcohol and are more violent.

- To be a women with no papers can be used for men as a way of intimidation if they report the violence they suffer they threathen them saying they are going to denounce them.

- Because of migration there is more alcoholism, drug problems,



vandalism and sexually transmitted diseases.

- When people decide to come back to their communities they suffer of criticism because they return different. The community expects the women to be the same than before leaving.

Land is a very important element in the subject of Migration. A lot of young women migrate because their right to the land property is not recognized.

Migration does not solve violence against women. It changes but does not stop.

Migration can bring good things for women; because it can change something of the culture that does not give them freedom. Or they can overcome the fear to make things that are supposed to be made by men and they thought they couldn't do.

*José Manuel Martínez
and Miguel Torres from the
Red de defensores comunitarios
(Network of communitarian defenders)*

The communitarian defenders told us that they are working the topic of Migration carrying cases and sharing information.

They told us migration is generated because of the system we are living in. And even do migrants say they are not exploited, the jobs they are doing are underpaid, difficult and with overtime. «They discriminate us because we are indigenous and migrant, we do not have Access to

services, and we do not have the right to a worthy life because we do not have the knowledge, for not speaking English and for the color of our skin».

La Red de Defensores Comunitarios is carrying the cases of 8 men of the community Miguel Hidalgo de Trinitaria who were in jail in the United States because the employer unfairly accused of theft, when they denounced he didn't want to pay their salaries. They had a contract for 6 months and looking not to pay them he denounced them. The migrants knew about the network by lawyers in the United States that found them in a jail in Chicago. The trial is already won with the employer that dismissed them.

The Network works as a bridge that helps the workers that migrated, who are already here and suffered of violation of their rights in the United States can achieve justice. It is not necessary for the person to go to the United States to open the case. The communitarian defenders open the case for them, with the support of the Global Workers Organization that is in the north.

Migration cannot be stopped but we can look for alternatives to help migrant people to know their rights and the way to travel in more safety ways. To achieve this the defenders make brochures and give information talks so the people that migrate to the United States can know their rights they have as workers. As persons we have rights, it doesn't matter if we don't have papers. We have rights as migrant workers in United States and in our country.



You have right when you work in the United States!

Every worker has rights when he Works in the United States

HAVING PAPERS OR NOT:

Payment. Always write down the hours you work, because you have the right to be paid for all the work you have done; you have the right to receive all the promised payment, it doesn't matter if you get paid by contract or for hour you have the right to get paid the minimum federal salary for every worked hour; you have the right to get paid for all the time you spend waiting for the job to begin (cleaning the place, putting the uniform or repairing tools).

Injuries in work. If you get hurt or ill in work and is an emergency dial 911 and ask for an ambulance, notify your supervisor as soon as possible after the accident, so he can make a report of the accident (If the employer has compensation assurance for the worker the majority of the medical expenses will be paid by this insurance), during your visit to the clinic or doctor ask them to take a record of all the injuries and ask for a copy of the documents

Discrimination. No worker can be abused or be afraid of reprisals; no employer can threat you with calling the migration officers or fired you because you are claiming for your right, you have the right not to be discriminated for your race, disability, migratory situation or gender; the employer has to offer the same salary to each worker for the same work and opportunities.

Program H2. All the workers in this program have the right to receive a copy of the contract in their language,

explaining the working conditions; they also have the right to get paid the promised salary and work at least three quarters of the promised time in the contract. They have the right to a free, clean and health housing provided by the employer

Health. Every worker has the right to safety and safe condition, they have the right to cool drinking water, showers and water to wash their hands in the field, if the employer gives you housing it has to be of a firm structure, with adequate, clean and health bathrooms

Pesticides. Always wash your hands after working with pesticides or chemicals that are used in the field; if you handle the pesticides directly the employer must give you the necessary protective equipment in good conditions and clean; you have the right to be aware of the time they are going to apply pesticides so you can protect your health.

Women. You shouldn't be treated differently from the other workers for being women or pregnant (this is sexual discrimination); you have the right to the same salary for the same work; the right to receive offers for the same kind of works such as driving a tractor (if you want and know how); you have the right not to be sexually harassed (the exigency of sexual favors so they can give you a better job or even maintain the job, touch you physically in a sexual way, call you or yell you with bad words or make you sexual comments)

More information:

Red de Defensores Comunitarios:
01 967 674 03 43 in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



comunitarios@prodigy.net.mx
 Project XXX, in the United States:
 1-800-555-5555 (free number)

DIEGO LORENTE,
 FROM CONSEJERÍA EN PROYECTOS
 (PROJECT COUNCELLING SERVICE, PCS)

Project Councelling Service is a Latinamerican organization that works to support economically and politically other organizations, so they can get resources to carrying out its projects. Diego works in Guatemala, and from there they support groups from Central American and Chiapas he has worked in the subject of migration for many years y many places of the globe. He said to us:

- It is important to know how Migration is lived in other places. Specially what is happening in our country, to know the kind of violations that the migrant suffer in their way to the United States
- The migration corridor is very risky and longer that it seems, for the risks and distance. The idea that right away they are going to be able to send money home is not true. It takes at least a year for the migrant to stabilize and be able to send money.
- Migrants, doesn't matter where are they from, suffer of similar problems. This makes us more brothers with the people of Central America and the other states of Mexico.
- The main violations to the rights suffered by migrants are:

extortions, kidnapping, crime and corruption of authorities.

- About the kidnappings: in 6 months there have been more than 9 thousand kidnaps to migrant by organized crime, as Zetas. The bands see migrants as a good business, because they can robbed them and kidnap them without being reported. Because the one that have the courage to denounce them can be deported.

- The violations to the migrant rights exist because they are without security; they have all their money with them and have a lot of need. The delinquents and corrupt authorities take advantage of this.

- In Mexico there is no law to defend migrants. The migration laws that exist are very old and useless. This allows corruption and the detention on persons in migratory stations as if they were jails. Or the treatment as criminal to people that try to help them.

- The ones that violate more the migrant rights are: corrupt migrant agents, municipal police in the north of the country, and the bands of organized crime.

- In Chiapas there is a strong wave of extortion to people from Central America. The authorities take advantage of them. In addition they suffer to catch the train (that is the most common way to go to the North), because with Stan Hurricane the railroad tracks that used to be in Tapachula now are in Arriaga, this 300 kilometers they have to walk are very dangerous. Then get on the train



is also something very difficult because they have to do it while the train is moving and they travel in the roof. They cannot fall sleep because they can fall down or be assaulted. The trip lasts from 2 to 3 days. Many people fall down and loose parts of their bodies such as legs, arms or even die.

- The two groups that can suffer more risks are the unaccompanied children and women. Every day more migrant kids travel alone, they are children of people that are already in the North that travel to meet their parents.

- Women suffer of a double discrimination. Many female migrants from Central America have in their belongings medicine and abortive pills; because they already know they are going to be raped. And they cannot denounce because of the fear to be deported

- In our country, the most difficult place to go through is Veracruz where the train railroads are together. There the bands, that are already concur with the drivers, stop the trains so they can come up and robe, kidnap and kill. With no punishment by the authorities.

- Other places where there are train crossing are also dangerous, such as Lecheria in the Estado de Mexico or San Luis Potosi. A lot of people that doesn't come back is because they died in their way to the North.

- In the crossing points of the board there is also a lot of risk. Many people decide to go by the desert, because there are less migration

officers. But it is very risky because of the heat, the cold, the animals and the vegetation.

- Because of the crisis the United States does not need a lot of cheap labor. Due to that situation they are trying to take out of their country many undocumented people. In Tijuana, a few weeks ago, in 10 minutes they deported 250 persons. Deported people that have been in the United States suffer abandonment in the border, because Mexicana authorities do nothing when they are delivered. But before be sent to Mexico they spend from 1 to 6 months in jails in the United States.

- The militarization because of the war against the drug trafficking generates more problems for the migrants of Central America, because there are checkpoints and the «polleros» charge more. It is known that bands pay migrants to take drugs by the desert or they force them to take the drugs. In the United States they give them 20 years of jail for this crime.

Efforts of solidarity

- In this journey there are also a lot of people helping. There are specific points for migrant support, such as lodging homes, where they get information and free support. These organizations work to help migrants, to denounce the injustices that they suffer and to achieve the authorities to change the policies and make justice.

- There are also human rights organizations that help migrants: Sin



Fronteras, Consejería en Proyectos, Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova, Codehutab, Centro Pro, among others.

- The organizations that work the subject of migration in several countries are coordinated in networks. They join their work to achieve better results, because the migrant it's a person in movement. Because of that it is very important the coordinated work.

- In Veracruz, the women from La Patrona help migrant people by throwing food when they go by the community in the train. They have suffered harassment from the authorities.

- Doña Conchis, from Queretaro was 3 years in jail for giving food to migrants. She is still working to defend their rights.

- In Ecatepec, Estado de México, the mayor declared that the policeman cannot ask for paper to the migrants that pass by.

EXPLANATION OF SOME WORDS

Organized crime: This is the crime conducted by bands. One of these bands is the Zetas which is integrated by deserter ex-military people that try to control the traffic of drugs and persons. This band has presence from Tabasco to Coahuila with bands that are coordinated and are very violent. They kidnap migrants make them call their relatives even with torture to ask for an amount of money to release them.

Deportation: When USA police officer arrests a persons with no paper, keeps

the person in jail and then sent the person back to Mexico

Extortion: it is when an authority (as policeman or migration officer) arrests someone and asks for money for not implement the law, taking advantage of a superiority situation.

Networks: Gathering between different organized groups trying to defend a specific right.

Migrants from El Salvador said that the place where more money.

Was took from them was in Chiapas.

There are communities.

Where the «pozol» is sold for 50 pesos

- In Chiapas, the Borders of good government are looking forward to avoid the people to take advantage of the migrants; In one meeting they put fines.

- In the community of Altar in the state of Sonora there is the Communitarian center for migrant support, it is a shelter where people can take a break after the long journey to cross Mexico (5 days). The director is the father Prisciliano. In this shelter they teach people how the desert vegetation is, because there are plants that can cause death.

An example

- In Altar, Sonora every day 5 trucks arrive with people from Tapachula. They rest there because from there they continue 4 days of journey.

- Altar is 100 kilometers away from the boarder line, and the desert starts there. To arrive to the border people have to contact a «pollero» because it is not safe to cross alone.



They pay for a trip in a wagon to arrive to the border of the United States.

- In Altar they make business with migrants: guests houses, where they charge 100 pesos for sleeping 1 night in a bed made of wood or a bag, the stores sell moisturizing serums, backpacks and hats at very expensive prices.

- In the desert the weather is to cold and to hot. But the «pollero» does not have enough water because if the border patrol stops them they get caught. They can only bring 2 or 3 litter which is very little.

- In the square there are the recruiters that charge to take the migrants in vans to the border and for a guide that takes them walking by the desert to the United States. There is no way to arrive to the United States without help.

- To pass the Altar desert, they have to pay 50 dollars to the city hall, that is colluded with the «polleros» and with the crime bands. Despite it is desert there are armed persons all over the way.

There are any ways to help migrants. The subject of migration can seem remote from our reality, because the persons are from other places. But what affects the migrants from other places affects the same communities. If we allow that in our communities groups that take advantage of t they this groups are going to turn unpunished affecting ourselves. Migrants are human beings not a business

ANALYSIS

Between all the participants we made a meditation about Migration, to make our own analysis of reality. We worked with the following questions:

Why migration arises?

- Because of the political conditions of the country. Lack of support to the field and a fair price for the products we grow

- Lack of work

- Because there are not enough lands, the land is ending and is not fertile. Some people doesn't want to sow anymore.

- Because of economic need, poverty, illness and low salaries

- Because of the high prices of the basic products

- Because of political or communitarian conflicts

- Because of money ambition

- To have vacation or meeting places

- To meet relatives

- Because of tricks of other people, that say that there are a lot of opportunities

- Because of the structural reforms in the country made by the government. They think that if there are more migrants sending money the government takes away the responsibility to support the field.

How families live Migration?

- Many migrants go away, some of them with no idea of supporting the family. And they don't send



money for food, they leave the family abandoned.

- Family remains very sad when the husband leaves. The wife stays very concerned, the children stay without the moral support of the father.
- They stay more poor.
- Women live with more violence and suffer of critics.
- Women stay as head of the family, they have to be mother and father at the same time. Their responsibilities grow in the subjects of health and children education.
- There is lost of affection and respect from the children to the parents.
- The older children stay alone and unprotected.
- There is family disintegration.
- They live lack of communication.
- Violence increases.
- There are more diseases.

What are the changes and what is the reason for these changes?

- Change of costumes and culture, sometimes they do not adapt to the rhythm of work
- Lost of identity
- Cultural uprooting
- More violence with the wife
- Change in the way of dressing
- Vices

Facing young people that arrives with all these changes, instead of the criticism it is important to approach them to talk and see what they feel. The government has placed ideas so we see young people as criminals

When we migrate we coexist with other cultures. This interchange of cultures is not that bad. There are good things we can learn from other cultures to nourish our culture.

What are the problems in the community when someone migrates?

- Lack of respect for the authorities and the society
- Sometimes they come back as criminals
- Familiar issues
- Alcoholism and drug problems
- The migrant that comes back feels superior to the others
- More violence against women
- Leave women with no right to the lands
- Women assume responsibilities of the husbands. This leads to the social incoordination, in the community services.
- The women stay with responsibilities in the tasks of the field but her juridical responsibility is not recognized in the assemblies. When a woman is representing her husband she can be present but she cannot vote
- There are a lot of land selling to be able to migrate. The common land is losing strength.

ALTERNATIVES

What do we expect from the organizations and communitarian authorities?

- We want the organizations and authorities to support migrants, that they do not lose their right to have lands, they have to be respected.



- The acceptance of migrants when they return to their community. They have to be recognized not excluded. If he has new and good costumes they have to be accepted.

- We want the organization to look for alternatives to help migrants. Avoid criticism and jokes when the migrants come back

- No discrimination and a good welcome when a migrant returns, a recognition of its rights and obligations

- It is important to recognize the rights of the family when the father is not around. That the women have vote and voice

- To promote campaigns about the migration issue so everyone knows what it is, the roots, advantages and disadvantages

- Make internal regulations that include women and their rights. Protection to the family by the authorities and seek support for them

What do we expect from the migrant organizations?

- Some of the things we said are difficult. We need to analyze and meditate on the subject of migration with our communities and organizations

What can we do in the community, family and organization as migrants?

- To support the Project proposal of the migrants. Support their families.

- To encourage them and accept them when they come back

- Being in communication with other organizations to give them

alternatives to the migrants that come back to orient them to respect the land

- To document the violations to their rights

- As migrants support the families, not losing communication, accept the responsibilities with the community

- Make sensitization meetings, so everyone can understand what migration is

- To recognize the right of the women when their husbands leave, with internal regulations

- That the migrant communicates regularly with his wife, so she won't think she is abandoned

- That the women can make all the decisions when the husband is not home

- To have a political migration, laws to protect the migrant

- To have health measurements, when the migrant comes back they have to check if he has any sexually transmitted disease so he cannot spread it.

- As a migrant, to talk with the family before migrating to explain them the reason of migration, to talk with the authorities and assembly to let them know that the women is going to be in charge.

- That the migrant asks for information about its rights. To be informed about its rights so he can exercise them

- To make informative meetings about migrant rights, links with organizations and communities. Make



information materials to spread about migration

- Sensitize the authorities to support the family of the migrants.

CLOSURE AND EVALUATION

We learned many new things about Migration. It is the first time we come and we have a lot of new information. We meet how migration arises and the problems it leads. We also saw possible solutions to this problems

We hope this knowledge and effort between organizations can be growing, and that way obtain more experience about the organization The problem is enormous, it looks like a demon. But we also see there are alternatives, there are brothers

and organizations that are already working in the attention of the migrants

This kind of meetings help is to enrich our point of view on how to support our migrants, we hope the proposals that we have can be practiced in our families, communities and organizations We feel very happy and animated. We hope this is not the last time We have to work to sensitize other brothers and sisters to have this view of the problem.

The organizers thanked a lot our participation in this meeting. There are a lot of agreements and a lot of meditation. We hope we can carry this in our heart to practice and share all this!

