

Routes of Migration



67 SUEÑOS



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Routes of migration into the U.S. from Central America and below are becoming increasingly more life-threatening due to the hyper-militarization of the border caused by [Plan Merida](#) & [Plan Frontera Sur](#)

Plan Merida: How the U.S. Exports Arms & Military Training to Mexico

Originally signed in 2006 as a three-year program (though it continues functioning today), Plan Merida is “military aid package” / “border security cooperation agreement”. What this means is that:

- The U.S. offers to Mexico military-grade artillery, surveillance equipment, combat tactical training, and intelligence and database sharing
- The U.S. is now able to anticipate and prepare for unauthorized migration as it initiates from the Central America. (This effectively extends the border patrol power of the U.S. down to Mexico’s southern border)

Through this Plan, the U.S. has spent almost \$3 billion on exporting arms and training to Mexico since 2007. Merida was supposed to be a response to Mexico’s “drug problem”.

Table 1. Estimated Mérida Initiative Funding: FY2007-FY2018 (Request)
(\$ in millions)

Account	ESF	INCLE	FMF	Total
FY2007	11.4	36.7	0.0	48.1
FY2008	20.0	263.5	116.5	400.0
FY2009	15.0	406.0	39.0	460.0
FY2010	9.0	365.0	265.2	639.2
FY2011	18.0	117.0	8.0	143.0
FY2012	33.3	248.5	Not Applicable	281.8
FY2013	32.1	190.1	Not Applicable	222.2
FY2014	35.0	143.1	Not Applicable	178.1
FY2015	33.6	110.0	Not Applicable	143.6
FY2016	39.0	100.0	Not Applicable	139.0
FY2017 (est.)	49.0	90.0	Not Applicable	139.0
Total	284.0	2,033.2	428.7	2,745.9
FY2018 (request)	25.0 ^a	60.0	Not Applicable	85.0

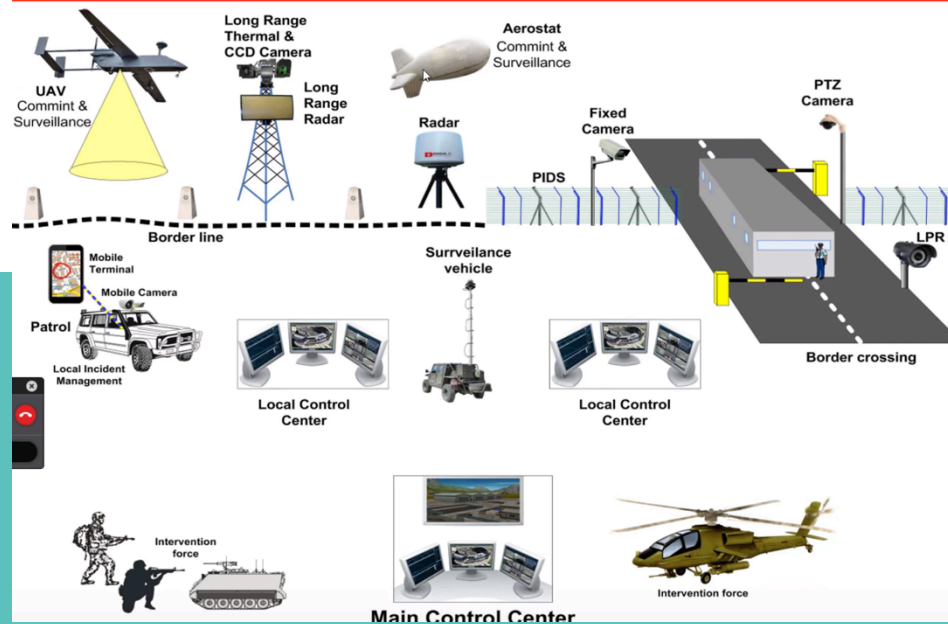
Sources: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) budget office, November 3, 2016; U.S. Department of State, November 18, 2016; U.S. Department of State, *Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations, FY2018*.

Notes: ESF = Economic Support Fund; INCLE = International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement; FMF = Foreign Military Financing. FY2008-FY2010 included supplemental funding.

- a. In the FY2018 budget request, the Trump Administration proposes a new aid account to merge the Economic Support and Development Fund accounts. It is to be known as the Economic Support and Development Fund account, or ESDF.

Source: *Colectivo Todo Poder al Pueblo (2015)*

Securing Open Borders



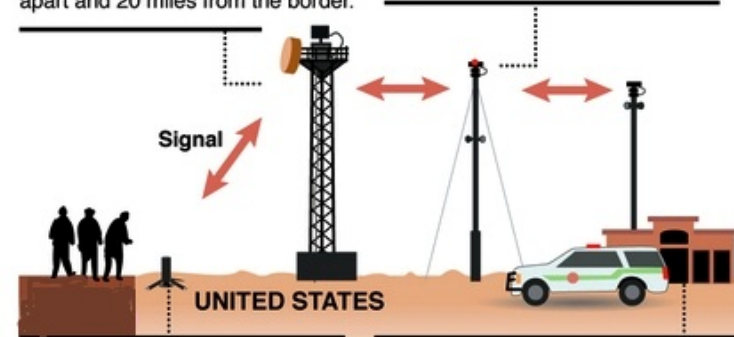
Components of the system:

Sensor towers

Nine solar powered towers equipped with radar and day and night cameras are placed five miles apart and 20 miles from the border.

Communication relay towers

These are placed between sensor towers and the command center to extend communication range.



Unattended ground sensors

Around 200 seismic sensors are placed along border. An alert is sent to a sensor tower when vibration is detected.

Command center

Approximately 50 miles from border, the signal is monitored constantly and dispatches field agents to apprehend possible border breaches.

SOURCE: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

AP

With Plan Merida Forces Blocking the Usual Routes, Migrants Find Other, More Lethal Routes to Cross

Since 2013, the Mexican government has completed the following with the help of the U.S.:

- Established 12 advanced U.S.-trained naval bases along Mexico's southern border rivers
- Built three security centers that stretch more than 100 miles north of the Mexico-Guatemala and Mexico-Belize borders
- Initiate U.S.-monitored drones along the southern Mexican border

In 2015, the U.S. and Mexican governments approved a \$75 million Merida program to help Mexico develop an automated biometrics system to help agencies collect, store, and share information on criminals and migrants. To facilitate this information sharing, a \$13 million telecommunications system was built along the U.S.-Mexican border

Source: *Congressional Research Service (2017)*

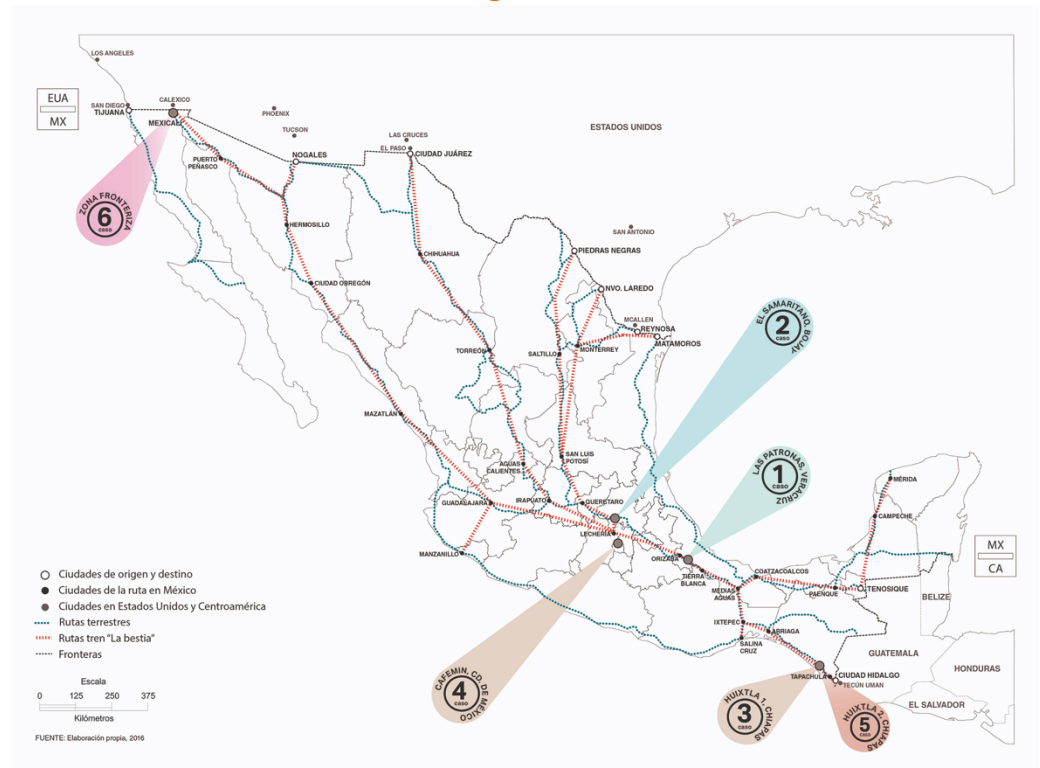
Plan Frontera Sur (PFS): Mexico / U.S. Response to Central American Unaccompanied Minors

- On July 7, 2014, Mexico President Peña Nieto announced Programa Frontera Sur, a border security plan that aimed to increased security measures at at least 12 points of entry at Guatemala and Belize, as well as on other popular migration routes in Mexico, such as the railroads.
- In August 2016, Mexico's Communications and Transport Ministry reclaimed ownership of the cross-country railroad line known as "La Bestia"



More Dangerous Routes, Deadly Outcomes

With PSF shutting down La Bestia, the migrant route has been replaced with walking untraversed roads. Some migrants walk in the hills, and some on the coast, sometimes paying for brief trips in fishing boats. Through these new routes, migrants are prey for kidnapping, rape, and extortion by organized crime and by corrupt police.



PSF Impact on the Youth



Border communities should no longer bear the brunt of poor policy planning. We must commit to moving away from militarizing our neighborhoods, and instead, invest in projects that will uphold the dignity of our diverse and dynamic people and regions.

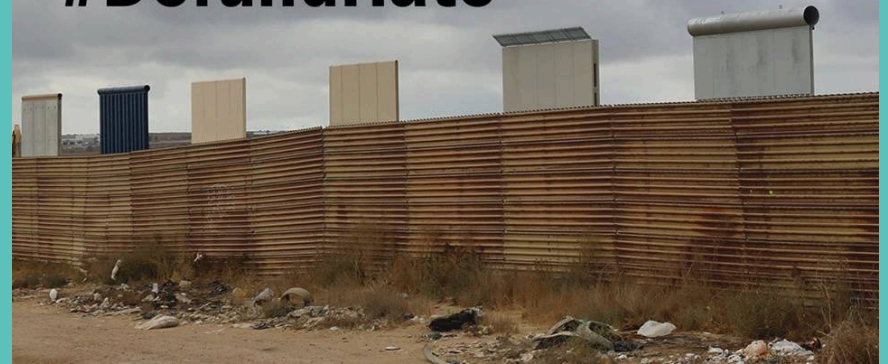
—PEDRO RIOS
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE
COMMITTEE, SAN DIEGO



AFSC.ORG



Stop Detention
Stop Deportation
No Border Militarization
#DefundHate





Roxana Hernandez & the 2018 Central American Caravan

33 y/o, Honduran Trans Person helping lead caravan of Central American asylees in Spring 2018

- One of approximately 25 transgender and gender-nonconforming asylum seekers
- Detained in the transgender unit in the Cibola County Correctional Center, a CoreCivic-owned private prison that has contracts with ICE in New Mexico
- After becoming ill with HIV-related complications, she died from cardiac arrest
- Attempted crossing at least 3 times prior (2005, 2009, 2014) to flee LGBTQ+ persecution in Honduras

How many of you would risk your body, uproot your life, and cross multiple borders every 5 years in hopes of finding freer living in a completely foreign country?



Source: CNN (2018)

Central American Caravan Route: A month-long, 2000+ mile journey on bus & feet



Deadly Detention Conditions for Trans Folks

Among the 30,000 migrants being held in detention across the U.S., there are approximately 65 trans women being held in detention on any given day

Trans women are regularly subjected to:

- Humiliating and abusive strip searches by male guards
 - *15.2% of trans women in state and federal prisons reported abuse by facility staff*
- Sexual assault and harassment by male inmates
 - *33.2% of trans women in state and federal prisons reported abuse by fellow inmates*
- Blocked access to medical services, from basic treatment to hormone therapy
- Solitary confinement and “lockdowns” as a disciplinary action for breaking minor rules

Case Study: Sara (Honduras): sexually assaulted at Arizona detention facility in 2014.

Two men raped her in her cell while she awaited intake proceedings, while a third inmate stood look out. When Sara reported the rape to the staff, a guard shut her down: “*You [trans women] are the ones that cause these problems and always call the men’s attention.*”

Source: Human Rights Watch (2016)



Roxana's Compañerxs and Paisanxs in the Caravan

Photo Source: *The Republic* (2018)

The Migrant Detention Industrial Complex: Trump's Zero Tolerance Policy & the DHS Budget

- Launched in April 2018, the Zero Tolerance Policy allows the detention and criminal prosecution of anyone who gets caught crossing without inspection, even for refugees & asylum-seekers
- Prior to passing this policy, DHS submitted a FY '19 budget requesting 2,500 beds to detain migrant families at three facilities, two of which are run by GEO Group, Inc. and CoreCivic, private prison companies.
- After passing the policy, DHS researched into costs for 15,000 beds, which added up to \$5.6 million per day to jail families at a rate of \$300 per bed per day. The annual costs for these 15k beds thus adds to more than \$2 billion a year!
- This money is going into building separate youth and adult detention centers contracted by GEO Group, CoreCivic, and other private prison companies

Source: Center for American Progress (2018)

Corporate Contributions to Trump Administration

Trump Administration

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Contractor Inauguration Contributions and Awards

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Federal law forbids government contractors from making contributions to candidates and political action committees. However, there is no such rule against contributions to post-election activities like the presidential inauguration, a loophole that allows contractors to dole out unlimited donations in hopes of bolstering their chances of landing contracts with the new administration.

The Center for Responsive Politics has created this page to track the awards received since January 21st, 2017 by the (so far) 63 government contractors who collectively contributed \$16.3 million to the inauguration efforts of President Trump.

Donor Company*	Industry	2017 Inauguration total	Awards in 2016	Awards in 2017	Change from 2016 to 2017
AT&T Inc	Telephone Utilities	\$2,082,483	\$855,701,991	\$1,707,791,122	99%
Pfizer Inc	Pharmaceutical manufacturing	\$1,000,000	\$1,167,602,078	\$1,093,748,797	-6%
Lockheed Martin	Defense Aerospace	\$1,000,000	\$40,446,183,477	\$46,376,992,877	14%

Charter Communications	Cable distributors	\$250,000	\$1,115,656	\$1,303,487	16%
Geo Corrections Holdings	For-profit Correctional Svcs	\$250,000	\$553,791,071	\$532,330,894	-3%
Anheuser-Busch InBev	Beer	\$250,000	\$68,204	\$53,808	-21%
Fluor Corp	Public Works/Comm'l Construction	\$250,000	\$1,656,538,280	\$1,649,950,809	0%
Centene Corp	HMOs	\$250,000	\$3,478,331,466	\$3,715,442,907	7%
Black Knight Lending Solutions	Securities & Investment Brokers	\$250,000	\$4,999	\$113,650	2173%
CoreCivic Inc	For-profit Correctional Svcs	\$250,000	\$37,541,577	\$388,918,158	935%
Liberty Media Corp	Cable TV	\$250,000	\$119,344	\$92,039	-22%
Ford Motor Co	Auto Manufacturers	\$250,000	\$379,358,110	\$430,287,473	13%
United Parcel Service	Express Delivery	\$250,000	\$156,318,821	\$148,952,092	-4%
Samsung Group	Electronics Manufacturing, Misc	\$100,000	\$2,552,038	\$4,355,779	70%
Trc Companies	Environmental Svcs/Equipment	\$100,000	\$3,789,418	\$2,130,512	-43%
IGT Global Solutions	Casinos/Gambling	\$100,000	\$24,526	\$0	-100%
Valero Services	Oil Refining/Marketing	\$100,000	\$0	\$20,432	-

Source: Center for Responsive Politics (2018)

CoreCivic's Facilities in the United States

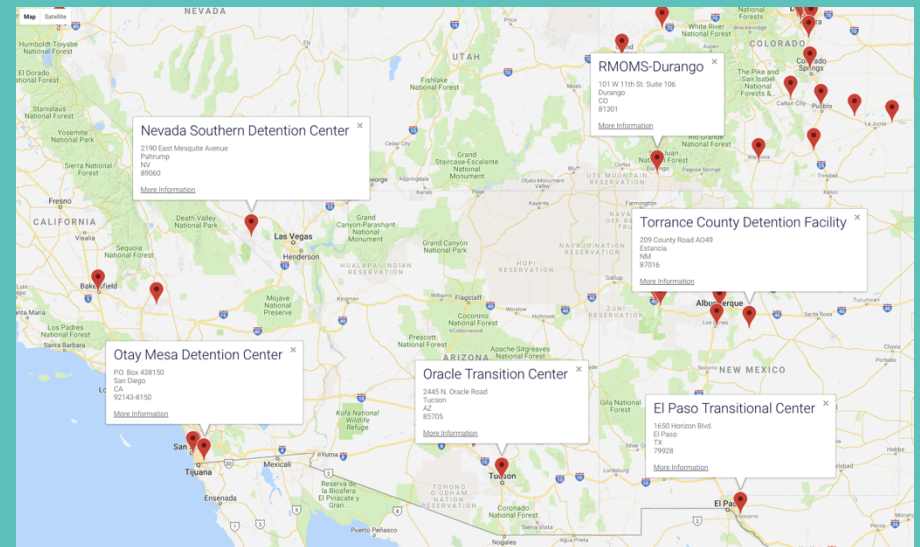
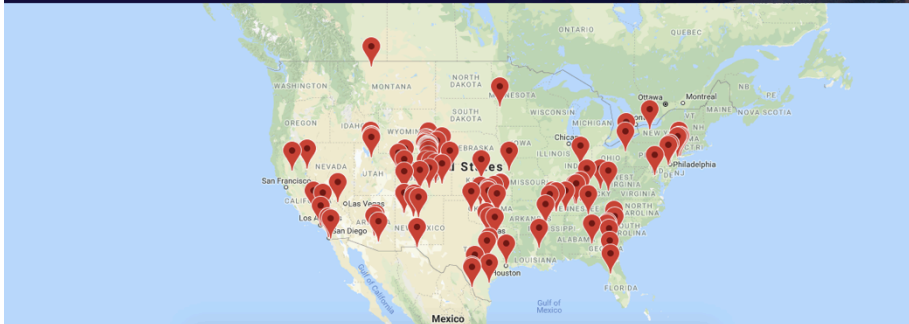
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CoreCivic

Safety Community Properties For Families Reentry

Find a facility

From California to New York, CoreCivic has facilities throughout the United States. Use the state filter and map below to find the facility location nearest you.



CoreCivic Facilities in the Southwestern Border Region

Source: CoreCivic (2018)



Unaccompanied Central American Children

