



CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER
CENTRO DE RECURSOS CENTROAMERICANOS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Juan Rivera

Director of Marketing & Communications

CARECEN SF TO SEND LAW TEAM TO PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES AT U.S./MEXICO BORDER

San Francisco, CA - December 3, 2018 – **CARECEN SF**, the Bay Area nonprofit organization that has been empowering and responding to the needs, rights and aspirations of immigrants in the Bay Area for over 32 years, is answering the call to help Central American migrants at the U.S./Mexico border due to the massive exodus coming from that region. On December 10, CARECEN SF will be sending a small team of lawyers to meet with Central American refugees to provide much needed immigration legal assistance and guidance. CARECEN SF will be hosted by two organizations that are already working on the ground, **Al Otro Lado** and **Pueblo Sin Fronteras**.

With thousands of refugees from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala reaching the U.S./Mexico border, it cannot be denied that this is a massive exodus from the area referred to by many as the Mesoamerican Northern Triangle. CARECEN SF's small team of lawyers will spend a week at the border to conduct consultations and provide guidance to the refugees that are waiting for their chance to present themselves in front of immigration authorities.

CARECEN SF's legal team will be hosted by Al Otro Lado and Pueblo Sin Fronteras. The two organizations that are known for defending the human rights of migrants and refugees on both sides of the border. Both organizations have been on site at the border working with members of the mass exodus and will provide guidance to the CARECEN SF legal team.

Unemployment without possible job prospects, state sponsored abuse of human rights as well as extreme violence from organized crime have led thousands of women, children and men from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to band together in large groups and embark on a long and treacherous journey to the United States. Safety in numbers and affordability is the strategy these groups are using as well as the money they save in coyote fees when they travel in large groups.

Unfortunately, the current U.S. administration has heavily politicized those taking part in the mass exodus. Portraying them as criminals, terrorists and a violent invasion of the United States. Nothing could be further from the truth. Exodus members are poor people who have suffered the disastrous outcomes of misguided U.S. policies, military interventions, and the support of illegitimate, violent and corrupt leaders in Central America. Exodus members have been forced to escape the aforementioned conditions created by U.S. policies in their home countries and are merely asking for what is already part of their internationally recognized human right: to ask for asylum.

Learn more about our history and work at www.carecensf.org.

##