

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Caravan

Guillermo Arias



Central American migrants traveling to the United States is a longtime phenomenon. Over the past decade, there's been a rise in the number of families and unaccompanied children crossing the US-Mexico border. Most of them, people fleeing extreme violence, insecurity and poverty coming from the Northern Triangle of Central America — Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. But it was not until 2018, with its massive caravans and the attention of US President Donald Trump that they became visible.

Born out of the necessity of a safe passage through Mexico, where migrants are exposed to all kinds of abuse by gangs, organized crime, smugglers and even authorities in a perilous journey to reach the United States border. Traveling out in the open, as part of a large group of people that can't simply be grabbed or disappeared, assured them with some sort of protection to start their exodus.

The Caravan documents the journey of thousands of Central American migrants traveling in large groups of self-called caravans to the United States in hopes of a better life; the challenges they experienced during their journey through Mexico, the difficulties once they reach the US-Mexico border and finally, the struggle and desperation to cross by any means the physical border barriers to pursue their American dream.

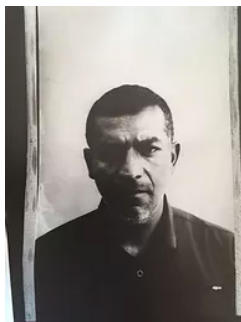


Photo @cameraminuteraberlin

About the photographer — Guillermo Arias

Mexican photojournalist since 1993. Currently based in Tijuana, a regular collaborator of the Agence France Presse (AFP). Worked for the Associated, from 2001 to 2011. Recently finished his personal project *el cerco* (*the Fence*), with the support of Mexico's Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte (SNCA) 2014-2017. Has been honored with several recognitions including the Prix Visa d'or News for his work *The Caravan*; Honorable Mention at the World Press Photo 2010, Contemporary Issues; Istanbul Photo Awards 2019 first place in Story News; POY Latam 2019 first place in spot news singles; Premio Nacional de Periodismo Cultural Fernando Benitez 2009 for the story "Los muertos de todos los días" (every day dead); among others. Has published two author's books *El Cerco* (2017) and *Vestigios* (2011), awwnnd collaborated with many others. Also, has participated in more than twenty exhibitions around the world.

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Photos in this portfolio have appeared in various media.





Above: Aerial view of Honduran migrants taking part in a caravan heading to the US, as they leave Arriaga heading to San Pedro Tapanatepec, southern Mexico on October 27, 2018.



Above: A group of Honduran migrants taking part in a caravan heading to the US, wait for a ride after leaving Santiago Niltepec heading to Juchitan, near La Blanca town in Oaxaca state, Mexico on October 30, 2018.

Next page: Aerial view of Honduran migrants taking part in a caravan heading to the US, resting in San Pedro Tapanatepec, southern Mexico on October 28, 2018







Above: Migrants — mostly Hondurans — heading in a caravan to the US, are seen onboard a truck as they catch a ride in Isla, Veracruz state, on their way to Puebla, Mexico, on November 3, 2018. President Donald Trump previously warned that soldiers deployed to the Mexican border could shoot Central American migrants who throw stones at them while attempting to cross illegally.

Upper right (opposite): A group of Central American migrants travelling in a caravan beg a border patrol agent to let them cross the Mexico-US border fence to San Diego County, as seen from Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico on December 15, 2018. Thousands of Central American migrants, mostly Hondurans, have trekked in a caravan for over a month in the hopes of reaching the United States.

Lower right (opposite): A man (who only said he was from Guerrero, Mexico) gets stuck in the concertina wire as he crosses the US-Mexico border fence from Tijuana to San Diego County as seen from Tijuana, Baja California State, Mexico, on December 28, 2018.







Upper left (opposite): Tijuana first responders rescue a migrant, allegedly part of the Central American migrants — mostly from Honduras traveling to the United States — as he was trying to cross to the United States through the sea in Playas de Tijuana, Baja California State, Mexico, at the US-Mexico border on November 29, 2018.

Lower left (opposite): Central American migrants — mostly from Honduras traveling to the United States — react as they surrender to Border patrol agents (unseen) after crossing into the United States in Playas de Tijuana, Baja California State, Mexico, at the US-Mexico border on December 2, 2018.

Above: A man covered with a US flag traveling with Central American migrants — mostly from Honduras — looks on to border patrol vehicles from top of the Tijuana River in Tijuana, Baja California State, Mexico, at the US-Mexico border on November 25, 2018. Hundreds of migrants earlier attempted to storm a border fence separating Mexico from the US amid mounting fears they will be kept in Mexico while their applications for asylum are processed. Migrants were rejected with tear gas and noise bombs by US authorities, detaining 25 migrants crossing the border fencing.