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Unidad 5, Perspectivas.

El éxodo centroamericano

Climate change and the migrant caravan

00:10

I'm in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. I've come here to report on the

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migrant caravan the thousands of Central Americans trying to flee to the United

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States, most from this country.

Muchas veces te digo: “Ven a Cristo, que aquí vas a dejar de ser pobre”. Él sabe que no necesitas dinero: lo que necesitas es paz en tu corazón.

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I've been covering the migrant caravan for months and people often tell me they're leaving to escape violence and extortion.

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There's another important driving factor that we're not hearing anything about and

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that's climate change. Francisco Salgado is a 50 year old tomato farmer in the

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Valle de Angeles, a rural area one hour outside the capital. Francisco: Ya serían dos años que el clima va cambiando y va perjudicando toda la plantación. Ahí se ha perdido toda la plantación, todos los cultivos.

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in 2016, Francisco

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harvested 1,800 cases of tomatoes; but last year and now this year he lost his

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crop and he can't repay a three thousand dollar loan. Francisco: Pues… ahí un poco desanimado de todo, por las pérdidas. Y aquí ya no hay nada que hacer. Aquí ya se perdió, esa es la condición. Ya tomé la decisión de viajar, salir...

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Francisco plans to leave in

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two days but he's yet to tell his family. Honduras is one of the world's most

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vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change.

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Droughts, food insecurity and unpredictable weather have become an

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ever increasing problem for the more than a quarter of the population who

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work directly in agriculture and like Francisco, many are being forced to

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migrate. We had a call this morning from Francisco that he'd just told his wife

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he was leaving Honduras, he told her before she was leaving for work.

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I want to go now and see how he is. Francisco: Se molestó porque yo no le había comentado nada y se molestó cuando yo le conté que iba de viaje.

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He now has to tell his 15 year old son Jeremy. Francisco: Tengo planeado viajar y entonces yo mañana salgo y los dejo a ustedes aquí en la casa. Tienen que cuidar aquí la casa. Hijo: Usted no nos había dicho nada. Francisco: Sí, pero tocaba tomar la decisión.

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It's been heartbreaking this morning. As a parent I just can't begin to imagine how

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you go on a journey like this and leave the situation like this so up in the air.

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The 1951 UN Refugee Convention recognizes persecution and war as criteria for

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asylum, but climate change is not on the list. Nevertheless Francisco is migrating today. Francisco: Ya tomé la decisión de hacerlo, entonces voy a probar, a ver como va la suerte, a ver cómo me va.

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Francisco's situation is exactly why policymakers

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urgently need to address the issue of climate change and migration. This is too

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high a price for anyone to have to pay.

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