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Unidad 5, Perspectivas

El éxodo centroamericano

Climate refugees fleeing drought were part of the migrant caravan from Central America.

00:02

you got some bad people in those groups

00:05

you got some tough people in those

00:06

groups and I'll tell you what this

00:08

country doesn't want them the caravan is

00:12

an epic story of human migration and

00:15

it's a phenomenon that stirs different

00:18

reactions in different people they are

00:20

being portrayed as criminals which they

00:22

are not they are within their rights to

00:25

come here asylum for me the caravan

00:29

raises a question related to a recent

00:31

trip I made to Central America to an

00:33

area called the dry corridor where I

00:36

witnessed the impacts of a severe

00:38

drought that's linked to climate change

00:40

and has devastated agriculture. Ya no va a salir nada. Todo esto está perdido. Está perdido, todo esto está perdido.

00:48

This year in just one dry corridor

00:51

country Honduras, 80% of the corn and

00:54

bean crops were lost. the dry corner of

00:58

Central America is particularly

01:00

vulnerable to this issue of climate

01:03

change and its impact on food security.

01:05

the food insecurity is so dire that two

01:08

million people are now facing hunger. I

01:11

also learned that the drought has been

01:13

made worse by El Nino the warm water off

01:16

the coast south of Central America we're

01:19

currently in an El Niño year and the

01:21

future looks even scarier.

01:23

scientists believe El Niños are becoming

01:25

more frequent with a change in climate.

01:27

experts say what's known as the dry

01:30

corridor in Guatemala has grown 25 to 30

01:33

percent in the last decade. so now my

01:37

Caravan question is: have some of these

01:40

migrants left their homes because of

01:42

climate change, drought and hunger?

01:59

Hoy en esta ciudad del norte de San

02:02

Pedro Sula. This caravan idea first

02:05

sparked in October in Honduras, in the

02:07

city of San Pedro Sula. people from all

02:11

over the country rushed to join after

02:13

hearing on TV radio Facebook and

02:15

WhatsApp that they would no longer have

02:17

to rely on smugglers. a caravan was being

02:20

organized a relatively safe and

02:24

virtually free way to get to the United

02:26

States.

02:34

I'm catching up with a caravan once

02:36

they've already been on the road for a

02:38

month, travelled almost a thousand miles

02:41

and are arriving in Mexico City. I find a

02:48

lot of people who worked on farms and

02:50

say that they fled because of the

02:52

drought. Mira, hubo mucha sequía, hubo mucha sequía y la mazorquita es pequeña.

03:02

Among the farm workers who joined the caravan in

03:04

Honduras was Pedro Castillo. Siempre cuando sembramos, vamos buscando vender la comida: arroz, frijol y maíz. De ahí mucha gente… así sobrevivimos. Hay mucha gente que sobrevivimos con menos de un dólar al día. -Perdón, pero con respeto le voy a preguntar: eso me parece que es una vida de un pobre: ¿así es?. -La verdadera realidad de los hondureños es que estamos sumidos en la pobreza y no porque seamos haraganes. A veces… bueno, digamos que con la Madre Naturaleza no se puede hacer nada, cuando vienen las sequías no se puede hacer nada.

03:52

Perhaps the one thing you can do is flee.

03:55

that's what Fabiola Diaz and Carlos

03:58

Salinas are doing they and their kids

04:00

are traveling together even though they

04:02

didn't know each other before they're

04:05

not a couple but they seem like a family.

04:08

Fabiola and her two-year-old son Yeltsin

04:10

come from a Honduran town called Santa

04:12

Barbara. -¿Cuáles son los tipos de trabajo que hacen? -Las labores de la tierra: los frijoles, el maíz… Es lo que más se cultiva. Pero este año no le fue bien y perdió.

04:32

This is not an invasion this is a drop

04:34

in the bucket of what comes to the

04:37

border every month every week. Atennis

04:40

Parola is an attorney from North

04:42

Carolina who's part of a group that's

04:43

come to Mexico to advise the migrants on

04:46

US asylum law. I'm following the story of

04:50

a young woman who is fleeing because of

04:52

poverty and hunger

04:53

she's living on a meal a day. does she

04:56

qualify for asylum if that's the only

04:58

reason that she's fleeing

05:04

is she not fleeing for her life is she

05:07

not possibly in danger of her life if

05:09

she doesn't get food

05:22

even with American asylum a virtual

05:24

impossibility for climate migrants like

05:26

Fabiola and Carlos they are nonetheless

05:29

pushing forward on their journey to the

05:31

United States. Cuatro filas por favor. Colaboremos señores. Buenos días, estamos esperando todos este día. ¡Colaboremos! ¡Colaboremos! And to help them on their

05:40

way the Mexico City authorities are

05:42

shutting down the subway system early on

05:45

a Saturday morning and giving it over to

05:47

the caravan so it can traverse the city

05:49

and continue its Trek northward. When

05:53

Carlos joined the caravan he decided to

05:55

leave his wife and two kids at home and

05:57

bring his 11 year old daughter Angie.- ¿Fabiola y Yeltsin son amigos? -Sí. -¿Y qué piensas de ellos? Pues que ella como trae sus niños se cansa con el coche, trae bastantes cosas. No hay nadie que la ayude, entonces… -¿Tú estás ayudándola?. -Sí. -Tuve que sacarla de la escuela. -¿Eso fue difícil? -Fue difícil pero, uno a veces por tomar una decisión y por salir adelante. Tomé la decisión, la saqué de la escuela y me vine. No sé… Ya estamos aquí y vamos a ver si cruzamos al otro lado.

06:51

To cross over they still need to reach

06:54

the US border and for the last thousand

06:57

miles of their journey they walk they

06:59

hitchhike in mass and some amazingly

07:03

catch buses chartered by Mexican states

07:05

to take them all the way to the border

07:07

city of Tijuana. ¡Despierta México, despierta!

07:12

This is how Tijuana greets the caravan

07:15

it's a far cry from the warm Mexico City

07:18

welcome and while the total number of

07:21

Caravan migrants may not be overwhelming

07:23

the city's anti Caravan mayor

07:25

nonetheless calls the influx an

07:27

avalanche and the tsunami. Buenos días, Fabiola habla

07:32

Juan Carlos Frey periodista

07:34

the Estados Unidos. ¿Cómo estás?

07:35

I left the caravan for a few days

07:38

and now I'm heading back, trying to

07:40

reconnect with Fabiola and Carlos. I hear

07:45

that Tijuana is housing the caravan in a

07:47

community sports center that sits

07:49

literally on the border with the United

07:51

States. So I head there to find them.

07:56

[Music]

08:10

And here she is. ¿Y cuál es el plan?, ¿qué van a hacer? -Esperar y… yo quiero irme para allá para Estados Unidos, pero no sé. Dicen que tienes que entregarte a Migración. -¿Sabes qué tan cerca están? -Dicen que sólo pasando el muro y ahí ya estamos allá.

08:34

if they just cross the wall they are so

08:38

close to their American dream but have

08:41

no idea how to finally reach it. The

08:43

United States will not be a migrant camp

08:47

and it will not be a refugee holding

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facility won't be in fact crossing over

08:53

seems more impossible than ever. we're

08:55

facing a man-made disaster of global

08:59

scale but if you asked the climate

09:01

migrants who lived through the severe

09:03

drought and the hunger that followed

09:06

they'll say that joining the caravan was

09:09

something they simply had to do. Yo siempre he pasado la pobreza pero jamás he querido abandonar mi tierra porque, tienes tus hijos, tus papás, tienes tu familia. Yo creo que no hay un lugar donde te sientas más cómodo que en tu tierra. Pero igual, cuando ya sientes el hambre, el hambre ya te trae encima y tal vez tus hijos te están exigiendo: “papá, quiero comer tal cosa, quiero comer comida buena, quiero comer carne”, entonces es ahí cuando te llenas de coraje y dices: “!me voy¡”.

09:50

[Music]

10:17

[Music]

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