



NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES
ALIANZA NACIONAL DE COMUNIDADES LATINO AMERICANAS Y CARIBEÑAS

A Transnational Vision, Rooted in Latin American and Caribbean Migrant Communities
Una Visión Transnacional, con Raíces en la Comunidad Migrante Latinoamericana y Caribeña

NALACC Delegations to Central America Summer 2014

Preliminary Findings

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

1. ***Violence in the region is structural in nature, ongoing and is targeting children:*** Central America is and will remain very dangerous. Honduras is now the most violent country in the world, by far, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Homicide Report 2013. El Salvador and Honduras occupy the 4th and 5th spots in the same report, respectively. This violence is increasingly directed at children. Even schools are not considered safe spaces due to gang and organized crime pressures on children and teachers.
2. ***An Increase in Family Deportation and Returnees from Mexico:*** An increasing number of families have begun to be deported from the United States, particularly to Honduras. That pattern is expected to grow in the coming months if the Obama Administration adheres to its plan for swift deportations. But already, busloads of children and families are being returned into the three countries visited from Mexico.
3. ***Weak Protections:*** The facilities for receiving and re-integrating these children and families are weak to non-existent. None of these countries have programs in place to deal with the medium to long term challenges of social and economic reintegration of deportees.
4. ***Interlinked causes:*** There are at least three inter-linked causes to this problem, and if we don't address them all, we should expect to repeat the crisis of earlier this summer in short order. Those problems are all structural in nature: inequality that drives profound and on-going poverty; structural violence that pervades all aspects of society, which is exacerbated by corruption and ineffective judicial systems; and the desperation of long-separated families, driven by outdated and family unfriendly US immigration policies and systems.
5. ***Conditions for safe return do not exist for many children and families:*** Although Central American countries have relatively strong policies on the books for protecting children, the delegation found a profound lack of institutional capacity to respond to the challenge of re-integrating children and families who have been forcibly removed from the United States or apprehended in transit in Mexico. If we are to save lives, the United States cannot turn its back on these vulnerable individuals.