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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 1, 2019 12:01 PM  
**To:** WATCH CBP INTEL  
**Subject:** (U//FOUO) Central American Caravans and Migration Crisis Flow - Update 27  
**Attachments:** January Migrant Caravan Warning Update 27 th.pdf

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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(U//FOUO) Scope Note: This product is based on unclassified source and raw intelligence drawn from law enforcement sensitive information. It focuses on current and emerging events and threats developing within 24-72 hours related to the migrant caravan(s). Topics featured include information about any planned migrant mass events, the identity of the caravan/event organizers and any changes in their status or location and the identification of any new or future caravans destined to the United States, in addition to other caravan-related information with a nexus to the mission of Customs and Border Protection.

## (U//LES) **Warning Problem: Central American Caravans and Migration Crisis Flow—Update 27**

### (U//LES) **Executive Summary**

(U//LES) CBP is monitoring the movement of three large groups of migrants currently in Mexico, totaling 15,131 migrants. The first group is the January 2019 migrant caravan totaling 3,345; approximately 2,600 are travelling north from Mexico City towards Queretaro, while an estimated 750 remain in Hidalgo. The second group, waiting in Ciudad Hidalgo (11,183), constitutes the migrant crisis flow. The third group is the remaining members of the October 2018 caravan waiting in Mexicali (100) and Tijuana (503).<sup>[i]</sup> Recent highlights are as follows:

- (U//LES) Approximately 6,000 migrants from the January caravan plan to leave this Saturday in route to Huixtla, Chiapas, Mexico.<sup>[ii]</sup>
- (U//LES) Central Americans in the first caravan currently located in Tijuana, Baja California State, are being used by narco-traffickers as mules to carry drugs across the border, according to CBP reporting.<sup>[iii]</sup>

### (U//LES) **January 2019 Caravan:**

(U//LES) The caravan, which formed and departed from Honduras and El Salvador between 14 and 16 January, is estimated to be 3,345 people<sup>[1]</sup>, according to the U.S. Country Team in Guatemala. As of 30 January, 2,652 migrants were located in Mexico City, approximately 600 of whom could possibly be part of the 1,391 registered Caravan migrants who stopped in Ciudad Hidalgo to apply for humanitarian visitor cards.<sup>[iv]</sup> INM intends to register any unregistered migrants who arrive in Mexico City for humanitarian visitor cards, according to the INM Commissioner.

- (U//LES) Members of this caravan located in Mexico City planned to depart Mexico City on 31 January 2019 at 0500 (local) en route to the United States, according to CBP reporting. The route they were planning to take is from Mexico City to Santiago de Queretaro, Queretaro State, to San Luis Potosi, San Luis Potosi State, to Metehuala, San Luis Potosi State, to Saltillo, Coahuila State, to Monclova,

Coahuila, to Piedras Negras, Coahuila. The migrant caravan is using buses to travel to the U.S.-Mexico border.<sup>[v]</sup>

- (U//LES) While in Mexico City, the caravan was taking refuge in a sporting compound. The caravan organizers created two zones inside of the compound to separate the individuals. One zone is open to the public and media and consists of Mexicans who would like to join the caravan in hopes of arriving in the United States. The other zone is more restrictive and consists of only those who started with the caravan in Honduras. Mexicans are not allowed in this zone which has citizens from Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. To enter this zone, migrants require a green wristband, which indicates that they joined the caravan in Honduras.<sup>[vi]</sup>
- (U//LES) On 30 January 30, a 26 year old male Honduarn national was arrested at the shelter in Estadio Jesús Martínez "Palillo" in Mexio City. The individual was being processed by GoM officials for a humanitarian visa, when it was discovered that he has an arrest warrant for the murder of his domestic partner in November of 2018 in Honduras.<sup>[vii]</sup>

(U//LES) *The DHS Human Smuggling Cell (HSC) as of 30 January, analyzed 9,646 records* (b) (7)(E)  
(b) (7)(E) *These were all the records available for known caravan members processed in Ciudad Hidalgo in January and do not include migrants processed in Ciudad de Mexico. The breakdown is as follows:*

- (U//LES) 653 individuals found guilty of criminal offenses considered serious in the United States, 344 of whom (52.67%) with criminal convictions considered serious by GOM officials (excluding those who only have convictions for immigration and driving under the influence violations), such as kidnapping, theft, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, voluntary homicide, controlled substance possession and distribution, sexual crimes against children, weapons violations, and others.
- (U//LES) 161 wanted individuals, with different extradition requirements based on active warrants.

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#### (U//LES) Migration Crisis Flow

(U//LES) INM has registered 11,183 migrants that CBP considers part of the migration crisis flow. GoM officials stopped registering migrants after acknowledging that the humanitarian visitor card created a pull factor, leading to unsustainable concentrations of migrants at the border, challenging Mexico's capacity to process humanitarian visitor cards and shelter migrants, according to Department of State and open source information.<sup>[viii],[ix]</sup> INM will continue to process migrants through the Border Worker Visitor Card and the Regional Visitor Card, which the GoM will extend beyond the current countries of Guatemala and Belize to include Honduras and El Salvador, according to open source information.<sup>[x]</sup>

#### (U//LES) October 2018 caravan:

(U//LES) The October 2018 caravan, formed between 13 and 21 October 2018 in Honduras, is now composed of 503 migrants in Tijuana, Mexico and 100 migrants in Mexicali, Mexico, according to INM—down from an estimated 8,000 migrants on 24 November 2018. CBP has apprehended or deemed inadmissible 3,999 migrants as of 28 January. CBP assesses the PF estimate of migrants in Baja California migrant shelters decreased

significantly due to a small number of migrants moving to unofficial shelters and a large number of migrants obtaining income and other residence in Mexico.<sup>[xi]</sup>

- (U//LES) Mexican officials closed El Barretal shelter in Tijuana on 29 January. Local non-governmental organizations sponsored the remaining 139 migrants by providing money for rent, according to U.S. Border Patrol San Diego Sector Foreign Operations.
- (U//LES) Tijuana, Baja California is reporting 503 migrants, of which 26 remain in the INM station and 477 are reported to be scattered in different shelters throughout the city.
- (U//LES) Central Americans in the first caravan currently located in Tijuana, Baja California State, are being used by narco-traffickers as mules to carry drugs across the border. If they make it across the border successfully and deliver the narcotics, they are allowed to stay in the United States and to continue on their way as payment. Otherwise, no other compensation is being offered to carry the narcotics, according to CBP reporting.<sup>[xii]</sup>

Migrant Group	Formation	Size	Description	Location	Destination
Group 1 October Caravan	13-21 October Honduras	~503	Majority Honduran with some Guatemalan and Salvadoran	Tijuana (830) Mexicali (100)	U.S.
Group 2 Migration Crisis Flow	16 January to present	11,183	Honduran, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, very few Nicaraguan, Haitian, Cuban, Angolan, and Brazilian	Chiapas, Ciudad Hidalgo	Mexico, U.S.
Group 3 January Caravan	14-16 January Honduras, El Salvador	3,345	Central American	CDMX (2,652) Chiapas (693)	Mexico, U.S.

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**CBP Commissioner's Migrant Caravan Priority Intelligence Requirements**

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Update in this Feature

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**(U) Source Summary Statement**

*(U//FOUO) This Warning Update is based on reporting from open source media, U.S. Embassy Mexico City, CBP Mexico Country Team, and the Government of Mexico. We have medium confidence in the locational data of the different caravans, and on overall numbers given the evolving nature of the situation and fragmented movement of the migrants.*

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