

*Honduran president announces program to assist migrants deported from the U.S.*

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Tegucigalpa, January 28 (RHC)-- The president of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, has announced an "emergency program" for compatriots who are deported by the United States. The program includes an economic bonus, food and seed capital to start businesses in the face of the threat of mass deportations by the Donald Trump government.

"Today, mass deportations from the United States to Latin America are announced and my government has called on the U.S. government to immediately begin a dialogue on migration with actions for migrants within the United States, in transit, and for deportees," the Honduran president stressed.

Xiomara Castro explained that each returned Honduran migrant will receive support of 100 dollars, food rations and 1,000 dollars of seed capital to start small and medium-sized businesses through rural and urban funds.

Last weekend, the Honduran head of state warned the U.S. that if mass deportations continue, her government could consider closing U.S. military bases in her country.

Xiomara Castro said that, in the face of a "hostile attitude" that implies the mass expulsion of Hondurans, her government will be forced to reevaluate its military cooperation policies with the United States.

"The military bases that have been in our country for decades without any compensation would lose all justification if hostile measures are implemented against our citizens," said the president.

Currently, the U.S. operates the Soto Cano Air Base, located in Palmerola, south of the city of Comayagua.

In response to the migration situation, President Xiomara Castro called her colleagues from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on Thursday, January 30th, to discuss issues related to migration.

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