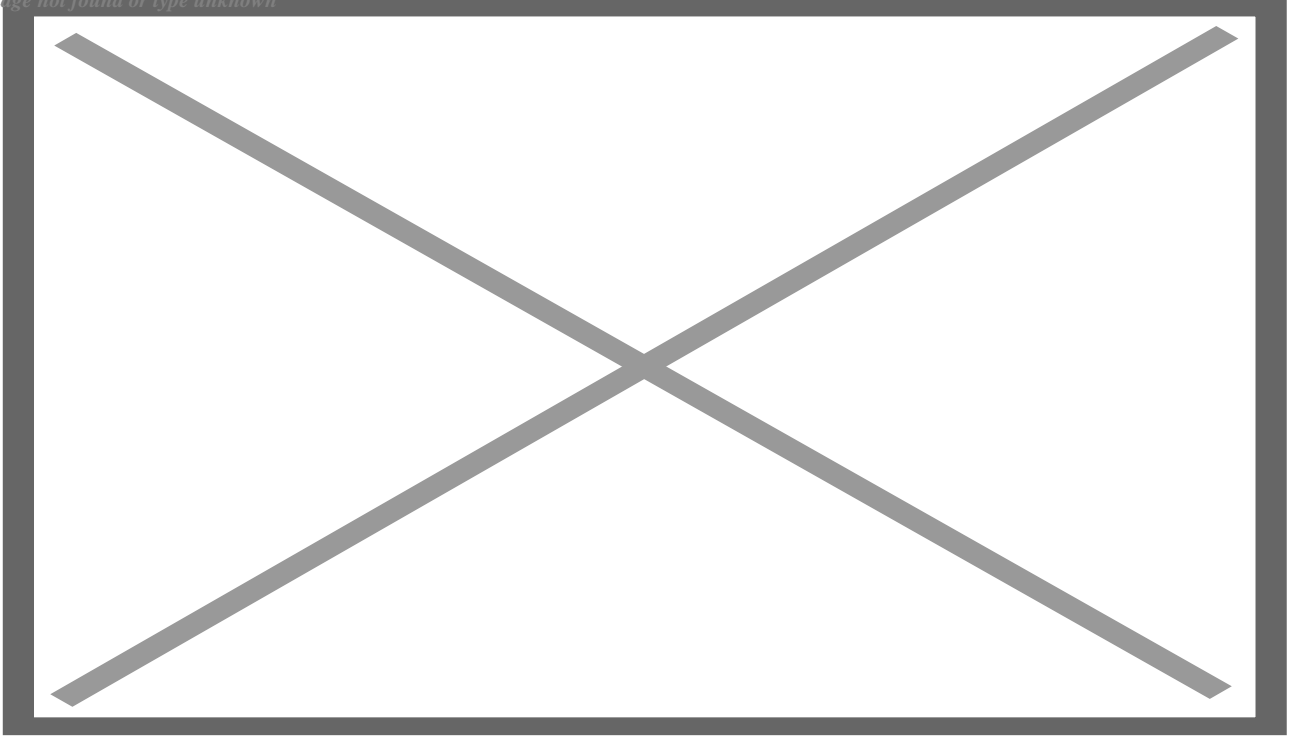


Travels without destination

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By Guillermo Alvarado

Neither the recent tragedies that have cost dozens of lives, nor the harsh measures against migrants in the United States, or the very high costs of this adventure, have discouraged the departure of tens of thousands of people in search of the dream of a better life in the northern power.

This was reflected in a report published a few hours ago by the International Red Cross, which warns that the irregular migratory flow, that is, the masses of people without the required documentation, is increasing drastically in the territory of Mexico and Central America.

The Secretary General of the organization, Jagan Chapagain, mentioned the existence of a "combination of problems" that explain this phenomenon, among them the increase in poverty, violence, insecurity and local conflicts.

To this should be added the absence of the State and governments, which for multiple reasons fail to provide essential services of health, education, housing, employment and opportunities, particularly to the youngest, a sector where the feeling of abandonment is growing.

Since the current president of the United States, Joseph Biden, was on the campaign trail, he has promised to attack these scourges.

At the beginning of his administration, there was talk of seeking funds and investments to promote economic development in depressed areas of southern Mexico and the Northern Triangle of Central America, formed by El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, but it was all just words.

But in addition to being an emitter of migrants, the isthmus that links the north with the south of the American continent is also a corridor where people from other continents move, escaping for the same reasons already listed.

In other words, the problem is twofold, but the solutions do not appear and in the meantime the organized crime gangs do their thing and collect staggering amounts of money, either for the payment of the trip itself, or for the extortion of the families of the travelers.

One of their latest misdeeds is to implement the so-called "VIP" trips, a term that in Spanish means Very Important Person and that has already passed from the big business or tourist world to the jargon of human traffickers.

In short, it is about offering safe and comfortable transfers, with beers and distractions included, but which usually have the same end: the capture, abandonment or death of the victim.

It has been said ad nauseam that it is not a matter of applying police or security measures, but of creating opportunities and development in the migrants' homeland, but the ears still do not listen and the eyes do not want to see.

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