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INVISIBLE VICTIMS: MIGRANTS ON THE MOVE IN MEXICO - Facts and Figures

- **Every year, tens of thousands** of women, men and children travel through Mexico without legal permission as irregular migrants.*
- The vast majority are **headed for the US border** in the hope of a new life far from the poverty they have left behind.
- More than **9 out of 10 are Central Americans**, mostly from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.*
- **One in five is a woman or girl.***
- **One in 12 is under 18 years old** and, although most are teenagers, **some are under 10.***
- **In 2009, 64,061 foreign nationals were detained** by The National Migration Service (INM):
 - 60,383 of the detainees were from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.
 - 60,143 were voluntarily repatriated or deported
 - 2,846 were allowed to regularize their migration status
 - 87 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status
- **Every year, thousands of migrants are ill-treated, abducted or raped. Arbitrary detention and extortion by public officials** are common.
- **Six out of 10 women and girl migrants experience sexual violence** during the journey, according to estimates by human rights organizations and academics.
- Between September 2008 and March 2009, The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) interviewed 238 victims and witnesses of 198 kidnapping incidents involving migrants:
 - **9,758 migrants were kidnapped during the six-month period** including at least 57 children.**
 - **Almost half of the migrants** said that **public officials were directly responsible** for their kidnapping
 - **Half of the victims observed police colluding with kidnapers** during their captivity
- **Women and children face serious risks of trafficking and sexual assault** by criminals, other migrants and corrupt public officials.
- **The vast majority of these abuses are never seriously investigated** and perpetrators rarely held to account, fostering a climate of impunity.
- **3,924 different incidents of abuses** were revealed through 828 interviews conducted with migrants arriving at the Posada del Migrante shelter in Saltillo, Coahuila state, between May 2007 and February 2008.

* Estimation concluded by Amnesty International based on detentions made by INM – The National Migration Service (Instituto Nacional de Migración, INM) is a decentralized unit within the Ministry of the Interior. It is responsible for migration services and is headed by a Commissioner appointed by the Minister of the Interior. The INM operates 47 migration detention centres around the country. Only INM officials and Federal Police are authorized “to verify and check the status of migrants”.

** Estimation concluded by CNDH – the National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos) based on interviews conducted with migrants.

- These included 1,266 acts of intimidation (threats, insults, shooting into the air);
- 475 physical attacks (beatings and stoning);
- 42 cases of sexual assault or violence.