

# MILITARIZATION & RESISTANCE AT THE MEXICO / GUATEMALA BORDER



□ JULY 2019 □  
O. PANDOLFI



IT'S A PLACE WHERE...

- PEOPLE CROSS REGULARLY AND SEASONALLY TO WORK, BUY, & SELL
- MOST OF THE POPULATION ON BOTH SIDES ARE INDIGENOUS MAYAN GROUPS
- MOST OF THE NORTHWARD MIGRATION ROUTES PASS

IN THE CONTEXT OF INCREASED  
MIGRATION NORTH FROM CENTRAL  
AMERICA,



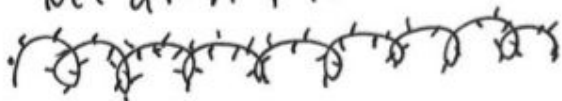
A CARAVAN IN SOUTHERN MEXICO,  
OCT. 2018. (QUILLERMO ARIAS)

THE US GOVERNMENT HAS  
ATTEMPTED TO DETER MIGRANTS  
WITH INHUMANE POLICIES

3] AT ITS SOUTHERN  
BORDER:

AND THEY HAVE IMPLEMENTED  
STRATEGIES TO MILITARIZE

THE MEXICO/QUATEMALA  
BORDER IN ORDER TO  
STEM THE FLOW OF  
MIGRATION



BEFORE IT REACHES  
THE U.S.

(2,300 MILES FURTHER  
SOUTH)

5]



IN MAY 2019,

ACTING SECRETARY OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY

KEVIN MCALEENAN &

QUATEMALAN INTERIOR MINISTER

ENRIQUE DEGENHART

SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR  
MORE COOPERATION  
ON

SECURITY & INTELLIGENCE,  
INCLUDING SENDING "A SIZEABLE FORCE"  
OF DHS AGENTS TO THE MEXICO/  
QUATEMALA BORDER.

6]



## THE MÉRIDA INITIATIVE 2007

US SECURITY AID \$\$\$ → MEXICO FOR ANTI-DRUG TRADE OPS & CREATING A "21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY BORDER" BETWEEN US & MEX (A.K.A. BIOMETRICS, X-RAY, DRONES, NEW CHECKPOINTS, ETC.)

## ALLIANCE FOR PROSPERITY 2014

US-BACKED AID PROGRAM FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, INTENDED TO STOP MIGRATION & RESTRUCTURED UNDER TRUMP TO FOCUS ON ENSURING SECURITY FOR INVESTMENT FROM US-BASED PRIVATE COMPANIES

On both sides of the Mexico/Guate border, there is a history of

**MILITARY REPRESSION**  
&  
**STATE TERROR**

against majority indigenous populations:



## IN THAT CONTEXT...

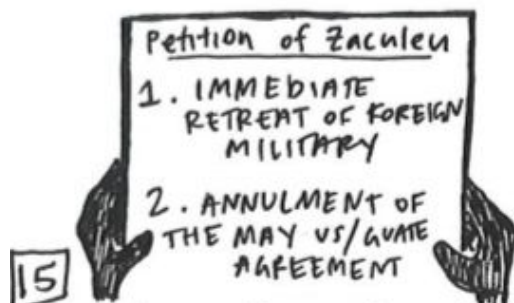
THE PRESENCE OF  
US TROOPS IN COORDINATION WITH GUATE MILITARY,  
US DHS AGENTS,  
&  
MEXICAN NATIONAL GUARD

1. RE-TERRORIZES SURVIVORS OF GENOCIDE & STATE VIOLENCE
2. VIOLATES GUATEMALA'S 1996 PEACE ACCORDS
3. FITS INTO THE US'S STRATEGY OF VIOLENTLY ENFORCING NEOLIBERAL ECONOMIC POLICY



IN JULY 2019,

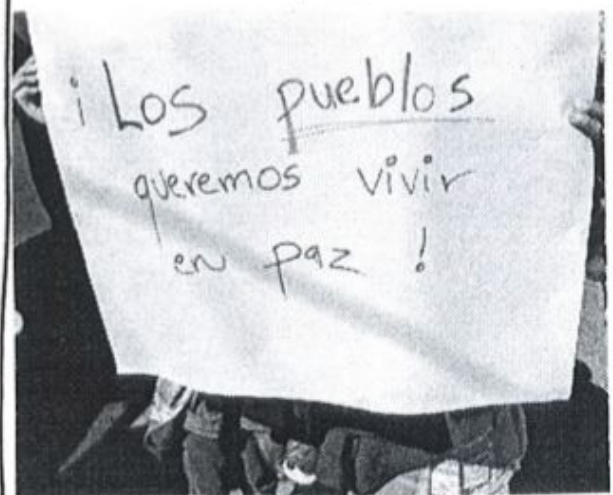
COMMUNITIES IN HUEHUETENANGO  
PROTESTED THE PRESENCE OF  
US TROOPS ON THEIR LAND.  
THEY CONNECTED THE MILITARIZATION  
TO RESOURCE EXTRACTION PROJECTS  
AND OTHER US COMMERCIAL  
INTERESTS, AND DEMANDED



## SOURCES

- "Serious concerns in the face of Huehuetenango militarization" - NISQUA
- "The Alliance for Prosperity will intensify the Central American Refugee Crisis" - Dawn Paley, *The Nation*
- "US agents' deployment to stem Guatemalan migration raises alarm" - Sandra Cuffe, *Al Jazeera*
- "Mexico's other border" - WOLA report
- "Mexico: Evolution of the Mérida Initiative, 2007-2020" - Congressional Research Service

READ THE FULL  
PETITION AT: [https://nisgna.org/  
petition-of-zaculeu/](https://nisgna.org/petition-of-zaculeu/)



"We the people want to  
live in peace!"

photo: Nisgna

## FURTHER READING

- "Migration as Reparations" - Joseph Nevins, *NACLA*
- "US: 20 years of immigrant abuses" - Human Rights Watch
- "Petition of Zaculeu" - ABH, on *Nisgna.org*
- "US migrant crisis: Trump seeks to curb Central America asylum claims" - BBC
- "Talking and Teaching about the Fall 2018 Migrant Caravan" - *Re-Imagining Migration*