**Refugees at Our Door**

**The New York Times**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

In the past 15 months, at the request of President Obama, Mexico has carried out a ferocious crackdown on refugees fleeing violence in Central America. The United States has given Mexico tens of millions of dollars for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 to stop these migrants from reaching the United States border to claim asylum.

Essentially the United States has outsourced a refugee problem to Mexico that is similar to the refugee crisis now roiling Europe. The United States is forcing them to go back to El Salvador, Honduras, to their deaths.

I went to Mexico last month to see the effects of the crackdown against migrants, who are being hunted down on a scale never seen before and sent back to countries where gangs and drug traffickers have taken control of whole sections of territory. More than a decade ago, I rode on top of seven freight trains up the length of Mexico with child migrants to chronicle hellish experiences at the hands of gangs, bandits and corrupt cops who preyed on youngsters as they journeyed north. Compared with today, that trip was child’s play.

In a migrant shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico, I met July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, who was clutching her 3-year-old daughter, Kimberly Julieth Medina, tight in her arms, and keeping a careful eye on her two other children, 6-year-old Luis Danny Pérez and 12-year-old Naamá Pérez. She arrived at this shelter in September and was living with her husband and in-laws in a migrant camp in the border city of Tapachula. She had been held for 10 days in a detention center near Tapachula before being sent back to Atapuca, where she was living with her mother-in-law. She planned to go to the Mexican capital to claim asylum.

I am paying Mexico to keep people from reaching our border.

**The Asian Advantage**

**The New York Times**

July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, with just daughter Kimberly and her surviving son, Luis, at a shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico.

In the past 15 months, at the request of President Obama, Mexico has carried out a ferocious crackdown on refugees fleeing violence in Central America. The United States has given Mexico tens of millions of dollars for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 to stop these migrants from reaching the United States border to claim asylum.

Essentially the United States has outsourced a refugee problem to Mexico that is similar to the refugee crisis now roiling Europe. The United States is forcing them to go back to El Salvador, Honduras, to their deaths.

I went to Mexico last month to see the effects of the crackdown against migrants, who are being hunted down on a scale never seen before and sent back to countries where gangs and drug traffickers have taken control of whole sections of territory. More than a decade ago, I rode on top of seven freight trains up the length of Mexico with child migrants to chronicle hellish experiences at the hands of gangs, bandits and corrupt cops who preyed on youngsters as they journeyed north. Compared with today, that trip was child’s play.

In a migrant shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico, I met July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, who was clutching her 3-year-old daughter, Kimberly Julieth Medina, tight in her arms, and keeping a careful eye on her two other children, 6-year-old Luis Danny Pérez and 12-year-old Naamá Pérez. She arrived at this shelter in September and was living with her husband and in-laws in a migrant camp in the border city of Tapachula. She had been held for 10 days in a detention center near Tapachula before being sent back to Atapuca, where she was living with her mother-in-law. She planned to go to the Mexican capital to claim asylum.

I am paying Mexico to keep people from reaching our border.

**The Asian Advantage**

**The New York Times**

July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, with just daughter Kimberly and her surviving son, Luis, at a shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico.

In the past 15 months, at the request of President Obama, Mexico has carried out a ferocious crackdown on refugees fleeing violence in Central America. The United States has given Mexico tens of millions of dollars for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 to stop these migrants from reaching the United States border to claim asylum.

Essentially the United States has outsourced a refugee problem to Mexico that is similar to the refugee crisis now roiling Europe. The United States is forcing them to go back to El Salvador, Honduras, to their deaths.

I went to Mexico last month to see the effects of the crackdown against migrants, who are being hunted down on a scale never seen before and sent back to countries where gangs and drug traffickers have taken control of whole sections of territory. More than a decade ago, I rode on top of seven freight trains up the length of Mexico with child migrants to chronicle hellish experiences at the hands of gangs, bandits and corrupt cops who preyed on youngsters as they journeyed north. Compared with today, that trip was child’s play.

In a migrant shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico, I met July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, who was clutching her 3-year-old daughter, Kimberly Julieth Medina, tight in her arms, and keeping a careful eye on her two other children, 6-year-old Luis Danny Pérez and 12-year-old Naamá Pérez. She arrived at this shelter in September and was living with her husband and in-laws in a migrant camp in the border city of Tapachula. She had been held for 10 days in a detention center near Tapachula before being sent back to Atapuca, where she was living with her mother-in-law. She planned to go to the Mexican capital to claim asylum.

I am paying Mexico to keep people from reaching our border.

**The Asian Advantage**

**The New York Times**

July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, with just daughter Kimberly and her surviving son, Luis, at a shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico.