



International Visitor Leadership Program

U.S. Department of State

COMBATING SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

A Sub-regional Project for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The Cultural Vistas arranged their program.

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Accompanied by Language Interpreters: Ms. Natasha Bonilla, Ms. Jennifer Soto, and Ms. Ellen Wingo

August 26 - September 13, 2019

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- Review U.S. government strategies to combat international trafficking in persons, including crimes against women and children, by examining the formulation, administration, and enforcement of U.S. policy on the national, state, and local levels;
- Investigate international law enforcement cooperation in trafficking in persons cases;
- Examine the roles that government, law enforcement, the courts, and local organizations play in detecting, preventing, and prosecuting crimes;
- Observe best practices among joint human smuggling taskforces, as well as partnerships between anti-TIP and anti-smuggling investigators and prosecutors; and
- Explore initiatives to identify, protect, and assist victims of abuse and trafficking, including victim recovery and reintegration programs.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

El Salvador

Mr. Guillermo Antonio GARCIA GUTIERREZ

Information Management and Research Analyst, International Organization for Migration

Mr. Manuel Antonio MEDINA BENAVIDES

Legal Assistant, Directorate General of Immigration and Nationality

Ms. Sofia Marisol ZELADA OLMEDO

Project Manager, Save the Children International, El Salvador Office

Guatemala

Ms. Susana Guadalupe GONZALEZ MIRANDA

Coordinator, Prevention Area, Asociacion La Alianza

Mr. Juan Jose MENDIZABAL AVALOS

Prosecutor, Public Ministry

Ms. Ana Lucia PELAEZ VICENTE

Defender, Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Human Rights Ombudsman Office

Honduras

Ms. Martha Patricia GONZALEZ

Chief Prosecutor, Trafficking in Persons Unit, Public Ministry

Ms. Tania Lizbeth LOPEZ NIETO

Prosecutor, Public Ministry

Mr. David Apolinar RODRIGUEZ CERROS

Prosecutor, Public Ministry

Mexico

Mrs. Ana Isabel FLOR MAYOR

Director, General Directorate for Human Rights Strategy, Ministry of Industry

Mr. Rene Benjamin LOPEZ BASTIDA

Prosecutor, Office of the Special Prosecutor for Trafficking in Persons, Jalisco Attorney General's Office

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

El Salvador

Name: **Mr. Guillermo Antonio GARCIA GUTIERREZ**

Present Position: Information Management and Research Analyst, International Organization for Migration

Previous Positions: Design Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, World Vision El Salvador, 2016

Education/Training: Degree, Economics and Business, Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios, 2015

Address: El Salvador
Email: 93guillermogarcia@gmail.com

Languages: Spanish (primary), English

U. S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras

Professional Background: **Mr. Guillermo Antonio Garcia Gutierrez** has worked for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for almost three years. In his role, he provides crucial insights for evidence-based decision making and policy recommendations.

El Salvador

Name: **Mr. Manuel Antonio MEDINA BENAVIDES**

Present Position: Legal Assistant, Directorate General of Immigration and Nationality

Previous Positions: Law Professor, Universidad Salvadoreña Alberto Masferrer, 2017
Coordinator, Verification Unit, National Registry of Persons, 2007 - 2009
Supervisor, Quality Control, Identity Document Issuance, National Registry of Persons, 2000 - 2007

Education/Training: Diploma, Gender Law and Crimes against Women, Salvadorian Institute for the Development of Women, 2018
Course, Family Law, Gender, Childhood and Adolescence, National Council of the Judiciary, 2017
Course, Prevention of Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling National Council of the Judiciary, 2011
Law Degree, Universidad Tecnológica, 2009
Course, Crime Prevention, 2007

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Languages: Spanish (primary)

U. S. Travel: Boston, Los Angeles

Other Travel: Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico

Professional Background: **Mr. Manuel Antonio Medina Benavides** serves as a legal assistant in the Legal Unit of Directorate General of Immigration and Nationality (DGME). He gives technical advice to leadership and different sections of institutions in the content and scope of international and local regulations on migration, registration, civil, criminal and family matters. Mr. Medina Benavides is also in charge of developing resolutions regarding violations of the law by investigating profiles, analyzing documents, and detecting possible crimes. He also works on the explanation of agreements between DGME and other institutions from the local government and the international community.

El Salvador

Name: **Ms. Sofia Marisol ZELADA OLMEDO**

Present Position: Project Manager, Save the Children International, El Salvador Office

Previous Positions: Entrepreneurship Coordinator, Specialized Engineering, 2014 - 2017
International Liaison, General Directorate of Immigration, 2007 - 2014

Education/Training: Training, Contextualization of International Migration, International Organization for Migration, 2018
Training, Sexual Exploitation of Children, Inter-American Children's Institute, 2018
Training, Restorative Justice and Victim's Attention, Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador, 2018
Training, Leadership and Management, Chamber of Commerce, Bogota, Colombia, 2017
Master's Degree, Governance and Public Policy, Meiji University, Tokyo Japan, 2013
Bachelor's Degree, International Relations, Universidad de El Salvador, 2008

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Languages: Spanish (primary), English

U. S. Travel: Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles

Other Travel: Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Japan, Panama, Spain

Professional Background:

Ms. Sofia Marisol Zelada Olmedo coordinates the Project for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Illegal Trafficking of Migrants for Save the Children International - El Salvador Office. The project aims to comprehensively protect and defend the rights of children, young people and women who are at risk or victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This regional initiative benefits 25,000 children, adolescents, young people and women from vulnerable communities in six countries of Central America and the Caribbean. At the local level, the project works in more than 10 communities in El Salvador to strengthen the local protection system and sensitize the population about the risks and dangers to which they are exposed. It also promotes compliance with national protocol and laws implemented in local communities.

Guatemala

Name: **Ms. Susana Guadalupe GONZALEZ MIRANDA**

Present Position: Coordinator, Prevention Area, Asociacion La Alianza

Previous Positions: Children Area Coordinator, Asociación Viva Juntos por la Ninez, 2009
Pre-School Teacher, Colegio El Arte de Enseñar, 2006 - 2008

Education/Training: Master's Degree, Logotherapy, Centro de Logoterapia Dau School of Life, 2018
Bachelor's Degree, Psychology, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, 2007

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Languages: Spanish (primary)

U. S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Professional Background: **Ms. Susana Guadalupe Gonzalez Miranda** works for Asociacion La Alianza (ALA), a Guatemalan nonprofit organization that supports survivors of trafficking-in-persons (TIP) and gender-based violence (GBV). She is responsible for TIP education and awareness-raising activities, including developing a course on TIP for justice operators and legal professionals. ALA was founded by Covenant House International in 2010. ALA's mission is to create exceptional opportunities for the personal development and wellbeing of girls, boys and adolescents whose rights have been violated, especially through crimes such as TIP and sexual violence. ALA's approach is to provide comprehensive care with a human rights focus. The institution's objectives are to protect and reintegrate victims who have been sent to ALA by the courts; to contribute to violence prevention activities and prevent discrimination of victims; to facilitate access to justice for victims through comprehensive care and accompaniment; and to influence implementation of laws, policies, protocols and programs that respond to the demands for attention, prevention, protection and care of children and adolescents in Guatemala.

Guatemala

Name: **Mr. Juan Jose MENDIZABAL AVALOS**

Present Position: Prosecutor, Public Ministry

Previous Positions: Law Professor, University Mariano Galvez in Santa Cruz del Quiche, 2005- 2011
Prosecutor, Fiscalía Municipal de Villa Nueva, Public Ministry
Prosecutor, Economic and Financial Crimes Section, Fiscalía Distrital de Sacatepequez; Public Ministry, 2004 - 2013

Education/Training: Master's Degree, Constitutional Law, Universidad Rafael Landivar (thesis pending)
Certificate, Investigation of Violent Crimes against Women and Sexual Abuse Crimes, Training Unit at Public Ministry, 2012
Certificate, Constitutional Law, Pontificia University, Santiago Chile, 2010
Certificate, Tax Constitutional Law, Training Unit at Public Ministry, 2009
Certificate, International Cooperation for Development, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, 2009
Certificate, Guatemalan Constitutional Law Update, Constitutional Court, 2008
Certificate, Anti-Gang Training Course, International Law Enforcement Academy, San Salvador, El Salvador, 2007
Bachelor's Degree, Law, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, 2005

Memberships: Honor Tribunal of Lawyers of Guatemala Association, Guatemalan Association of Lawyers and Notaries

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Languages: Spanish (primary), English

U. S. Travel: California

Other Travel: Chile, El Salvador

Professional Background:

Mr. Juan Jose Mendizabal Avalos is a public ministry prosecutor specializing in cases related to organized crime and human trafficking. He identifies and deters criminal activity related to illegal migration and labor visa fraud in Huehuetenango, a major nexus of coyote-assisted migration and is the primary source of Guatemala's agricultural laborers for U.S. companies. Mr. Mendizabal Avalos currently leads a team of five assistant prosecutors, four officers and seven crime scene technicians. He promotes and assists in developing multiregional programs to combat and reduce violence against women, human trafficking, and exploitation. Mr. Mendizabal Avalos is a main participant in the development of the new Isabel Claudina alert in Guatemala, a law enforcement mechanism similar to the Amber Alert in the United States, but focused on finding missing women. He was also elected to serve as a member of the Honor Tribunal of the Guatemalan Lawyers and Notaries from 2015 to 2017.

Guatemala

Name: **Ms. Ana Lucia PELAEZ VICENTE**

Present Position: Defender, Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Human Rights Ombudsman Office

Concurrent Positions: Professor, Social Work, Universidad Panamericana

Previous Positions: Human Resources Assistant, Human Rights Ombudsman Office, 2010 - 2012

Education/Training: Master's Degree, Childhood and Adolescent Management, Universidad Rafael Landivar, 2018
Bachelor's Degree, Social Work, Universidad Mariano Galvez, 2010

Publications: Article, *Access to Justice for Victims of Trafficking in Persons*, Magazine of Psychologists of Guatemala, 2018

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Languages: Spanish (primary), English

U. S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Professional Background: **Ms. Ana Lucia Pelaez Vicente** is Defender of Victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) at the Human Rights Ombudsman Office. She is responsible for the preparation and presentation of Guatemala's annual Trafficking in Persons Report that is presented by the Human Rights Ombudsman. This year's report considered approaches to migration, indigenous peoples and gender.

Honduras

Name: **Ms. Martha Patricia GONZALEZ**

Present Position: Chief Prosecutor, Trafficking in Persons Unit, Public Ministry

Previous Positions:

Education/Training: Bachelor's Degree, Law (Pending)
Master's Degree, Penal Law and Procedures, Universidad Nacional Autonomas de Honduras, 2004
Certificate, Penal Law and Procedures, Universidad Lomas del Zamora, Argentina
Bachelor's Degree, Judicial and Social Sciences, Universidad Nacional Autonomas de Honduras, 1993

Memberships: Honduran Bar Association, Honduran Prosecutors Association
Regional Network of Prosecutors against Trafficking in Persons

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Languages: Spanish (primary)

U. S. Travel: Florida, Puerto Rico, Virginia

Other Travel: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Mexico

Professional Background: **Not Assigned**

Honduras

Name: **Ms. Tania Lizbeth LOPEZ NIETO**

Present Position: Prosecutor, Public Ministry

Previous Positions: Prosecutor for Consumer Protection, Public Ministry
Prosecutor for Senior Citizens Protection, Public Ministry
Prosecutor for Human Rights, Public Ministry

Education/Training: Bachelor's Degree, Law, Judicial and Social Sciences, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 2004
Diploma, Criminal and Criminal Procedure, 2014
Certificate, Electoral Offenses, 2013
Certificate, Criminal and Restorative Justice
Certificate, Investigation of Trafficking in Persons Offenses, 2013
Certificate, Social Reinsertion of Youth

Memberships: Honduran Lawyers Association, Honduran Prosecutors Association, Regional Network of Prosecutors against Trafficking in Persons

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Languages: Spanish (primary), English

U. S. Travel: Georgia

Other Travel: Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua

Professional Background: **Not Assigned**

Honduras

Name: **Mr. David Apolinar RODRIGUEZ CERROS**

Present Position: Prosecutor, Public Ministry

Previous Positions: **Not Assigned**

Education/Training: Bachelor's Degree, Law (Pending)
Bachelor's Degree, Judicial and Social Sciences, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras, 2001

Memberships: Honduran Bar Association, Honduran Association of Prosecutors

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Languages: Spanish (primary)

U. S. Travel: South Carolina

Other Travel: El Salvador, Guatemala

Professional Background: **Not Assigned**

Mexico

Name: **Mrs. Ana Isabel FLOR MAYOR**

Present Position: Director, General Directorate for Human Rights Strategy, Ministry of Industry

Previous Positions: Project Coordinator, International Organization for Migration Mexico Office, 2017- 2019

Education/Training: Bachelor's Degree, Psychology, FLACSO Argentina

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Languages: Spanish (primary)

U. S. Travel: Florida, Texas

Other Travel: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador

Professional Background: **Mrs. Ana Isabel Flor Mayor** was recently appointed to her position in the Interior Ministry (SEGOB). In her position, she plays a key role in formulating the administration's strategy on human rights and trafficking in persons (TIP). Mrs. Flor Mayor also supports the government's inter-agency TIP Commission, which coordinates TIP policy and initiatives across the entire federal government. Her position puts her in regular contact with congressional leadership. Before joining SEGOB, Mrs. Flor Mayor served as the TIP liaison for International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Mexico

Name: **Mr. Rene Benjamin LOPEZ BASTIDA**

Present Position: Prosecutor, Office of the Special Prosecutor for Trafficking in Persons, Jalisco Attorney General's Office

Previous Positions: Director, Law Office 2008 - 2011

Education/Training: Master's Degree, Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law of the National Bar Association, 2008
Bachelor's Degree, Law, University of Cuautitlan Izcalli, 2005

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Languages: Spanish (primary)

U. S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Professional Background: **Mr. Rene Benjamin Lopez Bastida** is a prosecutor for the public ministry in the state of Mexico. In this capacity, he is responsible for prosecuting cases against perpetrators of human trafficking and human smuggling. Mexico State, located to the east, north and west of Mexico City. It is an important transit state for migrants and, due to its proximity to the 22 million-person capital of Mexico City – the rail and bus hub for the country, is a state that faces persistent cases of trafficking and smuggling. Mr. Lopez Bastida has successfully prosecuted several trafficking in persons cases at the state level.