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Notes On Central American Refugees From Mexico & U.S. (s/s)

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 27, the Mexican government's news service, Notimex, broadcast reports on undocumented Central Americans in two southern states. From the state of Tabasco, the Mexican immigration service deported 78 Central Americans in January; 129 in February; and, thus far in March, 43. Authorities said the significant decline in deportations was the result of increased surveillance. In the state of Veracruz, the immigration service said that since January 1, 1989, an estimated 700 undocumented Central Americans had been detained. Officials said most were Nicaraguans and Salvadorans, and that all were on their way to the US in an effort to escape armed conflict, political persecution, or economic hardship. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has been accused of providing special treatment to Nicaraguan claims at Texas detention centers. INS officials in Washington and Texas deny special treatment. In its March 16 edition, the Miami Herald provides a breakdown of refugees in five Texas detention centers by nationality and deportation status: Held Deported El Salvador 1,213 118 Nicaragua 1,164 0 Guatemala 699 51 Honduras 645 6 Mexico 160 2 Other 438 1

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