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Guatemalan Refugees In Southern Mexico Described As Orderly, Devoted Workers

by Deborah Tyroler

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In an Aug. 14 report, Notimex quoted immigration service representative Baltazar Mejia Gonzalez as saying that 60% of the 23,000 Guatemalan refugees living in 113 refugee camps in Chiapas state have established legal residence via what is known as the "FM-3 migration form" specific to border residents. He said the form defines their legal status as refugees, protects them and allows them to farm land assigned to them in the Trinitaria, Comalapa and Margaritas areas. The official said the refugees have never been involved in land disputes, including with ejido residents. He added that the Guatemalans are very orderly, result of their awareness of residing on foreign soil. According to Mejia Gonzalez, during the eight years of the Guatemalans' residence in Mexico, they have been consistent and devoted workers. (Basic data from Notimex, 08/14/90)

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