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Salvadoran Refugees In Mexico

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On Jan. 31 in Mexico City, Mexican Refugee Assistance Committee (COMAR) deputy director Dr. Erasmo Saenz Carrete told Chinese news service Xinhua that in view of recent peace accords in El Salvador, the Mexican government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were developing a joint plan for the repatriation of Salvadoran refugees in Mexico. Saenz Carrete said the UNHCR will likely absorb the costs involved in the repatriation effort. COMAR estimates that between 100,000 and 250,000 Salvadoran refugees are living in Mexico. Mexico is not a signatory to either the UN protocol on refugees nor the Geneva Convention on refugees and does not grant political asylum to refugees. Consequently, 90% of the Salvadoran refugees in Mexico have illegal status. (Basic data from Chinese news service Xinhua, 01/31/92)

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