

## Mexico Is Like the Mediterranean

Not only is fleeing across the Mediterranean to Europe or the Mexico/US border perilous, for Central and South Americans the Journey through Mexico to get to the US-border is potentially lethal. The documentary "Viacrucis Migrante – Migrant Crossing" by Hauke Lorenz gives people a voice who are on the arduous path to "the Promised Land," the US.

"Emigration is a right and not a crime", says Alberto from Honduras. This is not the first time that Alberto is making his way to the United States. Together with two friends, he crossed the Guatemala/Mexico border with nothing more than a backpack. By chance, the filmmaker Hauke Lorenz met them on a road. In the migrant hostel in Tenosique they meet more migrating people.



© Hauke Lorenz: Alberto, Noé and José in the safe migrant-hostel La72.

Inside the shelter, they are secure against raids by the migration police and from organized crime. Under the protection of Franciscan Friars, who lead the hostel, they are allowed to wait for the train although there is no time schedule.

The refugees are not alone. Some days there are hundreds staying in the hostel, who take care of their injuries, eat, look for a shade, care for their babies, or just pray. Especially now, mere days before Holy Week. Together they hope for a better life in their future. José, Noé, Alberto, Natalia, Ricarter, Dionicio, Carlos, Derick and Oswaldo tell Hauke Lorenz, why they have no choice but to risk their lives on the journey through Mexico. Fearing the perilous journey towards the United States they apply for asylum in Mexico. They all are aware of the risks of the journey and draw power from their faith in order to reach the 'promised land.' They emigrate because they want to finance the education of their children, they run away because they don't have any other choice, they flee because they have experienced homophobia.

By not turning human beings and their stories into an anonymous or dangerous crowd, the documentary (61 Min, Spanish with English subtitles) revives the term "refugee crisis."

The biography of the filmmaker, meaningful photos, the trailer, as well as background information on the

making of the film and the situation of migrating people in Mexico are available here:

www.viacrucismigrante.com  
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/149637914>

Hauke Lorenz is always available for questions and interviews:

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### **United States Premiere:**

New York City Independent Film Festival ([www.nycindieff.com](http://www.nycindieff.com))

April 27, 2016 12:30pm (together with Rock Hill by Frederick Taylor)

Producers Club – Theater G

358 West 44th Street

New York, NY 10036

Synopsis:

### **Viacrucis Migrante – Migrant Crossing**

Length 61 Min, HD, Spanish with English or German subtitles

'Viacrucis Migrante' is a documentary about men, women and children fleeing the extremely dangerous conditions in their home countries of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. On the journey, they put themselves at risk of encountering many life-threatening dangers. Just past the southern Mexican border, they find a shelter with people who want to help them survive the martyrdom of the (minimum) 1,700 km trip toward the USA.

### **Background**

Every year thousands of men, women and children from Central America try to reach the 'promised' land, the USA. On the (at least) 1700 km long escape route through Mexico, robberies, kidnappings, and violence are common. It is believed that US foreign policy urges Mexico to militarize and heavily control its southern border. Instead of, as announced, better protecting human rights, the Mexican police literally hunt for migrants. In 2015, Mexico deported more than 200,000 people. However, this migration control doesn't actually stop migration but instead forces migrants to use more remote and dangerous routes. With this in mind, migrant shelters stage the dangerous journey on Good Friday as a Passion of the Christ and use the Christian ritual to raise awareness about the on the disastrous handling of migrants and sensitize people to the subject.

### **Many thanks**

The co-production of Hauke Lorenz and TIDE, the community and training channel from Hamburg, was financed by NGOs like Brot für die Welt, Missionszentrale der Franziskaner, MISEREOR and by a Crowd-funding-campaign.