

## Central American Forced Migration: Expelled Populations and Policy Containment

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Conference

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## Locating Central America



## Forced Migration

- Between 12 and 14% of Central American population are considered international migrants.
- Nicaraguan migration towards Costa Rica is the main intraregional migration flow.
- About 7% of the total Costa Rican population as a Nicaraguan background.
- Extraregional migration usually seeks to arrive to the United States.
- Central America is also territory through which extraregional migrants aim to reach the United States.



## Neither security, nor rights

- Mexican Immigration Law does not authorise travel permission to Central Americans for crossing its territory.
- They must travel through extremely dangerous routes and pay to the organised crime.
- Most of migrants pay for crossing the Mexican-US border.
- Masacres of migrants in San Fernando, Tamaulipas (2010 and 2011) and Cadereyta, Nuevo León (2012) are among the most painful. Very few corpses have been identified.

## “The Beast”, a common image...



## To continue...

- Social exclusion expels populations and, simultaneously, migration controls have increased.
- A right not to emigrate is urgently needed. It means to link migration and development.
- Meanwhile, immigration has become a keyword for rightwing politics (Trump, UKIP, Alternative for Germany, among others).
- In short, framing progressive approaches regarding migration is a pressing challenge.

**Thanks!**