



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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HONDURAN MIGRANTS WHO HAVE LOST LIMBS TO THE TRAIN KNOWN AS “THE BEAST” VISIT BIRMINGHAM ON THEIR WAY SEEK AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT

Hear directly from migrants who have been harmed by the migration policies and practices of all governments.

HOOVER, Alabama — This Tuesday at 7:00pm, a group of disabled Central American migrants, members of AMIREDIS (Association of Returned Migrants with Disabilities), will gather at the Adelante Alabama Worker Center in Hoover to share their gripping stories with Birmingham-area community members as they make their way to our nation’s capital to confront President Obama, as part of a caravan called *Todo es Posible* (Anything is Possible). The purpose of their journey is to raise consciousness about the plight of migrants and how the militarization and deportation policies of all countries along their migratory route are not just ineffective, but how they violate basic human rights.

On February 25th, seventeen disabled migrants from Honduras—many of whom lost legs and arms during previous attempts to migrate—embarked once again on the dangerous journey to the United States. They were detained once they reached the Texas-Mexico border. Some of the group members were deported, but eight were released pending resolution of their applications for asylum, after many phone calls and petitions. “Now we are traveling in a caravan to Washington, DC to seek an audience with President Obama to share our difficult stories and speak to him face-to-face about the dangers migrants face as they traverse hundreds or thousands of miles in their attempts to reach the United States, especially on the perilous journey through Mexico on the train known as *La Bestia* (“The Beast”),” explained Jose Luis, Director of AMIREDIS, who lost an arm and a leg.

“We are honored to welcome the leaders of AMIREDIS here at Adelante,” said Yazmin Contreras, an Organizer at Adelante. “This is a great opportunity for these men to share their personal stories, and to engage in a conversation with Birmingham-area community members about the roots and the dangers of migration. Join us tonight to hear about their trip across Central America, Mexico, and the US, and all the hardships they have faced on their way.” AMIREDIS members will also be available for one-on-one and group interviews at Adelante anytime after 4:00pm.

When: Tuesday, June 9th, 7:00-8:30pm (AMIREDIS members also available for interviews from 4:00-7:00pm)

Where: Adelante Alabama Worker Center
2104 Chapel Hill Road, Hoover, AL 35216

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