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**MEDIA ADVISORY 12 June 2018**

 **UN REFUGEE AGENCY IN CANADA TO HIGHLIGHT CRISIS IN NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA WITH VISITING DELEGATION**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will welcome next week to Canada a delegation of experts from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. The delegation will be in Toronto on 18 June and in Ottawa on 19-20 June, and will feature experts on the forced displacement and refugee crisis in north of Central America (NCA).

Gang-related violence and insecurity are forcing tens of thousands every year, many of them women and children, to flee NCA countries in search of safety. As of the end of 2017, more than 294,000 refugees and asylum seekers from the NCA were registered – 58% higher than the previous year and sixteen times the number from five years prior to that.

The delegation will call attention to the worsening displacement and refugee crisis through a series of meetings with government officials, civil society groups, media and the general public. Their visit to Canada is intended to promote greater public and policy awareness of the crisis, and to encourage greater engagement by Canadian governmental and non-governmental actors.

The delegation will be available to the media in **Toronto** on Monday, 18 June 2018, 11:30 am- 12:30 pm. at the **Advocates’ Society**, 250 Yonge Street, Suite 2700.

Two public events **are also open to the media** during the tour, one in each of Toronto and Ottawa, and will also showcase select pieces from RefugiArte by Latin American artists, depicting some of the dramatic situations in which millions of refugees live:

**Toronto**: Monday, 18 June 2018, 5:30-7:30 PM, at the **PSR Brokerage**, 625 King Street West, Toronto, ON, M5V1M5
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/highlighting-the-silent-crisis-in-the-north-of-central-america-tickets-46892931019>

**Ottawa**: Wednesday, 20 June 2018, 2:00-4:00 PM, **Canadian Museum of History** Resource Centre, 100 Rue Laurier, Gatineau, QC, K1A0M8
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/shining-a-light-on-the-silent-crisis-in-the-north-of-central-america-tickets-46996808720>

**NOTE:**  Media availability outside these events is by appointment, in advance.

**FOR INTERVIEW REQUESTS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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