

## **Cristobal R., Migrant from Guatemala (*Plaintiffs v. Sessions*)**

My son and I left Guatemala because I was facing discrimination from the Spanish speakers. I was assaulted at gunpoint when driving a motorcycle taxi. My seven-year-old son was there. They asked me questions about my job and demanded half of my salary. I believe they were gang members. After that, they sent me threatening notes at my home. They physically attacked me but we were able to escape. They called me offensive names used to refer to people who do not speak Spanish as our first language.

We fled Guatemala in fear and were detained together at the border near El Paso, Texas.

## **Karen B., Migrant from El Salvador (*Plaintiffs v. Sessions*)**

I am here from with my two sons Nehamias and Nelson. We came fleeing violence and threats in El Salvador. There are really so many reasons for coming. Life was unbearable and dangerous. There is a big gang problem. But that is not all. The police are also involved. They are corrupt. I was being threatened and harassed by gangs and police. The gangs would just come in my house and hang out. They would not leave. They made threats and used drugs in front of my children. We would have to hide. The gangs told me I had to do what they said or me and my children would “disappear.” They stole from me and worse.

I went to the police. They would not even take the complaint. This was not safe for my sons. There was nothing I could do to protect them. As a mother I always want to try to stay calm and strong for them but very bad things were happening and I was afraid for all of us. I heard were being separated from their kids at the border but I just did not know what else to do. I had to try to get my children to a place where they have a chance for survival so I came.

## **Blanca M., Migrant from Guatemala ([\*Plaintiffs v. Sessions\*](#))**

My daughter and I are from Guatemala, where we fled because of death threats and extreme violence.

To start, I was repeatedly physically abused and raped by my brother-in-law for the last six years. My sister does not know because he threatened me with a gun if I ever spoke of it. My brother-in-law is actually my daughter's father and she is the product of his abuse. She does not know. He threatened to kill me if I told anyone. However, I cannot blame her for his violence towards me. I tried to tell the police about his abuse but they ignored my please. He owns a bar in town and even when the "dry" law is in place for Election Day, the police allow him to serve alcohol. I have seen him threaten people with his gun and hit them in the head with his pistol when they leave his bar too drunk. He is a very violent man who the police do not bother at all.

The event that finally triggered me leaving Guatemala was when the gangs came to our town and saw me with my daughter. The gangs asked me to join their band and when I refused, I was beaten and raped multiple times by these gang members which has left me in a state of anxiety and fear. Following these events, gang members repeatedly stalked and threatened me and my daughter. I was forced to flee. I have only spoken to my mother once since I left and she told me they are looking for me. I left a son in Guatemala; my mother cares for him. The gang members do not know that he is my son. They only threatened me and my daughter.