

The Syndrome of African Youths Clandestine International Migration in Hot Persuade of Greener Pastures (SAYCIMHPGP) Versus Achieving Premature Death in the Darien Gap Forested Jungles and Waterways (APDDGFJW) of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in the Post-COVID 19 of the 21st Century

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Abstract: This paper deals with the identification of the Darien Gap as the main channel of continuous clandestine, illegal, undocumented and irregular migratory pathways of African Youths which caught our attention in the post-COVID 19 of the 21st Century with gross ambitions to get richer faster through the slogan of greener pastures with the majority giving off their lives ignorantly and embarrassingly to tilapias of the Mexican deep rivers in an attempt to cross to North American countries of United States and Canada. The end results was the untimely psychological tortures of their parents and sporadic internal crises of blaming even those who never contributed to such unwanted illegal movements but raising voices to educate on the dangers of an official migration both internally or externally. In fact the majority of the youths having such ambitions of illegal crossing of the Darien Gap are totally ignorant of the nature of the route which has been above the imagination of top ranking Engineers to open it to be more possible for vehicles to use. The hilly, mountainous, muddy, swampy, smugglers, kidnapping, ripping and all sorts of trafficking are characteristics of the Darien Gap which none of the agent involve in such illegal route can account to their victims. It is just certain that any of such irregular extra-continental travelling without passing through official diplomatic services which moderate bilateral relations can only be termed as above. It is also our findings that the clandestine pathway routes those using are passing is characterized with wild animals, dangerous human criminals of trafficking, bandits, muddy, dense forested, not motorable as even top engineers have not been able to successfully mapped out a good road that can be constructed with the Darien deadly jungle. Our inspirations were drawn from lecturing of Post-Graduate students on the question of International Migration and Black Diasporas around the World during which most of them were still thinking of how greener pastures are only in different countries than their birth land. In fact, the clarification done in this research discloses the nature of the dangerous clandestine routes engaged by previous African youths with unexpected death in those jungles is a call for adjustment as ignorant of such information was the case in all circumstances. In fact, this study is limited to what constitute unofficial migratory movements by those who feels that Sub-Saharan African countries are hell while the United States and Canada are their heaven which they can use even unofficial mechanisms to reach and spend the rest of their life span there. Then, while not use a real legal official channels to go to heavenly countries? The majority of those practicing such movements embarked on sabotaging their countries and giving it a bad international image and perceptions by the hyper-powers of the 21st Century forgetting to know that the resources of Africans and African man labour of slavery contributed to the construction and development of those countries in the era of slave trade and slavery. Thereafter, colonization and neo-colonialism and presently the prescriptions of globalization are too challenging in the 21st Century. This paper is our modest scientific contributions to enlightening ambitious youths especially students to avoid from abandoning their studies to engage on hell traps of clandestine migration through LAC but to resort to legal diplomatic channels of embassies and consulates to obtain the right documents to travel if deem necessary for academic reasons or international legal business activities.

Keywords: Darien, premature death, LAC, youths, waterways, clandestine, undocumented, irregular.

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INTRODUCTION

Migration and Diaspora Studies offers an interdisciplinary importance in the domains of Social Science and Humanities using a historical approach bringing out irregular movement of youths with consequences to the immediate families, receiving countries of the immigrants and home countries of the migrants. It entails migratory movements of Africans especially youths from different African countries through South American countries as an illegal transit to North America (United States and Canada) destinations in search of what is known as “Greener Pastures which in turns become Greener unreasonable death in the jungle forests of Latin American Countries (LAC). Another wave of migration have been so far attracted through the Sahara Desert to the Mediterranean sea with attempts to illegally crossing to European countries. These deceitful migratory movements have somehow ended most aspirants who embarked with ungratified death in the seas without researching the final migratory destinations. Even those that successfully reach suffer from all types of societal discriminations. Perhaps, the desires of the so-called “White collar jobs” they set for turn to be Blue Collar believable inhuman activities carrying out to gain illicit cash or earnings. Most directions of their targeted countries are France, Britain, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Italy and other Eastern European countries through illegal methods and pathways. (Europe and its Immigrants in the 21st Century-Migration..., <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/files/publications>). These challenges make African studies very important to Africans in order to know how they are been perceived and images portrayed to Americans and Europeans who strongly benefitted from the era of Slavery and Slave Trade and later proceeded with colonization and present situation of neo-colonial manipulations. Been it through granting of official visas from respective Diplomatic Embassies based in African Countries or through tearing the forest pathways with visas, both have positive and negative impacts to the departure and receiving communities. But, experiences of the 21st Century have proving that the consequences of migration are more unfavorable to African countries and favorable to American and European countries in terms of development. It could also be more profitable to African countries in cases where Diaspora promote developmental projects in their home countries and portraying of good images rather than expressing and discrediting their original homelands. This draw our attention to the previous happenings concerning Diasporas predicaments in the American Continents and how diplomatic services later came up with voluntary enslavement initiative to be chosen by African themselves through constant playing of lottery opportunities or applying directly for a visa using other legalized defined channels. Yet, the others prefer to tier the forested dangerous routes swimming across deep river and other water pathways to reach United States and Canada.

In the Darien jungle series of dangerous natural rivers acts as traps to all clandestine migrants without any exception and only the physical strength of an individual immigrants can survive, he or she and be bound to remain within either swallow by crossing the rivers or getting tied then abandoned behind by others, hence dead is the end result. Many corpses of African gets missing or eating by animals as some are covered by friends with leaves of trees. However, many families are left in the cold and keep creating hard times for them when the plans failed while avoiding to hear about any single criticisms of such illegal or undocumented immigrants welcome back home with negative results of the clandestine journey are released to the public. Where the consciousness is of the spirit of Nation-Building and general perception regarding both actors in the processes of such illegal movements? It is certain that some fabricated papers might have been useful to somewhere along the line, but to a certain extent have themselves exposed where legal documentary State’s security agents takes their time to scrutinize the immediate actor embarking on his dead trap journey. Can African youths learn a bitter lesson from some of the realistic stories and factual evidence about their fellow brothers and sisters who long took such movement as a priority but will never been seen on earth because of their incapacities to either trek in the tick forest or swept by the water currents to unknown destinations deep in the seas, rivers or oceans? Our findings holds that most parents and family associations have not been playing key advisory roles responding to such challenges by cautioning their younger once and educating them through scientific published works but are still having the rest of the time to do so in order to protect the living generations to think of greener pastures back home through hard work rather than blocking their national mentalities to embarking on modern slavery elsewhere around the World. However, the teaching of International Migration and Black Dispoaras in the “Post-Graduate and Under Graduate levels motivated us to put up some scientific research papers which can constantly be consulted by the younger researchers in order to yields their understanding and usages of the knowledge acquired to enlighten the needy on related contemporary challenges in the World of globalization. The scrutinized of specialize sources, documentaries and update news occurring enable us to use a historical approach to come out with our findings thereby paving the way forwards for more research avenues.

1. The Understanding of Related Terminologies Linking to the Practices of Clandestine International Migration

The understanding of the question of International Legal Migration (ILM) and International Illegal Migration (IIM) is very important to the specialist of the History of International Relations (HIR) in the 21st Century. Clandestine migration also known as illegal immigration is the migration of people into a country in violation of that country’s immigration laws, or the

continuous residence in a country without the legal right to. Illegal immigration tends to be financially upward, from poorer to richer countries. (Illegal immigration, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration)).

Illegal residence in another country creates the risk of detention, deportation, and/or other sanctions. Asylum seekers who are denied asylum may face impediment to expulsion if the home country refuses to receive the person or if new asylum evidence emerges after the decision. In some cases, these people are considered illegal aliens. (Fragomen, <https://www.fragomen.com/trending/immigration>). In others, they may receive a temporary residence permit, for example regarding the principle of non-refoulement in the International Refugee Convention. The European Court of Human Rights, referring to the European Convention on Human Rights, has shown in a number of indicative judgments that there are enforcement barriers to expulsion to certain countries, for example, due to the risk of torture. (Njuafac K. F. 2020). The terminology surrounding illegal immigration is often controversial. In particular, describing people who immigrated illegally as illegal immigrants has been a matter of debate. It is nevertheless commonly used in formal contexts, among others by the United States and by the Canadian governments. Title 8 of the US Code is the portion of United States law that contains legislation on citizenship, nationality, and immigration. Defining the legal term alien as "any person, not a citizen or national of the United States," The terminology used in Title 8 includes illegal alien (33 times), unauthorized alien (21 times), undocumented alien (18 times), illegal immigrant (6 times), undocumented person (2 times), and others. An analysis by PolitiFact, however, concluded that the term illegal alien "occurs scarcely, often undefined or part of an introductory title or limited to apply to certain individuals convicted of felonies." (Njuafac K. F. 2020). Some campaigns discourage the use of the term illegal immigrant, generally based on the argument that the act of immigrating illegally does not make the people themselves illegal, but rather they are "people who have immigrated illegally." In Europe, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) launched its international "Words Matter" campaign in 2014 to promote the use of the terms undocumented or irregular migrants instead of illegal. Depending on jurisdiction, culture, or context, alternatives to illegal aliens or illegal immigrants can include irregular migrants, undocumented immigrants, undocumented persons, and unauthorized immigrants. (). In some contexts the term illegal immigrants is shortened, often pejoratively, to illegals. Irregular migration is a related term that is sometimes used, e.g. by the International Organization for Migration; however, because of the word migration, this term describes a somewhat wider concept, including illegal emigration. (Illegal immigration, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration)). On their part, some news associations have discontinued or

discouraged the term illegal immigrant, except in quotations. These organizations presently include the Associated Press (US), Press Association (UK), European Journalism Observatory,^[20] European Journalism Centre, Association of European Journalists, Australian Press Council,^[22] and Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (AU). Related terms that describe actions are not similarly discouraged. Most commonly they use the alternative term, undocumented immigrant. For example, the Associated Press continues to use the term illegal immigration, whereby illegal describes the action rather than the person. On the other hand, The New York Times said described undocumented immigrant as a "term preferred by many immigrants and their advocates, but it has a flavor of euphemism and should be used with caution outside the quotation." Newsweek questions the use of the phrase undocumented immigrants as a method of euphemistic framing, namely, "a psychological technique that can influence the perception of social phenomena." Newsweek also suggests that persons who enter a country unlawfully cannot be entirely "undocumented," as they "just lack the certain specific documents for legal residency and employment," while "[m]any have driver's licences, debit cards, library cards, and school identifications which are useful documents in specific contexts but not nearly so much for immigration." For example, in the US, youths brought into the country illegally are granted access to public K-12 education and benefits regardless of citizenship status; therefore the youths are not entirely undocumented, since they are documented for educational purposes. (Illegal immigration, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration)).

In the United States, while overstaying a visa is a civil violation handled by the immigration court, entering (including re-entering) the US without approval from an immigration officer is a crime; specifically a misdemeanor on the first offense. Illegal reentry after deportation is a felony offense. This is the distinction between the larger group referred to as unauthorized immigrants and the smaller subgroup referred to as criminal immigrants. Democratic Senator and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has spoken out against the term "undocumented", stating that "Illegal immigration is wrong – plain and simple" and that proponents of the term were "not serious" about combatting illegal immigration. (The Migratory Situation in the Darién Gap, ParlAmericas, <https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents>). In Canada, as in the US, "illegal immigrant" is a commonly used term. However, there is confusion and deep dissent among many about what the term means under the law and what circumstances, and what it implies socially. "Irregular" is a term used by government authorities to refer to migrants who enter Canada outside of official border crossings ("points of entry"). Entrance into Canada outside of a POE is considered unlawful, but not a criminal offence, or a civil offence under the

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, SC 2001, c 27. Regulations under IRPA require that a person seeking to enter Canada outside a POE should "appear without delay" at the nearest entry point. Section 33 of the IRPA requires that any legal charges against a migrant be stayed while an entrant's asylum claim is being processed. The Government of Canada and the Immigration and Refugee Board use the term "irregular" to refer to these crossings.

(The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca/stories/8-aout-2023>). The Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party typically use the term "irregular", while the Conservative Party of Canada typically uses the term "illegal". The use of the term "undocumented" is increasingly prevalent among individual MPs and MPPs in Canada, and was also used in a NDP policy document as well as by Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath in a 2018 platform document. Conservative MP Dave Epp referred to "undocumented workers" in a 2020 interview with the CBC wherein he called for an end to the use of contract migrant labour by Canadian agriculture businesses, in part because many such workers are undocumented and therefore vulnerable to exploitation and unsafe working conditions. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and her Albanian counterpart Edi Rama signed an agreement on November 6, 2023, to relocate migrants to Albania, a deal criticized by human rights organizations. On Monday, November 6th, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced that Italy plans to construct two detention centers in Albania to accommodate migrants attempting to reach its shores. This initiative aims to manage the surge in migration figures, which have nearly doubled in the year since Meloni assumed office. Anticipated to open next spring, these facilities will initially house 3,000 individuals. Once operational, the government envisions processing up to 36,000 people annually. Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party faces increasing domestic pressure for not fulfilling its electoral commitment to curb illegal migration. The number of arrivals in Italy has surpassed 145,000 people since January, compared to 88,000 people last year. (Immigration and Refugee Board use the term "irregular" to refer to these crossings. (The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca/stories/8-august-2023>).

2. The Challenges of the Darien Gap as the Worst Death Trap to Clandestine Migration Network Pathways

The Darien Gap is one of the world's most remote jungle regions, accessible only on foot or by canoe. It is also the territorial divide between South and Central America. Migrants disembark from buses in the Colombian towns of Turbo or Necoclí. From there, they must cross the Gulf of Úraba, where local fishermen can be hired as smuggling facilitators. The boats leave at night and are often significantly over capacity. In

January 2019, a small fishing boat carrying 28 migrants capsized in the gulf, and 15 migrants from several African nations died. Most boats do make it, though, and the travelers arrive in the municipalities of Acandí or Capurganá on the Darien Gap's eastern coast.(The Migratory Situation in the Darién Gap, ParlAmericas, <https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents>). From there, they wait to cross the jungle. Each year, hundreds of thousands of migrants cross the Darién Gap, a strip of jungle between Central and South America, on their way to the U.S. With little state presence in the area, Colombia's Gaitanista drug syndicate is overseeing human smuggling rackets while gangs in Panama perpetrate assaults on migrants. on their way to the U.S. With little state Each year, hundreds of thousands of migrants cross the Darién Gap, a strip of jungle between Central and South America, presence in the area, Colombia's Gaitanista drug syndicate is overseeing human smuggling rackets while gangs in Panama perpetrate assaults on migrants.³ November 2023(How the Treacherous Darien Gap Became a M..., migrationpolicy.org <https://www.migrationpolicy.org> ...). "Deep in the jungle of the Darién Gap, robbery, rape and human trafficking are as dangerous as wild animals, insects and a lack of clean water," Jean Gough, UNICEF director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Darién Gap is a Roadless, lawless stretch of mountainous rainforest straddling Colombia and Panama. For centuries, it's held the reputation of being virtually uncrossable, by locals and well-equipped visitors alike. Yet in the first seven months of 2023, almost 250,000 people – most from Venezuela – risked their lives to navigate the Darién Gap on foot. This figure surpassed the number of migrants that crossed in all of 2022. The number of children making the crossing also shot up in recent years, with close to 32,500 entering the jungle between January and October 2022. Most migrants trying the Darién Gap are desperately poor. In recent years, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has driven thousands to risk their lives in the jungle. (The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca/stories>). In 2023, there has been a significant increase in crossings. In August, Panama's Immigration Service Director Samira Gozaine said that between 2,600 and 2,800 migrants per day have been making the crossing. It's estimated that if this pace continues, as many as 400,000 people may cross the Darién Gap by the end of 2023. Many who survive the Darién Gap say wish they hadn't tried it. What they experienced, what they witnessed, will haunt them for the rest of their lives. Dozens have watched their loved ones die in the jungle, or left them to perish at the side of the trail. So why do migrants risk their lives in the gap? They're aiming for a brighter future in the United States, Mexico or Canada. Walking north on the only overland route out of South America offers the best chance of crossing borders. Planes or boats are riskier, with migrants stopped cold at docks or airports. (Deborah Wolfe, 8 August, 2023;

Voice of America News Image). According to Deborah, it is a lush, green and hell to any clandestine migrants crossing the route. The trek across the Darién Gap is 97 kilometers long and can take more than a week to complete. Migrants have no choice but to travel on foot. This is the only break in the Pan-American highway which stretches for some 30,000 kilometres, from Argentina to Alaska. There are no plans to build a road here. Mountains, swamps and dense jungle make the landscape too hostile for infrastructure. Instead, the area hides paramilitary forces, gangs and drug traffickers. The Darién Gap also hosts some 575,000 hectares of UNESCO-protected national park. Most migrants enter the gap with no instructions, no map. To cross, they must ford powerful rivers and pull themselves – and often their children – up steep, mountainous terrain. This is one of the wettest regions of the world and deep mud is everywhere. Plus, the jungle is disorienting; it's easy to walk in circles. Some people can afford to pay guides or 'coyotes' to lead them. But these guides can be human traffickers posing as sympathetic protectors. In fact, death in the Darién Gap is very rampant because without a road, policing the deepest regions of the Darién Gap is nearly impossible. The region is crawling with paramilitary groups and criminal gangs. (The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca › stories>). They are ready to pick off migrants along the way. Violence, extortion and rape are common threats for the migrants. So is death from snake bites, exposure and drowning. She insisted that the "Darién Gap travelers face unthinkable decisions as people battle just to finish. A few days in, exhausted trekkers might unload essentials like food, water and tents, so they can carry their children as indicated on Photo: John Moore, Getty Images.

The injured or elderly are among those at greatest risk. Something as simple as a twisted ankle can mean the end. Even able-bodied adults struggle to finish this journey, battling dehydration, hunger and injuries of their own. Heartbreak is rife in the Darién Gap. Helping carry another adult – even as a group – is unthinkable, given the terrain people negotiate and the hunger and dehydration they experience. Even if that person is someone's wife, sister or father. One step in an odyssey, For many migrants, the Darién Gap is the latest challenge in a years-long quest for safety and opportunity. Some even fly across the Atlantic, to enter Central America via the gap on foot. Looking at the Venezuelan and Haitian migrants in the Darién Gap, most migrants negotiating the Darién Gap in 2023 hailed from Venezuela and Haiti, countries swirling in political and economic crisis. Some came directly from those countries. Others had been living as refugees for years, in South American countries. In Venezuela, some 57 per cent of households are food-deprived and 42 per cent of children in the poorest neighbours show lasting effects of malnutrition. These include physical and mental stunting. Experts blame the country's political and economic turmoil, compounded by the effects of COVID. Photo: World Vision. In 2021,

most people crossing the Darién Gap hailed from Haiti. Following the 2010 earthquake which devastated their homeland, tens of thousands of Haitians tried to build new lives in Chile and Brazil. Hurricane Matthew in 2016, combined with rampant gang activity and state-sanctioned violence, sent many thousands more fleeing Haiti. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew pummeled regions of Haiti, destroying tens of thousands of houses. Many of the Haitian families who fled to Brazil and Chile at that time are now crossing the Darién Gap. Photo: Santiago Mosquera. Between 2010 and 2017, an estimated 85,000 Haitians arrived in Brazil. (Crossing the Darién Gap: Migrants Risk Death..., Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org › article › cross...>). The country welcomed them, promising construction jobs in advance of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics. In the past few years, however, Haitian migrants in both Chile and Brazil have faced tightening restrictions, increased discrimination and economic desperation. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded every aspect of life, leaving countries everywhere reluctant to welcome newcomers. These circumstances have left many thousands of Venezuelan and Haitian families ready to risk everything for a chance at life in the United States – even the Darién Gap. "Sometimes I think that, if I were not this poor, I wouldn't have got into this situation," said Rosi Bantour, a Haitian migrant. She was speaking in an award-winning documentary for PBS, about the gap. Rosi had been walking for eight days and still wasn't safely through (Crossing the Darién Gap: Migrants Risk Death..., Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org › article › cross...>).

Globally, the word is out about the Darién Gap. In 2019 alone, Panamanian authorities counted nearly 24,000 migrants from outside South America entering their country via the gap. In the first half of 2022, people came from as far away as Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and China to risk their lives in the jungle. The number of overseas migrants slowed in 2020 and 2021, due to worldwide travel bans linked to the global coronavirus pandemic. But with the resumption of travel, people are once again crossing the world to risk their lives in the jungle.

(Number of migrants crossing Panama's Darien Gap..., Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com › americas>). Families in dangerous, desperate regions of countries like the Central African Republic can run out of options. Even the Darién Gap can seem hopeful by comparison. Photo: François Tchaya But before then, people from countries like Angola, Eritrea, Iran, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan and Yemen frequently risked their lives in the Darién Gap. Why? Because, many of these people were on the list of countries banned by the Trump administration from entering the United States. The Taliban targeted our family ... that is why I had to leave my country," Nihal Ahmad, a migrant from Pakistan, told freelance journalist Nadja Drost in her documentary

for PBS. For many overseas migrants, entering the United States covertly was their best chance. They flew to Colombia, or another South American country with relaxed entry requirements. And made their way to the Darién Gap. At the trailhead of the Darién Gap, Necoclí, Colombia is a seaside town with a population of just 20,000. But in August of 2021, some 10,000 migrants were crowded into Necoclí— a dramatic increase from previous years. They were awaiting boat passage to the trailhead of the Darién Gap. (Number of migrants crossing Panama's Darien Gap..., Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com › americas>).

In July 2021, Necoclí's outdated public services collapsed due to the influx of migrants, leaving thousands stranded there. Many families were forced to use their life savings to survive for weeks, before gaining passage to the Darién Gap. Photo: Joaquin Sarmiento, Getty Images. The bottleneck of migrants made headline news around the world. Lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions in the region – combined with growing unrest, violence and poverty – had sent thousands north. They had to wait in Necoclí until Panama opened its borders, allowing passage into the gap. Commercial boats from Necoclí across the Gulf of Urabá can typically accommodate just 500 migrants per day in total. This leaves migrants waiting for days, even weeks, for their chance to board a boat, cross the gulf and reach the Darién Gap. Their turn at last: migrants head for the boat that will transport them across the gulf to the Darién Gap. World Vision has helped fortify families during their time in Necoclí, through food and supply vouchers for local businesses. Photo: Sebastian Avellaneda. Migrants camping on Necoclí's beach create shelters out of sticks and pieces of plastic. Many have arrived here desperately poor, after months on the road. They come hungry, exhausted and in need of provisions for the Darién Gap. World Vision is there to meet them, providing hygiene kits, shelter and multi-purpose cash vouchers to cover basic needs, says World Vision Colombia's Peter Gape. "We've also established child-friendly spaces to ensure psycho-social attention to children." (Fragomen, <https://www.fragomen.com › trending › immigration>).

The Migratory Situation in the Darién Gap were recorded as follows in the recent past: First, between January and September 2023, a total of 408,889 migrants have crossed the Darien Gap, the border area between Colombia and Panama, 2022 and 2023 the increase in the number of migrants reached 300% in August of this year. Clan del Golfo, the illegal armed group that controls migrant smuggling in the area, makes an estimated \$30 million a year. The Darien Gap and Migration 4. 64.16% of the migrants who have crossed are Venezuelans, followed by Ecuadorians (11.91%), Haitians (10.98%), Chinese (5.33%) and Afghans (0.79%). According to Migración Colombia, 19.04% were minors, totaling 77,835 minors on the aforementioned date. (US, Panama and Colombia aim to stop Darien Gap migration, AP News, <https://apnews.com › article › darie...>). It is

difficult to obtain accurate data on the number of people stranded mid-crossing due to the lack of institutional presence. The Urabá Region is located in the departments of Antioquia and Chocó, where part of the jungle and swamp area meet, this is known as the Darién Gap. According to the Panamanian government, 96% of the illegal timber sold in the country comes from the Darién. "Illegal logging uses mules to take the logs out of the forest and this has deteriorated the quality of the soil in some areas of the park," explains Nianza Ángulo Paredes. Information on drug trafficking through Darien is scarce. In 2021, the Panamanian government seized a shipment valued at \$9.9 million belonging to the Clan del Golfo. Humanitarian corridor. The Darien Gap presents an enormous institutional challenge, which requires a joint approach between Panama, Colombia and international organizations. Prioritizing lives and taking into account the need to address the business of migrant smuggling, the creation of a humanitarian corridor in the border area should be sought, taking into consideration that Panama and Costa Rica have already activated a humanitarian corridor for the transit of migrants arriving from the Darien. This corridor should be extended to Urabá in Colombia, in a coordinated effort between the countries of the region, the United States as the final destination, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other international organizations involved in safe migration. The Pan American Route, is the source of most black migrant hell to reach US. (US, Panama and Colombia aim to stop Darien Gap migration, AP News, <https://apnews.com › article › darie...>). The fight against migrant smuggling requires a long-term solution, which can only be achieved by guaranteeing an institutional presence in the Darien Gap. It is necessary to again discuss the completion of the Pan-American Route, building the remaining 130 km that pass through the Darien. The financing of the environmental impact studies should be initiated, proposing the construction of the road at the edge of the sea so as not to affect the Serranía. Completing the Panamerican Route will serve to guarantee the effective presence of the two States, retake territorial control and provide a safe passage for migrants. Legislating for migration. The Congress of Colombia has several legislative initiatives that seek to address the problem of irregular migration. The Senate of the Republic is in the process of approving the "Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime", a fundamental instrument of international cooperation in this area. Between 2020 and 2021, the Comprehensive Migration Policy Law was discussed and approved, which establishes the guidelines for migration management in the country. The Congress has the obligation to review this Law and modify it to provide better responses to the current migration crisis. (<https://parlAmericas.org › uploads › documents>).

Traversing the Darien takes six to eight days on foot in the best of times, and closer to ten days during the

rainy season. It is physically taxing to walk through the dense jungle, where it rains most days and is consistently 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Those making the journey must navigate flash floods, bandits, armed guerilla groups, poisonous plants, venomous snakes, and other dangerous wildlife. During this trek, migrants risk getting lost, hurt, or killed. While many travel in small groups, some find themselves left behind or otherwise separated from their groups. This can be a death sentence, even for those with access to a digital or physical map. Smugglers or guides often assist migrants through the trek, but the quality of smuggling services in the Darien varies. Migrants almost always run out of food a couple of days into their walk and often rely on rivers for water supply. The challenges to crossing the Darien are numerous, and while there are no reliable figures on the number of people who die in the jungle, more than a dozen migrants interviewed by the author recalled seeing bodies along the journey. (MPI compilation based on Michel Puech's rendering). Children get the chance to play and relax at a child-friendly space in Necoclí, Colombia. World Vision provides counseling and other support to children who may have lived their whole lives as migrants. Photo: Sebastian Avelleneda. It may appear as though World Vision is encouraging migrants to enter the gap. But our teams know that families coming this far have already faced the unthinkable – both in their home countries and as migrants. They are determined to make this crossing. Fortifying migrants for the Darién Gap, Necoclí is just one stop on a journey to the United States that can take months, even years. But it's a critical one. This is the migrants' last chance to hydrate, fortify and prepare themselves for the Darién Gap. Without the support of World Vision, many migrants would be in danger of depleting what little life savings they have left. They can't afford the exorbitant prices of supplies driven up in cost by local shortages. What children face in the Darién Gap is on bearable. World Vision provides child carriers for parents to wear in the Darién Gap – and for good reason. A simple cloth carrier can save a child's life. Not only do carriers keep adults' hands free to claw their way up steep hills and carry life-saving provisions like safe drinking water. They also help prevent children from being swept from parents' hands, as they cross rivers on foot according to Getty Images. In 2022, the number of children detected on the Darién jungle trail hit an all-time high, according to UNICEF. Between January and October 2022, 32,488 children emerged from the jungle into Panama. Children make the Darién Gap crossing in different ways, depending on age and ability. Some are held in their parents' arms or strapped into carriers. Others do their best to slog through the mud and rivers on foot. (The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca › stories>). What some children experience inside the gap is the stuff of nightmares. Some see bodies decomposing along the side of the trail. Some watch as women and girls are dragged away, screaming, to be assaulted by gang members.

There are even accounts of children emerging from the gap unaccompanied. The reasons can be harrowing. In some cases, an injured parent or guardian was unable to continue with their children – and left by the path to die. "We see a lot of children being separated from their parents during this horrendous trip," Sandie Blanchett, UNICEF's representative in Panama told CNN. "Sometimes babies or very young children are picked up by strangers walking by on the trail and brought to our reception centres." Emerging from the Darién Gap. The invisible border between Colombia and Panama lies deep in the jungle (The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca › stories>). No officials stand by to check papers. No aid groups wait to provide shelter, protection and rest. However, once survivors emerge from the jungle, they arrive at the migrant reception centre in Panama, where every person is officially registered. Doctors Without Borders provides medical consultations – including care for the women and girls sexually assaulted or raped in the Darién Gap. UNICEF is also present to provide care and support. Darién Gap survivors remain in shelters in Panama, for weeks, or even months, awaiting clearance to continue north to Costa Rica. Colombia and Panama have an agreement allowing for a controlled, coordinated flow of migrants through their two countries. Migrants names and details enter United States' databases at this time. The 'controlled flow' system was set up with the help of U.S. authorities. (The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca › stories>). It acts as a type of 'early warning' system for the U.S. about migrants heading for its borders. On their way north, survivors of the Darién Gap meet migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, fleeing threats in their own countries. At camps in northern Mexico, thousands of migrants wait to seek asylum in the U.S. Photo: Andrea Peer. What's next for migrants, as they persevere toward the Mexico-U.S. border? Darién Gap survivors must move through at least five more countries before attempting entry to the United States. On the way, they join thousands from countries in Central America, also heading north. Migrant families understand they may be deported as soon as they arrive in the U.S. But they carry with them the stories of friends and relatives who have, somehow, managed to stay. They pick up their belongings and continue onward. Deborah Wolfe, 8 August, 2023).

Experts, governments, humanitarian groups and journalists have shared ideas about improving the lot of migrants heading north. These have included: Dissuading migrants from crossing the gap, making clear how much suffering they will face. Creating safer, more welcoming options for migration, so families don't have to face the inhumanity of the Darién Gap. Creating better routes for migration across the Darién Gap itself., Giving migrants choices and supports in returning home voluntarily. Considering a regional approach, since so many countries are in some way involved. (US, Panama

and Colombia aim to stop Darien Gap migration, AP News, <https://apnews.com › article › darie...>). Addressing the root causes and drivers of migration in countries where families originate e.g., creating employment opportunities in Haiti. In Haiti, three-year-old Schamaelle is growing up with opportunities, with World Vision's support. Through child sponsorship, children in Haiti benefit from nutrition and education, and livelihood support for their parents. Photo: Guy Faubert Vital-Herne. The force that drives families toward the Darién Gap is not something many Canadians can easily understand. Still, many of us feel called to help. You can do that, through World Vision Canada. Here are two ways you can get involved: Support a child, family and community in Haiti through our child sponsorship program. When we increase opportunity through education, livelihood help and other life-saving essentials, families have less need to risk the dangers of migration. Help protect and care for children in some of the world's most dangerous regions, through our Raw Hope initiative. Remember, many thousands of people crossing the Darién Gap each year hail from countries overseas. If families' dreams have the power to take them through hell in the Darién Gap, just imagine what they can accomplish in partnership with World Vision and you. Reach out today. (Crisis Group, <https://www.crisisgroup.org › colombia-central-america>). A migrant carries a child as they along with others continue their journey to the U.S. border, in Acandi, Colombia July 9, 2023. REUTERS/Adri Salido PANAMA CITY, Sept 28 (Reuters) - The number of people crossing the perilous Darien Gap linking Panama and Colombia has hit a record high of 400,000 in the year to September, official data showed, as migration to the United States intensified despite efforts to curb the flow. More than half of those migrants were children and babies, Panama's security ministry said in a statement, adding that September alone saw the number of crossings increase by a fifth compared to the previous month. The year-to-date figure of 402,300 migrants is almost double the number for the whole of 2022. The United Nations had estimated in April that the number of migrants for the entire year would be 400,000. Most of the migrants traversing the dangerous stretch of jungle are Venezuelans, with others from Ecuador, Haiti and other countries, Panama's security ministry has said. Panama announced earlier this month measures to stop the increase in migration, including deporting more people with criminal records and a decrease in the number of days some tourists are allowed to stay in the country. (Elida Moreno, September 28, 2023).

Upon successfully crossing the jungle, migrants enter Panama, where nearly all are immediately apprehended. Given the limited routes through the jungle, and the fact that Panama only has one highway moving from south to north, Panamanian border patrol officials can easily monitor migration flows. As a result, Panama has the most developed immigration enforcement policy for extra- continental migrants in

Latin America. However, as with Mexico, extra continental migrants are infrequently deported from Panama. After Panama, the journey through the rest of Central America is usually quick, with migrants frequently passing through each country in just one to two days, typically in buses or private vehicles. Yet each country poses certain challenges. In Nicaragua, for instance, migrants must pay the military US \$150 to pass. In Honduras and Guatemala, extra-continental migrants frequently recall that they or their acquaintances were kidnapped for ransom. (Crime and Migration in the Darién Gap – Colombia, ReliefWeb, <https://reliefweb.int › colombia › b...>). In an October 2019 interview, an Indian man stated that in Guatemala “[the] guys kept me in a locked room, not giving enough food, sometimes nothing... I had already paid \$6,500 but they kept asking for [another] \$5,000.” In this case, he managed to escape from his kidnappers, though he said at least a dozen more migrants remained in the stash house when he escaped. In all transit countries, extra-continental migrants face difficulties including racial discrimination and language barriers, and struggle to find foods amenable to their religious practices or local customs. Finally, in Mexico, these migrants typically enter the southern border town of Tapachula, where they historically have been provided with an exit document known as a salvo conductor. This document required migrants to exit Mexico within 20 days, by any border desired, including the U.S. one. (Narea N. 26 September, 2019). It allowed extra-continental migrants to use buses or even planes and arrive at the U.S. border quickly. However, in June 2019, amid pressure from the U.S. government, Mexico stopped issuing salvo conductors, forcing migrants to remain in southern Mexico without a way to move forward or go back. In October 2019, as the number of extra-continental migrants stuck in Tapachula had increased to several thousand, Africans unsuccessfully attempted to transit by caravan, though Mexican authorities quickly thwarted those plans. This policy change has reportedly affected migrants from the Asian continent less than those from Africa, either because they evade migration authorities with the aid of smugglers or because South Asians have the finances to bribe officials and continue their journeys. While the Darien Gap represents the most challenging part of the journey, Panama is the transit country with most targeted immigration responses for this migrant population. (Narea N. 26 September, 2019). This may be at least in part because Panama is not wholly overwhelmed by other migration flows and can therefore provide more attention and resources to extra-continental migrants. By late 2014 and early 2015, Panama—in collaboration with Colombia and Costa Rica—enacted a policy known as controlled flow, or flujos controlados. This policy manages the flow of extra-continental migrants through the country, with only a certain number of migrants allowed to move through its territory each day. This on paper operates similarly to the U.S. border policy of “metering,” which the Trump administration imposed along the entire U.S. southern border in 2018. Metering

sharply limits the number of asylum seekers processed each day, with long backups in some Mexican border communities as would-be asylum seekers queue for weeks and months, awaiting their turn to apply. (Narea N. 26 September, 2019).

In Panama's case, the National Border Service (Servicio Nacional de Fronteras, or SENAFRONT), allows 100 migrants—including extra-continental migrants, Cubans, and Haitians—to move through the country each day. As there is only one main route through the Darien at this time, most migrants arrive in Bajo Chiquito, a small community on the outskirts of the jungle that has a permanent SENAFRONT presence. The number of migrants who move through the Darien at any given time is at least partially dependent on Colombian migration and law enforcement officials who work in collaboration with Panamanian authorities. From there—and depending on the number of migrants arriving that day—they are taken by canoe to the main migrant processing center in La Peñita. This processing center maintains the wait list and houses migrants who will experience the controlled-flow policy. Upon entering La Peñita, migrants immediately queue for SENAFRONT officers to verify passports, administer vaccinations, and conduct a security screen. First, all migrants must have valid passports to be permitted access to the camp and to continue to Costa Rica. Second, they are required to receive four immunization shots (for yellow fever, tuberculosis, influenza, and measles). After the first two steps, individuals are placed on a waiting list and receive bracelets indicating their place in the controlled-flow line. Each country of origin has its own “line” and the number of migrants per country of origin who leave each day is conducted through relatively discretionary means. Third, migrants must go through a security review process that includes further verification of travel documents, running names through U.S. and international security databases, and taking fingerprints and retina scans. (Crime and Migration in the Darién Gap – Colombia, ReliefWeb, <https://reliefweb.int> › colombia › b...). This security review is conducted by Panamanian officials and the information gathered is then shared with U.S. officials through a system known as BITMAP. Through this process, migrants who may pose a security threat are monitored, and in extreme cases may even be deported, before arriving at the U.S. border. Migrants stay in the camp until their number is called, a period that could take days or even months. The camp itself has one large metal building that was initially used to house arrivals but has seen its capacity overwhelmed. Instead, migrants now stay in tents, abandoned houses, or other available shelters. During the author's visits to the camp in January and August 2019, wait times ranged from three to 62 days, with the average wait around 15 days. Rather than maintaining a list that clearly delineates wait time estimates, SENAFRONT officers gather migrants by country of origin every morning and read off names or bracelet numbers for individuals leaving that afternoon. For those whose names are called, they gather

their belongings and wait for buses. (<https://theintercept.com> › 2019/12/01 › us-asylum-seek...).

In the afternoon, two charter buses (each with a 50-person capacity) take migrants out of the southern camp. Migrants must pay US \$40 per person in transportation fees and prove they have both their passport and vaccination verification documents. Once on the bus, they are moved to another camp, in the northern Panamanian province of Chiriqui. There, they experience a comparable waiting process, as Costa Rica also accepts only 100 migrants per day. Once individuals' names are called in this camp, they are permitted to enter Costa Rica, where they pass through another biometric screening process before continuing on to Nicaragua. (<https://theintercept.com> › 2019/12/01 › us-asylum-seek...). To carry out this policy, Panamanian officials work closely with Colombian and Costa Rican officials—as well as U.S. immigration authorities for security reviews. Given this regional cooperation, officials from the United States, Panama, Colombia, and Costa Rica held meetings in August 2019 to discuss migrants moving through the Darien. In many ways, controlled flow serves as both a metering policy and a facilitation policy in Panama, limiting migrants' reliance on smugglers as SENAFRONT buses them through the country. This hybrid policy, which is both reactive and proactive, moves migrants through Panama in the most orderly and rapid manner possible, ensuring that extra-continental migrants do not opt to stay in Panama. After Panama, migrants still have a minimum of five countries to transit before arriving at the U.S. southern border. As Europe, the United States, and other highly industrialized nations increase their enforcement systems and tighten their immigration policies—in the U.S. case, sharply narrowing access to its asylum system—would-be migrants from many parts of the world increasingly look beyond traditional destinations. In doing so, they embark on long, arduous, and expensive journeys in hopes of finding brighter economic futures, protection from repressive or violent conditions in their homelands, or reunification with relatives. (Yates C. 11 April, 2019). While their numbers to date have been small, they grow each year, and in the short and medium term extra-continental migrants arriving in Latin America will likely draw increased attention from policymakers and immigration officials throughout the hemisphere, given both national- security and humanitarian reasons. In fact, some U.S. resources, such as funding for the biometrics system used in Panama, are already apportioned to the monitoring of extra-continental migrants as they make their way northward. For the United States, this migration trend represents just a fraction of arrivals at the U.S.-Mexico border, though this population may take on greater urgency going forward. Because few extra-continental migrants are rarely deported as they journey through South and Central America, those who successfully arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border will pose a new and pressing quandary. (Yates C. 11 April, 2019).

It is not just the United States whose attention will shift toward extra continental migration. Transit countries such as Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica will likely continue to adjust their own policies to adapt to ever more diverse migration movements. These adjustments will include fine-tuning the controlled-flow policy and increasing the number of nationalities that require a visa for entry, whether at the behest of individual Latin American countries or under pressure from the U.S. government. Latin American governments are also likely to face questions about integration into their societies as more extra continental migrants are expected to remain in the region amid a hardening U.S.-Mexico border. (McDonnell, P. 12 October 2019). This in turn may prompt these countries to consider specific policies to deter extra continental migration or to regularize the status of newcomers. Ecuador and Mexico are the Latin American countries most likely to become destinations for extra continental migrants, and interviews by the author suggest that some already are settling there. Finally, U.S. asylum cooperation agreements with El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala—though not in force at the time of writing—would likely also dramatically affect flows of extra continental migrants in Latin America. However, it is still not immediately clear how these agreements would be implemented or how they would specifically affect the flows of extra continental migrants moving the region. A changing policy landscape and the onerous journey aside, it seems clear that the movement of extra continental migrants in Latin America is one that will continue in the years to come. (McDonnell, P. 12 October 2019).

Migrants from far and wide are heading to the Darién Gap, the strip of land connecting Central and South America. No paved road traverses this isthmus, which has tormented explorers and resisted the reach of states for centuries. But, as displacement surges worldwide, people are crossing the Darién's jungles in huge numbers. Locals have abandoned traditional livelihoods to service the migrants. Behind them lurks Colombia's largest criminal group, the Gaitanistas, which dominates drug trafficking and other rackets in the area. But while the Darién's mud and thickets no longer deter mass migration, regional responses are struggling to catch up just as rising migrant numbers are triggering calls for extreme action, above all in the U.S. Balancing the clamour for border control with the safety and well-being of migrants poses immense challenges. But steps to reinforce law enforcement, assist the countries from which most migrants depart and share the burden of reception, while providing more extensive humanitarian aid and security to those traversing the Darién, would help take policy in the right direction. (Bogotá, Washington/Brussels, 3 November 2023). The presence of organised crime is much lesser on Panama's side of the border, but the immediate physical dangers are higher. Gangs seemingly formed by local youths harass and attack migrants who fall into their snares.

They are believed to be responsible for an unknown number of murders as well as many cases of rape and other sexual violence: close to 200 incidents of sexual violence were reported by aid bodies in Panama's Darién in the first half of 2023. Even in state-run migrant reception centres, border officials have allegedly abused vulnerable women. In neither Panama nor Colombia is it easy to report such crimes to judicial authorities. Nor would many migrants dare to do so. As a result, corrupt state officials and violent groups in the area operate with near total impunity: a recent survey found that 97 per cent of migrants heading to the U.S. reported that the Darién was the most dangerous part of the trip. Local communities, for their part, fear irreversible damage to the environment from new and illicit extractive businesses following in the migrants' wake. (Bogotá, Washington/Brussels, 3 November 2023). Their pockets, driving many penniless women into sex work. On treks lasting days through the jungle, migrants face heat, exhaustion and the threat of disease. Above all, they run the risk of assault. Routes along the Colombian side are safer, but only because they are under the Gaitanistas' coercive supervision. The Gaitanistas run a prolific cocaine supply line along the Pacific. Entrenched in the Darién thanks to the jobs and services it offers, the group ensures compliance by imposing discipline; while seizing a share of profits from the migrant business, it says it does not tolerate violence against migrants. The presence of organised crime is much lesser on Panama's side of the border, but the immediate physical dangers are higher. Gangs seemingly formed by local youths harass and attack migrants who fall into their snares. They are believed to be responsible for an unknown number of murders as well as many cases of rape and other sexual violence: close to 200 incidents of sexual violence were reported by aid bodies in Panama's Darién in the first half of 2023. Even in state-run migrant reception centres, border officials have allegedly abused vulnerable women. In neither Panama nor Colombia is it easy to report such crimes to judicial authorities. Nor would many migrants dare to do so. As a result, corrupt state officials and violent groups in the area operate with near total impunity: a recent survey found that 97 per cent of migrants heading to the U.S. reported that the Darién was the most dangerous part of the trip. Local communities, for their part, fear irreversible damage to the environment from new and illicit extractive businesses following in the migrants' wake. (Bogotá, Washington/Brussels, 3 November 2023).

Darién Gap is an imposing obstacle on one of the world's most dangerous migration routes. The remote, road less crossing on the border between Colombia and Panama consists of more than sixty miles of dense rain forest, steep mountains, and vast swamps. It is the only overland path connecting Central and South America. Over the past few years, it has become a leading transit point for migrants in search of work and safety in the United States, as authorities have cracked down on other routes by air and sea. Tens of thousands

of migrants from Haiti, Venezuela, and elsewhere risk their lives each month to cross the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama. Images from along the journey show the dangers they face. (Diana Roy, June 22, 2022). Experts say the number of people risking their lives to cross the gap is expected to increase as socioeconomic conditions continue to worsen across the region. Since a devastating earthquake rocked Haiti in 2010, for instance, tens of thousands of Haitians moved to South America, where they have faced discrimination and economic difficulties. In 2021, 61 percent of migrants traversing the Darién Gap were from Haiti. That number dropped to 9 percent in 2022, though the country continues to endure gang violence, political instability, and the repercussions of a recent earthquake. Meanwhile, the number of Venezuelans crossing the gap has sharply increased as the humanitarian situation in their home country grows more dire. In 2023, the total number of migrants crossing the gap could soar to as many as four hundred thousand, a record high. As of July, over 251,000 migrants have already made the trek; this is more than the entirety of 2022. The first stop on the journey north is the coastal town of Necocli, Colombia, on the shore of the Gulf of Urabá. Most migrants already in the region travel on foot or take local transportation to get there. But for those coming from Africa and the Caribbean, the route is more complicated. Under mounting pressure from the United States to contain illegal immigration, the Mexican government has expanded its visa requirements, making it more difficult for people to fly directly to the U.S.-Mexico border. Instead, they will now often fly into Brazil or Ecuador, where visa policies are more lax, before heading for Necocli (Global Migration Trends Report, Fragomen, <https://www.fragomen.com> › trending › immigration). In Necoclí, Colombia thousands of migrants, mostly from Haiti, camp out on the beach as they wait to take a boat to Panama. Some are left waiting for weeks in precarious conditions and with few possessions. Raul Arboleda/AFP/Getty Images. Necoclí is a major transit point for migrants seeking to enter Panama. While the number of migrants crossing the border slowed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the relaxation of travel restrictions across the region has seen thousands of migrants flood the small town. According to Necocli's mayor, the sudden influx has fueled a public health emergency that began in August 2021: the town's health-care system has collapsed, and there is a continuous shortage of food and water. While waiting to take an hour-long ferry ride to Acandí, a town about five miles from the Panama border, migrants take shelter in hotels or makeshift camps on the beach. Most have few possessions; any leftover money is often spent buying food and camping gear from street vendors. Once in Acandí, migrants will head for the Darién Gap jungle, a dangerous hike that can take ten or more days. Many pay to be led by local guides, or "coyotes." Along the route are smugglers and criminal groups, including members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Gulf Clan, a paramilitary group and

Colombia's largest drug cartel. These groups often extort and sexually assault migrants. "Deep in the jungle, robbery, rape, and human trafficking are as dangerous as wild animals, insects and the absolute lack of safe drinking water," Jean Gough, regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), said in an October 2021 news release. "Week after week, more children are dying, losing their parents, or getting separated from their relatives while on this perilous journey." UNICEF estimates that half of the children who crossed in 2022 were under five years old, and at least one thousand were unaccompanied or separated. (The Migratory Situation in the Darién Gap, ParlAmericas, <https://parlAmericas.org> › uploads › documents).

Migrants travel by foot through the jungle as there is no road. Many of them will pay guides to accompany them for part of the journey. John Moore/Getty Images. "The journey was really quite hard, especially when the rain came. It was just mud, rivers and going up mountainsides non-stop," one Haitian migrant told Al Jazeera. "There were pregnant women, we had to walk in rivers... children were fainting, and even men, at times, who couldn't continue." The rough terrain and steep trails of the gap make the journey even more challenging. John Moore/Getty Images. The journey requires crossing several rivers, where the water can reach waist high. Strong currents have swept away some migrants. Right: Frequent rest breaks are needed as migrants face the breaking point of exhaustion. John Moore/Getty Images. Aside from Senafront, Panama's national border service, there is no police force in the area and no formal road, making it difficult to stop arms and drug trafficking, or find help. According to the International Organization for Migration, at least thirty-six people died trying to cross the gap in 2022, though the actual figure is likely to be much higher. At Agua Fría, Panama: The bodies of fifteen migrants who died trying to cross the Darién Gap are buried at the Guayabillo cemetery. Arnulfo Franco/AP Photo. While the route is evolving, migrants usually exit the jungle at Bajo Chiquito, a small village in eastern Panama. There, they are met by international humanitarian organizations such as Doctors without Borders and UNICEF, which have set up reception centers to provide medical care and mental health services. Access to clean water and bathrooms remains limited. At Bajo Chiquito, Panama, a group of migrants arrives by boat at the village, exhausted and in need of medical care. (Ivan Pisarenko/AFP/Getty Images, online 2023), Panamanian authorities have also set up infrastructure to temporarily house migrants and provide them with basic services, but officials say more assistance is needed. According to then Foreign Minister Erika Mouynes, the government lacks the money needed to provide long-term humanitarian support to migrants. Rather than deport them, Panamanian authorities and international organizations, with financial assistance from the United States, focus on providing migrants with essential

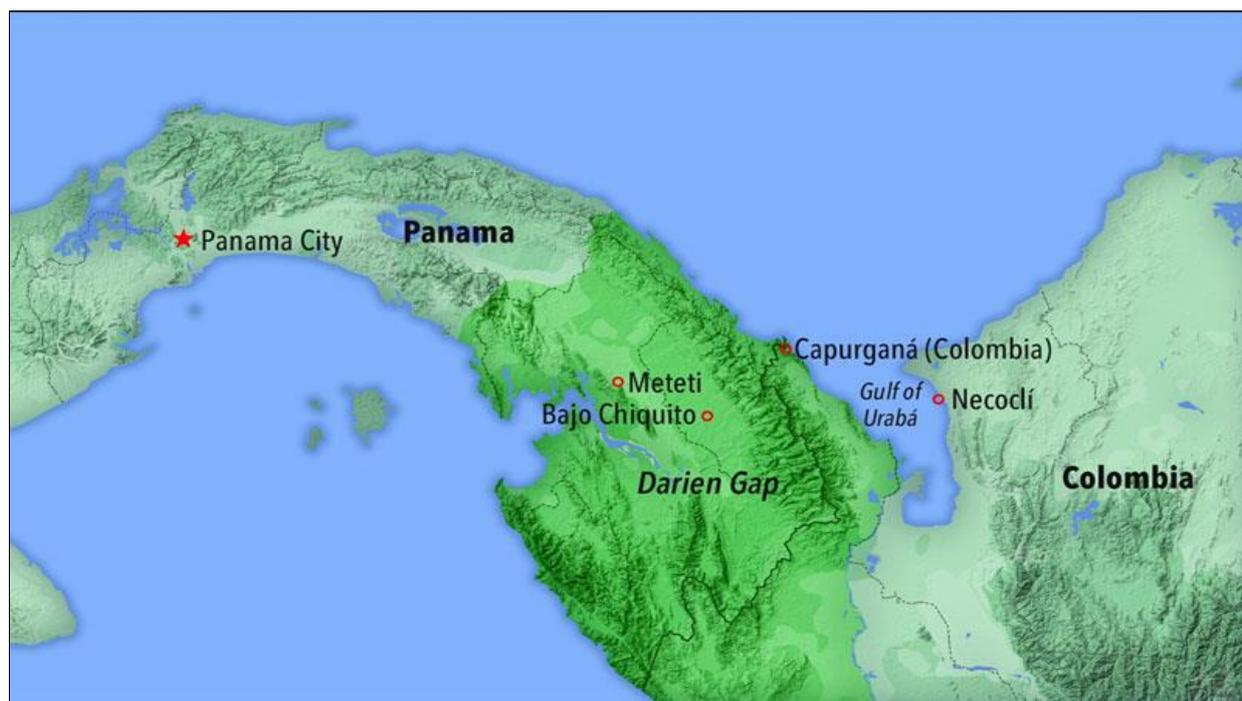
services. It is in Panama that they are registered as migrants and biometrically screened by authorities for the first time on their journey. Most then quickly resume their trek to the north. Bajo Chiquito: Left: Migrants camp in the village while they prepare to continue north. Right: Panamanian authorities transport migrants to a reception center, where they are offered temporary housing and basic services according to Luis Acosta/AFP/Getty Images, Ivan Pisarenko/AFP/Getty Images. But to get to the United States, migrants have to cross half a dozen more borders, where they face the risk of being stopped or deported. Even if they reach the southern U.S. border—a journey of roughly 2,500 miles over Central America alone—many are expelled back to their home countries under Title 42, a policy that denies migrants asylum on pandemic-related grounds. Ahead of the scheduled termination of Title 42 in May 2023, however, U.S. officials announced they had struck a deal with Colombia and Panama to shut down the Darién Gap route. As part of the plan launched in June, Panama’s government will dedicate some 1,200 immigration agents, border police, and naval air service members to combat transnational organized crime in the jungle (The Migratory Situation in the Darién Gap, ParlAmericas,

<https://parlAmericas.org> > uploads > documents). At the same time, hundreds of thousands of migrants continue to flee worsening poverty and unrest in the so-called Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. U.S. border authorities reported that they apprehended more than 2.3 million people along the border during fiscal year 2022, a record high. Careers (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024)

3. Illustrative Evidence of African Clandestine Youths Crossing of the Dangerous Darien Gap

Those illustration includes the site maps of the Darien jungle forests, deep rivers attempted to cross either on foot without bridges or with boats, different groups trekking in the forestec zones in muddy route pathwys and empty dresses seen lying without any human beings meaning that the organized crime membetrs might have certainly ripped or kidnapped them to un non destinations.

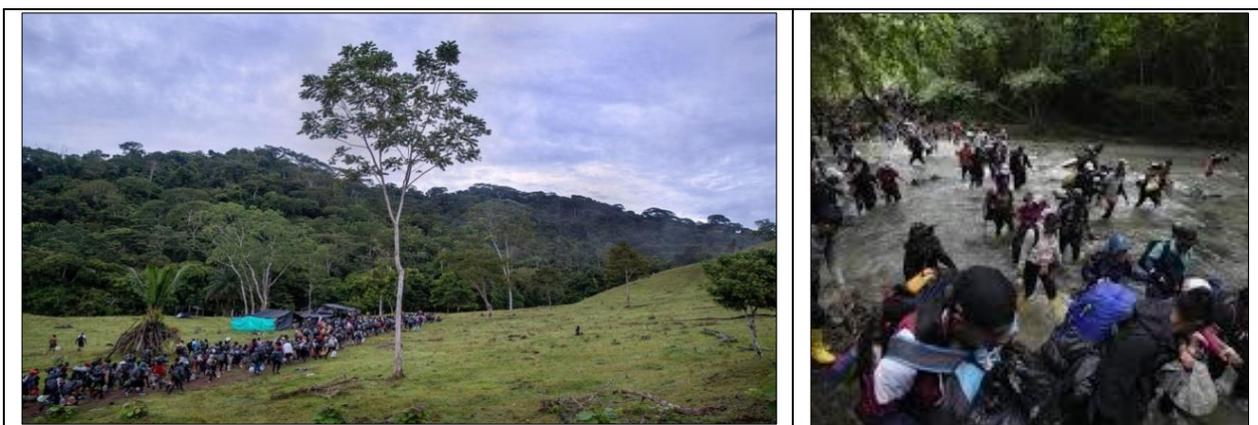
Map 1. Geographical Position of the Darien Gap (Hell route of Clandestine Migrants seeking to reach Heavenly Greener Pastures of archiving high Economic and Financial gains)



Voice of America News: A lush, green, hell. The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca> > stories8 août 2023 — Walking north on the only overland route out of South America offers the best chance of crossing borders. Planes or boats are riskier, with ... Cumulative Images of Youths crossing the Daien Gap from diverse sources.



On the Panamanian side of the Darien Gap, boats are used to ferry extracontinental migrants across a river. (Photo: Caitlyn Yates).



Sources of the Images:

DARIÉN GAP: After spending the night at a base camp in Las Tekas, Colombia, hundreds of Haitian migrants begin their hike through the dense rain forest. Some of them had paid the Gulf Clan, a Colombian paramilitary group, upward of \$80 to drive them to the camp. John Moore/Getty Images, **DARIÉN PROVINCE, PANAMA:** Migrants cross the Chucunaque River by boat to the Indigenous village of La Penita. There, they are offered medical care at a government-run reception center before continuing their journey north. Luis Acosta/AFP/Getty Images, **DARIÉN**

GAP: Left: The journey requires crossing several rivers, where the water can reach waist high. Strong currents have swept away some migrants. Right: Frequent rest breaks are needed as migrants face the breaking point of exhaustion. John Moore/Getty Images, **The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort**, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca > stories>

8 août 2023 — Walking north on the only overland route out of South America offers the best chance of crossing borders. Planes or boats are riskier, with.



Darién Gap:

Left: The journey requires crossing several rivers, where the water can reach waist high. Strong

currents have swept away some migrants. Right: Frequent rest breaks are needed as migrants face the breaking point of exhaustion. John Moore/Getty Images



Necoclí:

Migrants from Haiti board a boat headed for the Colombia-Panama border. Overcrowded boats have

capsized while carrying migrants across the Gulf of Urabá. John Moore/Getty Images.



Sources pertaining to the above images of the Darién Gap: LAS TEKAS, COLOMBIA: Left: Migrants settle in at a base camp ahead of their hike through the Darién Gap, a trip that can take ten or more days. Right: A woman from Haiti spends the night in a tent. John Moore/Getty Images, UN: As many as 400,000 migrants may cross Darién Gap in 2023 ..., AP News, Terrifying': Critics decry US plan to stop migrants at ..., The Guardian, Number of migrants crossing Panama's Darién Gap surpasses ..., Reuters, Global Migration Trends Report, Fragomen, <https://www.fragomen.com> > trending > immigration, 2022 Immigration Trends Report

— Read now to stay at the forefront of the ever-changing global mobility landscape. Fragomen's report tracks key drivers and themes of global immigration policy. Read Fragomen's 2022 WITR., The Darién Gap: migrant route of last resort, World Vision Canada, <https://www.worldvision.ca> > stories

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Agua Fría, Panama:

The bodies of fifteen migrants who died trying to cross the Darién Gap are buried at the Guayabillo cemetery. Arnulfo Franco/AP Photo

Bajo Chiquito, Panama:

A group of migrants arrives by boat at the village, exhausted and in need of medical care. Ian Pisarenko/AFP/Getty Images

4. The Officialisation of Personal Choice of New Enslavement Application for Migration with Realities of the Third Decade of the 21st Century

Therefore, the officialisation of new forms of slavery through lottery and other mechanism of obtaining a status of naturalization or double nationality do not necessary change the original home from where African originated which is evidence through all forms of societal discriminations face in such new destinations in the name of Diaspora. The fact is that you remain a Diaspora and not an autochthon or native of the receiving countries and are bound to embrace all the ills. This draw our attention to have a brief understanding of links between migration, Diaspora and African studies vis-à-vis American and European pathways of such movements in the 21st Century. From the Greek word meaning 'to scatter,' a Diaspora is defined as a community of people who do not live in their country of origin, but maintain their heritage in a new land. Many of you can probably relate to this issue, since you've got ancestral roots from one country but reside in a different place. For instance, in the United States, a plethora of ethnic communities exist. Americans can be classified according to sub-cultures, such as African-American, Mexican-American, Irish-American, and Indian-American. Inclusion of emigrants, or people who have left their homelands to settle permanently in a different one, is a major characteristic of a Diasporas (carleton.ca › mds › what-is-migratio...). Consequently, Diasporas have been associated with loss and exile--two words that denote suffering and tragedy. Another group of people--the Africans--were forced to move away from their

homelands because of slavery in colonial America. Hence, a multitude of Diasporas have occurred globally due to religious, social, political, economic, and even natural forces. This is important for two reasons. Firstly, most discussions of global governance focus on the international level, involving interactions among nation-states. ... But interactions between states and emigrants also play a crucial role in governing migration - a role that is still far from clearly understood (www.unece.org › ece › ces › 26.e.pdf Why Diaspora Matters - Euskadi.eus www.euskadi.eus › aikins_en, 26 May 2008.). These forces can range anywhere from violent revolutions to massive earthquakes--essentially anything that disrupts the normal flow of life. Cirrelia Thaxton, Does a diaspora have meaning beyond a community of transcultural individuals? One might expect from study of its definition that a Diaspora can have different meanings. It's true that 'Diaspora' has a number of kindred terms that reflect on its definition from unique perspectives. For example, 'transnationalism,' 'globalization,' 'post-colonialism,' and 'trans-culturalism' are related terms meant to mark communities of people in host societies¹.according to 2003- 2020 Study.com on African Diaspora and Migration. (The Growing Importance of Diaspora Politics, www.researchgate.net › publication.) African studies are the study of Africa, especially the continent's cultures and societies (as opposed to its geology, geography, zoology, etc.). The field includes the study of Africa's history (Pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial), demography ethnic groups, culture, politics, economy, languages, and religion (Islam, Christianity, traditional religions). A specialist in African studies is often referred to as an "Africanist". A key focus of the discipline is to interrogate epistemological approaches, theories and methods in traditional disciplines using a critical lens that inserts African-centred ways of knowing and references. (jstor, www.jstor.org › stable). Moreover, Africanists argue that, there is a need to "de-exoticize" Africa and banalise it, rather than understand Africa as exceptionalized and exoticized. African scholars, in recent times, have focused on decolonizing African studies, and reconfiguring it to reflect the

African experience through African lens². Diasporas can play an important role in the economic development of their countries of origin. Beyond their well-known role as senders of remittances, Diasporas can also promote trade and foreign direct investment, create businesses and spur entrepreneurship, and transfer new knowledge and skills. (www.culturaldiplomacy.org › pdf).

Race and Diaspora problems in the two American Continents are based on the general concept of racism/racial discrimination by the diverse American citizens both in North and South who were colonized by European countries especially Britain, France, Portugal and Spain. Racism became widespread during and after the era of Trans-Atlantic Slavery and Slave Trades in the two American Continents. So, the linkages of Africa-America-Europe Diaspora Migration Movements of the 21st Century is a reflection of the past histories of connectivity and how it has continue to shape poor development patterns in the African Continent is a call for serious attention to remedy this new situation of youth deceitful migration frequently encouraged by the existing Diaspora in those foreign countries. Legally or socially, sanctioned privileges and rights were given to White Americans, Hispanic and Latino Americans. European Americans particularly the affluent White Anglo-Saxon Protestants were granted exclusive privileges in matters of education, immigration, voting rights, citizenship, land acquisition and criminal procedures over periods of time extending from the 17th Century to the 1960s (Kim Isok, 2014). However, non-Protestant immigrants from Europe, particularly Irish people, Poles and Italians suffered xenophobic exclusion and other forms of ethnicity-based discrimination in American society were vilified as racially inferior and were not considered fully whites. (Rodriguez Clara E, 2000). In addition, Middle Eastern American groups like Jews and Arabs have faced continuous discrimination in the United States and as a result, some people belonging to these groups do not identify as white. The East and South Asians have similarly faced racism in America. Major racially and ethnically structured institutions included slavery, segregation, the American Indian Wars, Native American reservations, Native American Boarding Schools, immigration and naturalization law and internment camps. (www.researchgate.net › publication). Racial politics remains a major phenomenon and racism continues to be reflected in socio-economic inequality. Racial stratification continues to occur in employment, housing, education, lending and government services. The recent shootings of unarmed blacks have been labeled by some as “21st Century lynching.” Karlos K. Hill examines the meaning behind this characterization, whether it’s inflammatory, and why the discussion matters. Hill is author of the forthcoming *Beyond the Rope: The Impact of Lynching on Black Culture and Memory* (Karlos K. H, 2021).

During the 21st Century, many African including Cameroonian asylum-seekers died after hospital workers pulled them off life support against their family’s wishes under the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Like other Africans who have crossed South and Central America to seek asylum in the U.S. and Canada, by the time they arrived at the border and had the hypertensive incident that reportedly lead to their hospitalization, most had already dealt with racist discrimination and physical threats to their safety crossing eight Latin American Countries (LAC). But reason for fleeing Cameroon is just as wrapped up in U.S. policy as their death in the jungle forest of LAC without having reaching the final migratory destinations of North American Continent. Over 2,000 miles south, in Tapachula, Mexico, where thousands have had their movement north constrained by Mexican authorities at the insistence of the United States, Cameroonians form “the vast majority of African asylum-seekers,” (Elise Keppler, online 2021). This views were supported by Joe Penny on September 30, 2019 that African migrants march in Tapachula, Mexico, demanding humanitarian visas that would enable them to cross Mexico on their way to the U.S. While hiking through a section of Colombia, some of them frequently suffers with heart attacks and died in their friend’s arms and are buried where they died in the jungles. “As the African tradition holds, when somebody dies, if you cannot transfer the corpse back home what you do is that when you bury the person, you have to take soil from the person’s grave and send it back to his family.” But to their greatest dismay Postal Services in Costa Rica and Mexico were unwilling to send the soil back to their countries of origin for the family to collect as the last remains of their migratory siblings. Which they might have sold all the valuable line and engaged on loans from the common “njangi” meetings to prepare for such illegal movement in search of the so-called greener pastures which turns to be death pastures in the jungle forests.

In the recent past and presently, many Africans are stuck in Tapachula, a Mexican town along the border with Guatemala that has become an open-air prison for migrants coming from all over Latin America, but especially for Africans and Haitians. Mexico began detaining people who crossed the southern border with Guatemala en masse in May, after President Donald Trump threatened Mexico with tariffs. Whereas it used to grant people visas that allowed them to travel to the American border, Mexico has rescinded that policy and encouraged people to apply for asylum in Mexico. Most Africans have resisted doing so because they don’t want to stay in Mexico, where they experience heightened racism and have few job opportunities. Applying for asylum in Mexico also significantly reduces their chance of receiving it in the U.S. In addition, African asylum-seekers have staged protests on multiple occasions to

demand better treatment from Mexico and permission to travel north. As it stands now, people looking to leave Tapachula are stopped at the city limits and brought back to the detention center. Those who can afford it stay in hotels, but according to Keppler of Human Rights Watch, hundreds of people are living in tents on the street. “It’s really hot. There’s very little shade. There’s a lot of rain as well, and there’s no place to go to the bathroom, there’s no organized bathroom situation. There’s no organized shower situation. There’s no food made available. People have developed skin rashes, urinary tract infections, intestinal infections, respiratory infections,” said Keppler. (Elise Keppler, online 2021). Can this be a big lesson to the rest of migratory aspirants as the third decade of the 21st Century opens? Can frequent contributions towards Nation-Building and National Unity in African countries can be a key solution to such migratory tendencies and policy makers have the responsibilities to have these issues control in more positive and stronger dimensions? In 2010, in the 100 metropolitan areas with the largest black populations, 62.5 percent of blacks would have had to move to achieve full black–white integration. In some of the largest metropolitan areas, the degree of segregation is significantly above the average. In the New York, Chicago, and Detroit metropolitan areas, for example, more than 75 percent of African Americans would have had to move to achieve residential integration. (Cameroonian Asylum-Seekers Flee US-Backed Forces, <https://theintercept.com> › 2019/12/01 › us-asylum-seek...).

Although African-Americans have made unprecedented progress in terms of politics, business and access to elite institutions, other developments suggest that something else is going on. Voting rights are being curtailed, communities are deteriorating, and incarcerations for minor and even fabricated criminal charges are on the rise. Most troubling is the news of cold-blooded murders committed against them in the public square, too often with impunity. It sounds as though I’m describing our current landscape, but in fact this is an apt description of the late nineteenth century, when African-Americans occupied political offices, accumulated wealth and held administrative positions that would not have been dreamed of a generation before. But this was also the era of the literacy test, congealing segregation and the convict-lease system, which provided the black labor forfeited by emancipation (Paula J. G , 2014). By the 1890s, newspapers disseminated the details of two, three, sometimes four lynchings each week to a national audience. As is true with the current generation, nineteenth-century black activists struggled against the complacency of those who believed that the progress of the few would trickle down to the many—not through agitation, but by the mere acquisition of education, wealth and middle-class values. When criticized by earlier generations, they—like Mychal Denzel Smith in his essay—pointed to the important and inspiring youth work that was being done,

and touted their generation’s more progressive views of women, who were making gains in education, community “uplift” work and newly formed women’s organizations. (Paula J. G , 2014). As mass protests against racism and police brutality continue, at least five men — four Black and one Latina — have been found hanging in public across the U.S. in recent weeks. We speak with Jacqueline Olive, director of “Always in Season,” a documentary that examines the history of lynchings through the story of Lennon Lacy, an African American teenager who was found hanged from a swing set in 2014. “They deserve a full investigation,” Olive says of the recent hangings, “and given the context of this history ... that we look at them more than three days, and then that they are looked at as a whole.” (Jacqueline O, June 2020).

The most recent lynching was on February 23, 2020 of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year old black man, a former high school football athlete in Gwynn County, Georgia, was gunned down by several people as he was jogging. According to Wikipedia, the lynching is “a premeditated extrajudicial killing by a group. It is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob in order to punish an alleged transgressor, punish a convicted transgressor, or intimidate a group.” In this case, two men claimed that Arbery resembled a suspect in a rash of recent burglaries, so it fits the definition. The alleged crime need not actually have happened (it is unclear whether there were actually any burglaries in the neighborhood in this case). Since this definition includes killing by a group, the murder of Trayvon Martin would not count as a lynching; he was shot by an individual. And since lynching is “extrajudicial” killing, deaths at the hands of authorities would also not count. Matthew Shepard was not accused of a crime, so it’s unclear whether his torture and killing would technically count as a lynching. Yet it seems his killers intended to “intimidate a group,” and no matter what you call it, it’s a tragedy. Moreover, while in the US blacks have been the primary victims of lynchings, lynching has historically also targeted Italians, Asians, Jews, and others. (Lynching in the 21st Century, online, May, 2020). The point is, lynching – targeted killing of people because they belong to some group – is not a relic of history, it is very much alive. And of course, lynching is merely one type of hate crime. Physical and verbal attacks on people and property, motivated by hate, have been increasing sharply in recent years. Since 2016 there have been increased reports of crimes in the US against Latino/a, Muslims, Jews, and most recently Asians. And this is not only an American phenomenon. Worldwide, one of the leading causes of death appears to be being different. Minneapolis mayor responds after being booed out of rally (CNN) When Heather Coggins saw George Floyd cry out, “Mama!” as a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck, she thought of her uncle. Timothy Coggins was stabbed and dragged to his death in a racially fueled killing that wasn’t solved for 35 years. His body was found maimed in a field in Sunny Side,

Georgia, in 1983. Before that day, the chipper 23-year-old was known as a mama's boy. He wouldn't leave the house without telling his mother, Viola, he loved her and giving her a kiss. He'd get another peck when he got home. "I'm sure he cried out, 'Mama!' when he was in that field," Heather Coggins said. "It hit home. Immediately, when I saw it, I thought, 'This is a modern-day lynching like Tim.'" Lynching is a charged, nebulous word. It evokes terrifying specters of the nation's past, but talk to those most connected to the crimes and those who study America's lynching legacy, and they'll say many African Americans don't consider it history because it's happening in the contemporary era with the example of popular manifestation against the lynching of George Floyd was a clear example of what the white are still thinking of the Black or Diasporas in their countries. (Elliott C. McLaughlin, June 2020). They have as a slogan "It was time to take charge". Lynching in Brunswick, Ga of an African American, Surveillance video appears to show Ahmaud Arbery inside a home under construction minutes before he was killed on Feb. 23. (Graddy Law LLC), By Hank Sanders, May. 12, 2020. It was a lynching. It was a lynching on Feb. 23, 2020. It was a lynching in Brunswick, Ga. It was a lynching in the United States of America. It was a lynching in the 21st century.

Ahmaud Arbery, known mostly by the nickname Maud, was out jogging. He was an athlete who had hoped to play professional football in the National Football League. He was just 25 years old. He was still pursuing the American Dream. But he was born black. It was a lynching in the 21st century. Maud was out running. He ran daily. This day he ran through a white neighborhood. When he ran by three men, they were moved. They were moved in a terrible way. One was named Gregory McMichael. Another was named Travis McMichael. The third was named William Bryan. I can't say exactly why they were so moved but they got their guns. The three men were white. The young man jogging was black. The men got in two trucks. They followed and chased Maud down. They shot Maud three times. They killed him in the bright of day in the streets of Brunswick. It was a lynching in the 21st century. There was no rope. There was no tree. There were no mass crowd watching. There was no cutting off of body parts. There was no public celebration. But it was a lynching. It was a lynching in the 21st century. From Feb. 23, 2020, to May 7, 2020, nothing was done but protect those who lynched Maud. Then the attorney for one of the three apparently uploaded on Google a video of the lynching. The lawyer expected the video to protect his client. He may have calculated wrong. (Elliott C. McLaughlin, October 19, 2017). The video is so graphic. It shows two trucks following Maud as he jogged. Then they headed him off. He tried to avoid them. They closed in. One of the two men in the front truck jumped out to get Maud. One had a 357 magnum. The other had a shotgun. There was a struggle. One shot rang out. A second shot rang out. A third shot rang out. Maud was

dead in the streets of Brunswick. It was all recorded on cellphone video by the third man in the second truck. It was a lynching in the 21st Century. The video had been in the possession of law enforcement from Feb. 23, the date of the lynching. Prosecutors saw no reason to take any action. The three men apparently claimed they thought Maud had been trying to steal in the neighborhood. But they did not call 911 or any law enforcement. They claimed they were trying to make a citizen arrest. But Maud is dead, lynched in the streets of Brunswick. (Elliott C. McLaughlin, October 19, 2017).

In contrast, police shootings of black men are not acts of collective violence and are not meant to be witnessed by the community although they sometimes are. Whereas lynchings were decidedly illegal acts, police shootings of black men occur within the context of authorized force. In other words, the law has granted police officers broad discretionary power when it comes discharging their weapons in the interest of public safety or the safety of the officer. And so police shootings of unarmed black men, unlike lynchings, occur within the established bounds of the law. And so on the face of it, late nineteenth century and early twentieth century lynchings of blacks and police killings of unarmed black men bear no resemblance to each other. Yet, to entirely dismiss lynching as a useful way of framing contemporary police shootings of unarmed blacks is to miss the deep resonances between these two phenomenon and more importantly to ignore the emotive context (fear and frustration) that is driving black Americans to label police killings as lynchings. If a victim's family accepts the payout, they are often required not to talk about the case publicly and forfeit their ability to bring suit against the city at some future date. What the above statistics should make clear is that as a society we have by and large substituted family payouts for pursuing justice. While payouts to families of police shooting victims has certainly reached an all-time high, it is not a new phenomenon. During the lynching era, some families of black lynch victims pursued restitution for the wrongful death of a loved one. While their claims were largely ignored by Southern authorities, in some cases, families of lynch victims received reparations payments. While wrongful death settlements was perhaps the only means by which black families could gain a measure of justice during the lynching era, certainly in the 21st century black families ought to be able to gain more than token justice. To the extent that we continue to substitute payouts for real justice, one might argue that the cultural and political logics of the lynching era remain with us. Admittedly the lynching era and the era of police killings of unarmed black men are not the same, but for some, the deep resonances that exist between these eras suggest that they are more alike than they are different. (Karlos K. H. 2021).

CONCLUSION

Nevertheless, the rapid increasing number of clandestine migrants towards the South American Continent with ambitions to reach the North American Continent during the third decade of the 21st Century was provoked by the forces of COVID-19 hardship and the lifting of the restrictive measures with the opening of national frontiers which were closed for preventive purposes. It was noted that out of the 5,000 Africans who were apprehended at the border by the US in 2019, nearly half were Cameroonians of male and female aging between 20 to 35 years. In Mexico, where they found a third again the number of migrants, half of that larger number was from Cameroon. These numbers instead increased in the post-COVID 19 era due to youths hot pursued of immediate riches in foreign countries without much sufferings. But such materialistic ambitions of hot financial and economic motives landed them into deep sheet of unexpected death. Consequently, members of the family or friends who contributed to such clandestine migratory pathways were compensated with harsh psychological effects by imagining how to repay heavy loans incurred in local “njangi” meeting, bank loans, selling of some vital family estates or properties to raise funds for the clandestine extra-continental voyages and the like. In fact, the journey they make is incredibly hard. There have been many reports of deaths and disappearances. Crossing the continent from south to north means trekking through a part of the world infamous for being “impassable”. The Darien national park is a rainforest that covers the Panama isthmus from the border with Colombia. Engineers couldn’t drive the Pan-American Highway through the thick, swampy, rugged, jungle creating a “gap” in the intercontinental road. Migrants travelling north must go through the Darien Gap, where engineers and explorers have often failed. It is a place where migrants fall foul of criminal gangs hiding in the wilderness, or flash floods that could wipe them out at a stroke. Migrants die from dehydration, fatal falls and drowning, as well as from violent attacks and kidnappings by criminal gangs, according to Missing Migrants, a research group. Over 7,700 people are recorded to have gone missing since 2014, they say. Turn an ankle on the treacherous route and it could be all over. One man from Cameroon was even abandoned by his family and left to die when it became too difficult for him to continue, it was reported. Other routes attempting to bypass the hard jungle trek have their own risks. The BBC recently reported that over 600 Cameroonians were stranded on a Caribbean island the migrants had never heard of. The stories don’t deter Cameroonian Nyinka Evaristus. After selling all his property for 3 million FCFA (around \$5,000), he plans to embark on the journey despite the odds. But migrants from Africa are increasingly part of the illegal immigration picture, the Customs and Border Protection says. The Mexican authorities registered somewhere between 1,600 and 1,700 more African migrants encountered in 2019 than did the US border control. This suggests of the many hundreds who were discovered in

Mexico, but who did not show up in the US figures, at least some could have been smuggled by “coyotes” over the dangerous final border crossing undetected. In one instance in June 2019, the CBP found a group of 37 people from central Africa, families with young children, who had made their way across the Rio Grande into Texas. Mexico is increasingly coming under pressure from its northern neighbour to prevent migrants from approaching their border. Since President Biden’s inauguration in 2021, Mexico increasingly locked migrants up out of hand, with sometimes catastrophic results. But in 2019 Mexico was using a series of migrant processing centres to funnel migrants northwards out of their country. Aliah was moved through three detention centres over the space of five weeks. Firstly in a centre at the border, another at Veracruz, and then to Mexico City, where she was given a pass and allowed to travel onward. It is therefore very clear that the post-COVID 19, period once more increased the number of African migrants towards LAC in several trekking across the dangerous Darien Gap. To that effect, many more death have so far been recorded as frequent information only reached different African families to announce the disappearance, death without corpses of their migrants children they credited heavy loans, selling of family estates etc. to sponsor their dreams of heavenly North American countries through diverse clandestine, undocumented, illegal, irregular and un official methods.

Many other African back home have negatively contributed to such clandestine movements as they set up un legalized networks of planning such voyages by taking heavy amount of money from their desired victims on the name of “Successful International Businessmen (SIB) which they are not paying any taxes to the State nor having any official SIB permits to carry out the promotion of such illegal clandestine migratory transactions. Others have suffered the consequences from their victim’s family when they changed the directions of their traveling agents whose majorities smuggling through Dubai for some off jobs while others took direction of Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and other countries to search for visa before reaching the LAC pathways. Nevertheless, the findings of our research are very important to those African Youths who are told wrong stories of the Southern American clandestine routes as easy means of reaching the Northern American countries of U.S and Canada. It is certain that the organized smugglers who are playing criminal roles in such clandestine movement by extorted heavy sum of money from their victims and families are not sending their own children in foreign countries using illegal means. The same huge sum of money they obtained from their deals are used through legal official channels to pay all documentary requirements and caution demanded to establish their children abroad either for educational purposes or other lucrative commercial activities. As recommendations, any African youth who is hard working can make life for himself easier in his or her country through personal generating income activities

which can also recruit others to survive. The same amount of money spent on clandestine ventures of illegal migration can be used as well to open a lucrative enterprises or provision stores in your home towns. It is true that heaven is not else where than your home country where you enjoys all your liberties and rights while respecting the sovereign laws of the State unlike like making oneself a Sub-Set of Human Being as long stipulated by Wthitney in his “Blacks in the Face of the Whiteman in the context of African America and Black Problems in the Americas”. The officialisation of voluntary slavery through lottery is even better than entering the forested zones of the Darien Gap because the migratory engagement will be well documented through legal channels and the person in question will go through and arrive the destination in good mode. However, the youths that were still ignorant of the Darien Gap and the Mexican waterways crossing to North American Continent can from henceforth have in minds that the routes of LAC are death traps of 80 percent when already engaged on such clandestine migratory movements out of Africa.

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