

# **SEEKING SAFE GROUND**

## **THE LEGAL SITUATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES IN MEXICO**

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*This study constitutes a joint research effort undertaken by the Legal Research Institute (Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas) of Mexico's National Autonomous University (UNAM) and the Mexico-United States Law Institute of the University of San Diego School of Law.*

*Both Institutes decided to choose the area of inquiry covered by this report because of two major considerations. First, we recognized the inherent importance that the field of human rights has in this hemisphere today. The need to research human rights issues becomes even more compelling when placed within the context of the current relations between the United States and Latin America. Second, we believed it essential to describe in an objective and systematic fashion the policy that the government of Mexico applies to Central American refugees in that country. This description has been made both from the viewpoint of Mexico's internal immigration law provisions as well as from the perspective of pertinent international law principles and conventions, including Mexico's position in the Contadora process.*

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