

Quetzalcoatl Prize to Writer Ellen Calmus for Her Support to Migrants

Mexico's First Lady, Margarita Zavala, awards Quetzalcoatl to Ellen Calmus, a U.S. writer and photographer living in Mexico, for her distinguished work in support of migrants from the State of Mexico

Mexico, 24 Oct (Notimex). — Mexico's First Lady Margarita Zavala awarded the Quetzalcoatl Prize to Ellen Calmus, a U.S. writer and photographer living in Mexico, for her distinguished work in support of migrants from the State of Mexico.



In a ceremony culminating with the ringing of the starting bell of the National Lottery Grand Prize, which was dedicated to National Migrant's Week, with a grand prize of 15 million pesos (\$1,108,000 U.S. dollars) to ticket number 7786, Mrs. Zavala de Calderón declared migration to be the most important phenomenon in Latin America, and of particular importance to Mexico.



She said the Quetzalcoatl prize is awarded to those who have worked with migrants, and described the work of the honoree, Ellen Calmus, coordinator of the Corner Project of Malinalco, a nonprofit devoted to helping migrants' families. Thanking Ms. Calmus for her solidarity with the people of Mexico, the First Lady said migration is a phenomenon we all must face, whether we are from a country of origin, of transit, or a destination for migrants. "In the case of Mexico," she said, "we are in a country of migrants' origin, transit and destination."

Accompanied by the subsecretary of Population, Migration and Religious Affairs, Ana Teresa Aranda, and the director of Mexico's National



Lottery, Francisco Yáñez Herrera, she praised the support provided to migrants' families suffering the loneliness and anguish of being far from their loved ones.

Upon receiving the award, Ellen Calmus, who first came to Mexico in the 1970s, spoke of the support migrants receive from Mexico's consulates in the U.S., saying that the consulates, especially those working near the Mexican border, carry out heroic work on behalf of Mexico's migrants, aiding migrants with their problems even while they are imprisoned.

The director of the National Lottery spoke of the loss in valuable human resources that occurs when people must migrate to places where they are not valued and are excluded and discriminated against. He said there will not be true justice in Mexico until the country can keep its migrants at home, saying that the same courage migrants demonstrate should be applied to building a country whose generosity has room for all Mexicans, mentioning President Calderon's work to strengthen the country's economy and rate of employment along with energy reforms and the battle against organized crime.