



# Life After Deportation

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# Authors

**Nina Shapiro** Nina Shapiro is an award-winning reporter at *The Seattle Times* who writes about social issues.

**Erika Schultz** Erika Schultz is a staff photojournalist at *The Seattle Times*. She was a 2019 U.S.-Mexico Border Reporting Fellow with the International Women's Media Foundation.

**Corinne Chin** Corinne Chin is the director of news talent for recruitment at the Associated Press, working to build and mentor a competitive, diverse, and inclusive newsroom staff across the globe.



## The issue

Life after deportation varies from person to person it can lead to a person wanting to stay or longing to return to where they were deported from. There are many americans living in zacatecas state where this story takes place it is a state that has seen migration for more than a century. People who have lived in the U.S. are everywhere running a cafe outside one of the local universities, leading passengers to planes at the airport, looking after cattle. Reasons for people to migrate from Zacatecas state is because of poverty, crime, and violence



## The story

Rafael valdez husband and father of 2 was deported and sent to zacatecas state in mexico. His wife joy and his 2 daughters followed suit as they did not want to be separated from him. They Had a great life in seattle washington before moving to mexico. The family navigates their way through a foreign place where they have to create a home like they did in seattle



## Querencia and nepantla

Rafael was more used to life in Mexico and said “over here I feel more free,” with knowing people and fluently speaking Spanish he can easier be used to life in Mexico. Rafael is creating a new querencia in Mexico

Joy is completely new to life in Mexico. “I’m isolated” and “I’m not sure where we belong. **We’ve been gone for six years.**” going from the big city to a dirt road ranch town it’s a big difference and not just in landscape. Socially it is difficult for Joy to make friends and talk to people. Joy is living in nepantla it seems she can’t come to terms with living in Mexico just yet and is questioning where she belongs`

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## Critical Question- how do people live after being deported?

The valdez family is navigating through the life in mexico by bringing the city with them The rooftop deck Rafael built onto the family's house in the city is a shrine to the Seahawks. A huge mural, painted by Rafael, features the team's logo, the Seattle skyline and a 12th Man flag flying atop the Space Needle.

