This story was sourced from humanizing deportation.

This is the first of a three-part story about Victor’s experience crossing the desert of the southern border.

Although this tells the story of one crossing, there are many like it, occurring all along the southern border.

The worst experience. Part 1.

"My experience with the American dream began”;

"with my wife.”;

"She was always asking me to go to the states.”;

"Go to the states.”;

"But I really didn’t want to. I wasn’t born over there.”;

"But my ex-wife, she wanted to go.”;

"She had this dream of being able to go to the United States.”;

"Which, when the moment came”;

"to decide”;

"she was like, ‘If you don’t want to go, I’m going to go anyway.’”;

"And well, I loved her. I thought, ‘If she goes over there, I can’t let her go alone.’”;

"I decided to go on the trip.”;

"We were locked in a house.”;

"We were like…in the house where they took us, me and my wife.”;

"There were like”;

"twelve people, and many of them were from”;

"Honduras and El Salvador.”;

"So, they had us in there for four days.”;

"And in those four days, you don’t eat well, because they give you chicken”;

"once a day, I remember. And in that place”;

"they told us not to go out to the street, that we couldn’t make noise”;

"that we had to be quiet, and I didn’t understand why”;

"since I was still in my country. I didn’t know what was going on.”;

"Then we discovered that it was a place where they sold drugs.”;

"It was a drug trafficking point. And then”;

"we had to be quiet because if not it could”;

"affect us too. The people who ran this place, wo were”;

"in charge”;

"They were also in charge of”;

"this drug trafficking operation, and maybe they could hurt us.”;

"And they asked us to not communicate with our families.”;

"Yeah, they took our phones. And I didn’t know.”;

"It was the first time that I was going through those things, I thought it was normal.”;

"Practically”;

"I understood that I was a hostage in that place.”;

"I was there for four, five days. Until I talked to the family”;

"and they said that they’d take us to”;

"a guide. And that we were going to walk.”;

"And really, a couple of hours passed”;

"and then it dawned and they took us”;

"on a bus from Piedras Negras”;

"and from there I didn’t know exactly where they were taking us, but”;

"they took us halfway there.”;

"The bus stopped and almost forty people came down”;

"forty, fifty or so. The whole bus was full of”;

"immigrants. And they took us to a ranch”;

"we walked to a ranch with—they had given us”;

"a four liter gallon of water and a backpack.”;

"We got to a ranch, a ranch where they raised”;

"cows. And I remember that there were tons of mosquitos.”;

"I remember how much they were biting us.”;

"It was really awful, because you’re in a place you don’t know”;

"in a ranch where you don’t know what’s going to happen.”;

"And we were worried because we couldn’t communicate with anyone.”;

"For my family, we had bee gone four eight days”;

"They didn’t know anything about us. They couldn’t get in touch with us.”;

"We spent a night at that ranch”;

"and the next day, in the middle of the night”;

"we began to walk to the Rio Grande.”;

"And when we got to the Rio Grande, they crossed us.”;

"But the guide that”;

"they gave us was”;

"from Guatemala. The guy, I should say, was”;

"he was kind of cool. When we got to the shore of the Rio Grande”;

"we were there like”;

"one night, one whole night.”;

"More or less. From there”;

"in that night, they were planning”;

"how to cross. But we were like”;

"a total of seventeen people who were going to cross.”;

"I remember being really scared.”;

"Because my wife and I didn’t know how to swim very well.”;

"And apart from that”;

"we had talks with people who had lived through these experiences. People who”;

"had seen others drown in the Rio Grande. Who’d lost family there.”;

"And I was really scared but”;

"we didn’t have any other choice but to walk.”;

"To cross.”;

"We crossed the Rio Grande, and from there, the worst experience of my life began.”;