

## **Immigrant Seafood Processing Woman -Interview # 5**

Anonymous  
27 years old  
Female  
Seafood Processing-packer  
New Bedford  
Guatemalan

Interviewer: Corinn Williams  
Transcriber: Corinn Williams

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### Seafood Processing Women- Interview #5

CW-Hello my name is Corinn Williams, today is July 24, (2008) and I am here to have another interview with a woman in the seafood processing industry in New Bedford.

(Spanish) I am here to listen to the story of your life if you are willing to share it with us. Every story is different and it allows us to better understand the experiences of women who are working in the fishing industry, and how government regulations and other factors are affecting your life and your family's life. This project really is attempting to reach people whose voices are seldom heard, and your history and reality are not well understood. Given that, your voice is very important to allow us to understand the lives of immigrant women working in the seafood processing industry and how their lives differ from those workers in the fishing industry who may have been born here. So, I mentioned that your name will not be used or other personal data and you are aware that we are recording this interview and may be used in research to determine how the regulations are affecting families. Do you consent to being recorded?

I5- Yes

CW- And if you would like to take a break, just let me know and we can take a break-o.k.? Now let's start. First can you tell me how old you are?

I5- 27 almost 28

CW 27 years old, and where were you born?

I5- In Guatemala

CW- Where in Guatemala?

I5- In Joyabaj

CW- So can you explain a bit about what life was like there in Joyabaj before you came to New Bedford , where you grew up, your family

I5- Well over there, we decided to come here because we didn't have enough money and you have to work so hard and it is only God who pays you for you day's work-you work with a hoe and a

machete, gathering kindling wood, cutting cane that's what we do in our village. And since there were so many of us we earned very little so it wasn't enough to feed ourselves. And so we decided to come here but here its getting to be the same thing- one is just working to pay the bills, the gas is so expensive

CW- Can you explain to us-those listening your story, what was Joyabaj like, your family-how many are in your family?

[03:40] I5- Our family-there are a lot of us-we are a big family- In my father's family there are a total of 24 brothers and sisters.

CW- 24 brothers and sisters!

I5 But our family-children of my father, there are four of us

CW-Four?

I5- Two boys and 2 girls, and the two brothers are here with me.

CW- But in your family-did your father have land?

I5 Yes he had land.

CW- What did you grow?

I5- We grew tomatoes, peppers we grew everything to sell, peanuts too.

CW- Peanuts?

I5 – Yes peanuts we grew it all to sell, carrots everything.

CW- Did you live in town?

I5- No in a village, but since my father came first (to the U.S.) to work for a time here and after he arrived I came here afterwards, and yes, it was really hard to get across too, one suffers a lot in the journey.

CW- We'll talk about that a little later on but, you were living at home with your mother and your four brothers and sisters at home. What kind of work did your mother do?

I5- She worked to take care of the farm hands (*mozos*).

CW- The farm hands?

I5- Yes my father paid farm hards to work on the land.

CW- How many farm hands?

I5- There were between five and seven farm hands that my mother made breakfast for and lunch and for us who were working too. We raised beans, corn everything but that was for us to eat and we sold a little of it too.

CW- So you had a lot of land?

[06:07] I5- Some, but my father also had land at half share because some people didn't have enough money to grow crops so my father offered it if they wanted to go in for halves-they would put in half the money and my father the other half, they put up half of the farm hand labor and my father the other half, to help out both in the harvest.

CW- And the farm hands lived in Joyabaj too?

I5- Yes they lived there too, The farm hands were paid per day.

CW- So they were day laborers (*jornaleros*), So your mother did the work at the house, cooking?

I5- Yes cooking, washing clothes, all of that.

CW- And did you have a chance to go to school?

I5-No, at 11 years old we were taken of school to go to work.

CW- Working in the fields?

I5- Yes in the fields with my father- do you know the sugar mill? To make sugar (*panela*) that is what we made.

CW- And how do you make *panela*?

I5-Well you mill the sugar cane at the *trapiche* (refinery) and then you cook the juice that come from the cane and after its cooked it becomes *panela* and you form it into *mancuerna* as they call it.

CW *Mancuerna*- what does that mean?

I5- *Mancuerna* is the way *panela* is sold- and that's why we were taken out of school so that we could work.

CW- So you had a lot of sugar cane?

I5- Yes, like I said my father always went in for halves in the sugar cane, that's what we looked for to do to make money so that we would have food to eat, but its worse now with everything so expensive-here everything is so expensive, in Guatemala its the same.

CW- Did you go to the market to sell sometimes too?

I5- No it was under contract that they would come and get the tomatoes to sell under contract (wholesale). What I would do sometimes is sell bread.

Cw- That you would make at home?

I5- No, we'd buy it at a store a bakery where they would sell it cheaper and then we would sell it I would also sell tomatoes out of my baskets- all of that?

CW- That life was very different, but kind of hard (because you were) always working.

[09:34] I5 That's why, always working it is just the youngest brother who is now here with me, who was able to go to school to the sixth grade. He's the youngest, but the other three of us didn't go to school. We left at the second grade, we had to help my father by working. But look we also came here to work as well.

CW- Well now you have been working a lot with fish but before, did you go to the sea or know about fish?

I5- Over there in Guatemala, just in the Petén (rain forest region) when I got together with my husband is when I saw more fish. There is a big river they call San Pedro that is where there are big fish and that's where they fish when we crossed the river to get to my in-laws in *lancha* (open motor boat) its four hours on the water in the Petén. That's when I saw more big fish because in the village where we are from there are some small rivers and the fish are tiny.

CW- But there were some?

I5-Just the really small ones.

CW- So tell me the story- you were at home with your Mom and Dad working in the fields, making *panela* and all that, how is it that you met your husband?

I5-(laughs) I have an uncle in the Petén I went to visit. I went from Joyabaj to the Petén.

CW- But its so far how did you get there?

I5- You have to travel a day and a night.

CW- On a bus?

I5- On a bus, and after you get off the bus then its another 4 hours of travel on the water in *lancha*. They live at the border of Mexico and Guatemala. We went to the Petén because we heard about my uncle who builds houses five stories and above, and we heard that he had fallen from the fifth floor to the ground and he was injured and so we went to see him and that's how I met my husband.

CW- How old were you?

[12:39] I5- I was 18 and he was 19.

CW And he lived there?

I5- Yes in the Petén and he fell in love with me. I was there three days but he didn't let me go back to my village in Joyabaj and he said that he wanted us to *juntar* (live together as a couple) and that I should stay working there but I told him I couldn't because my father had a lot of work and I had to help him. If he wanted, he could follow me back home, he really wanted to and in just three days that I was in the Petén he asked if I would accept him as his boyfriend, I said it was o.k. But he would have to talk it over with my father. So he went to talk to him and ask his permission and my father said it was o.k. And then three days later he had stolen me away!

CW- He had stolen you!

I5-(laughs) And three days later he had stolen me and I went away with him, imagine after how many days after we first met, it wasn't as if we were boyfriend and girlfriend like for six months.

First it was four days as boyfriend and girlfriend and we *got together juntamos* and we have been together ever since.

CW- So it was love at first sight?

I5- Yes- love at first sight! (laughs)

CW-So how many years have you been together?

I5-My daughter that is in Guatemala will turn 9 years old, so it has been 10 years that we have been together.

CW- After just knowing each other for four days?

I5- Uh-ha

CW- So afterwards you went to live in the Petén or did you go to the village (in Joyabaj)?

I5- Well, he went back to ask forgiveness from my father for taking me away, because he was mad. But anyway, but my father said "Its o.k. The thing is that you love each other and that you shouldn't just been looking for a woman for a short time you should seek a woman to be with for your whole life until God separates you (death do us part)" he said. So we were there only eight days and then we went to the Petén to my in-laws. Imagine, we met in the Petén but he lived four hours from there further in on the river. I had never been there because when we met he had been visiting the Petén because it was the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, when we celebrate Day of the Fatherland.

CW- So he didn't live there?

[15:51] I5- No he didn't live there. He lived in el Limite Santa Clara San Luis Postos but he was just traveling because of the holiday and there was a fiesta and that's why he was there. And he even had a girlfriend , but I don't know, he saw me and fell in love and pursued me. And I told him if he loved me he would have to follow me that I couldn't stay because my father had a lot of work.

CW-And so you went to the Peten to live, what was life like over there?

I5- Ay, you should see it's the worst, life is very tough, under the sun. Look over there they don't grow beans. What they do grow is corn-two times a year every six months- he who doesn't grow food over there is not because you can't-they grow corn but very little beans. But the beans don't make it because the soil is too fertile you almost don't have to put any fertilizer on it . It is not like where we are from in the village in Joyabaj, you really have to work a it to prepare the soil, to put on fertilizer, in comparison in the Petén, no you don't have to put on fertilizer, you just clear out the field that's all but it yields a lot.

CW- what else do they grow there?

I5- In the Petén it's corn but if you want -watermelons, melons, chilli peppers and tomatoes.

CW- And bananas?

I5- Oh yes and plaanos, jomote, yuca everything, it grows without effort.

CW- Because it all grows!

[18:13] I5- Yes imagine it's hard. My brother-in-law who has been here for three years, what did he do? He went to the Petén but he couldn't take it- the heat was too much, so he went to work for my father in Joyabaj because over there ( Petén ) there's no money-you work and work but just for yourself and if the crop makes it you sell it, but you only get a low price for it..

CW- And you have to bring the product far to sell it?

I5- It is so far and that's why he ( brother in law) went there, he has two kids with my sister, and with the heat- the kids weren't born there, they were affected by the heat, so that's why he went back there to work (in Joyabaj). But now look what they are doing- taking out sand as a means to survive, to be able to buy food to eat-even my sister is digging out sand from the river.

CW- What do they use the sand for?

I5-To make houses.

CW- For cement?

I5 Yes for cement, and they pull out rocks to to fill in for house construction, that's what they are selling now to have a way to live to buy food, and we send them money too (her little boy has been quietly playing during the interview wants to show his mother something).

CW- So you were living at your in-laws house in the Petn and was your daughter born there?

I5-No she was born in Joyabaj, I went there right before she was born because over there is no hospital , no clinic-there is nothing. If you have the chance to go visit one day you will see there's nothing and if you have an emergency you have to go in *lancha* to pay to leave quickly. You could die because there is nothing.

CW- Are there a lot of illnesses?

[21:03] I5 Ay, yes illnesses all kinds.

CW- Do a lot of people live there?

I5- Yes there are a lot of people but no clinic nothing. You have to rush out on the *lancha* and there are lots of snakes and if they bite you when you are working and you have to rush out and if there isn't a boat you can't get out and sometimes there's no money (to pay for the boat).

CW- So you were in the Petén and had the baby girl did you go back to the Petén ?

I5- Yes I went back to the Petén but six months later I went back home . I was there a few months then I went back to the Petén to see how it would be, but my little girl got sick since she wasn't born there, I don't know.

CW- She wasn't used to it?

I5- The sun, the heat didn't agree with her she had a lot of stomach pains, she was coughing up blood, and as my first child I was scared so I brought her back to Joyabaj. And as soon as we returned she changed and got better and she didn't get sick anymore. Then from then on my husband went to work with my father and then my father arranged to come to the United States.

CW- And why did your father decide to go to the U.S.?

I5-Because he had his business but I don't know what happened , but his crops became diseased and all the tomatoes were lost. All of it the tomatoes were ruined and my father said that he was so disappointed, for working so hard, he had even bought two mini-irrigation systems, and they pipes were always breaking. The pipes were laid out far and maybe people to be malicious would break them, the pipes kept bursting and because of this disappointment he decided to come here. And so he left my husband there to cultivate land just for the family for us to eat . And so we didn't cultivate half-shares anymore. He was here just a year and a half.

CW- Did he come here to New Bedford? Did he have somebody here already, a relative?

[24:10] I5- Yes, my uncles, they helped him. He had two jobs-that was before the Twin Towers happened during that time there was a lot of work, because my Dad worked at night and during the day, two shifts.

CW- In fish processing?

I5- He worked in scallops, that's when there was a lot of work. He would earn \$700 to \$500 in each factory.

CW- So it was enough to survive on and then some?

I5- Yes imagine, how can I say , he worked and had no one to prepare his meals. He didn't even eat, all he would cook were some potatoes, that's what my uncle told me. That's what he would do- he'd cook and eat only potatoes then go to work, and so he was here a year and a half and he made some money, but during the time he was here he also sent for my husband, and when my father left my husband stayed behind .

CW- What did your father do with the money he made, did he send it to the family to live on?

I5- Yes to help us but also to help bring my husband over here, because they charge a lot to come here.

CW- But did he invest again in the land? Does he continue to farm?

I5- Not anymore, the only thing he still raises is peanuts and a little bit of tomatoes. And he doesn't make *panela* now because we are not there to help him, and anyway the price of *panela* is very cheap. He would have to pay farm hands because we are not there anymore to help and work. That's what he could do before, he didn't have to pay for labor because we were working , and so what he does now is he buys the sugar already made and he resells it. He buys it cheap and he goes to a mountainous area where they buy it from him at a higher price.

CW- The *panela* is already made?

I5- Already made, that's how he makes more that way..  
(her son looks at the recorder -noise)

CW-So your husband came here, and you stayed home with your mother, so how did you decide to come here?

[27:47] I5-It was very hard because I wanted to bring my daughter with me.

CW- How old was she?

I5- 21/2 years old, I wanted to bring her but since my father had already traveled on the road (to the U.S.), he told me not to bring her because it was very dangerous, and I could lose her, and that it would be better to leave her with them, and if I wanted I could come here. So finally I left her, but I left very sad while I was traveling, I kept thinking and remembering my daughter. It would get dark at night in the mountains while we were walking even when we could lay down I couldn't sleep just thinking about my little girl. But the women friends who were traveling with me said "Why are you thinking so much about your little girl? She is fine back there you are the one who is suffering here" because it took me more than a month traveling, walking.

CW- You left from Joyabaj, you crossed into Mexico?

I5-We crossed Mexico over the desert- that was the worst! There is no water, nothing to drink if they want to give you food they do, but if they don't feel like it they don't. It is all so hard. One thinks that being here there is so much money just thrown on the floor and all you have to do is pick it up but it's not like that, that's what people think over there (Guatemala). That you have it made over here but to come here one is disappointed.

CW- And when you came and crossed the border what was that like?

I5- With a *coyote*.

CW- Was it a big group?

I5- Yes it was a big group of like 60 people.

CW- All Guatemalans?

I5- They came from different places, but we made it through thanks to God.

CW- What year was it?

[30:11] I5- 2002.

CW- So you came directly to New Bedford to be with your husband?

I5- Yes.

CW- What did you think of it here?

I5- Ay I was so sad, and desperate. I was here with my husband but I missed my daughter so much. I didn't eat and just thought about my little girl. People told me that it was good that I made it here but I missed my daughter, I suffered so much. We all suffer in this country. Everyone. It's not just me who leaves behind their children, many of us do, many children are left abandoned. We do it to make some money, now my daughter is going to school, (we do it) so that our children can get ahead. That is why we are here, one comes here to work, innocently, we don't come to take anything away from anyone, we come to work

CW- And so after you came here you went to work?



I5- Yes , a week later.

CW- You rested for a week?

I5- I rested for a week.

CW- What month was it?

I5- It was in September, 23rd of September.

CW- It wasn't too cold yet?

I5- It was the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September because I left in August.

CW- So you went to work in fish processing?

I5- Yes in fish processing and I worked there but unfortunately in eight months I got pregnant with my son. I was working and when I was three months pregnant they told me there was no more work for me, that it was dangerous for me to be working while I was pregnant, but I notice that now that there are a lot of women who are pregnant up to eight months and they are still working. What happens is that some of the people are bad, some of the bosses are bad, and there are others who are not bad.

CW- So tell us what your first job was like? Was it the first time you worked with fish?

[33:08] I5-When I came I worked in the same place I'm working now, and then they told me I couldn't work there anymore, and then I had my son and then seven months later, I went back to the company to beg them to give me my job back but they wouldn't. So then I went to work at a scallop company . And there the work was o.k. You got 40 hours, but there we had a little problem and I didn't want to work there anymore, I don't like problems so it was better for me to quit, because the bosses sometimes don't listen to what you have to say , and they listen to the others but they should know who is making the mistakes.

CW- What was the problem?

I5-There was a lady who used to say things about me, and I didn't like it , it was about some of the gallon containers , one lady was weighing them and another one was weighing them on the other side of the plant and one didn't have the right scale and that was the problem , and they started to argue and they threw the gallons at me and to made life impossible for me and so that's why I left because I don't like problems.

CW- So in your first job what did you do, cut fish?

I5- I cleaned fish with a knife because it has the innards and you have to take them out, you cut out the innards in pieces.

CW- Does it come out of the machine?

I5- Yes after it come out of the machine.

CW- Are there many Guatemalans working there?

I5- Yes a lot, now only Guatemalans work there.

CW- From Joyabaj or other places?

I5- From everywhere- from Joyabaj, Quiche, Chinque, San Andres from everywhere, but there isn't much work now.

CW- Was there more work when you started?

[36:11] I5- Of yes- before there was but now there is very little work.

CW- How do you compare work now from before?

I5- Before it was good because you would work more than 40 hours.

CW- Every week?

I5- Yes, with 40 hours one is content , but less than that -no man, now its 25 or 20 hours.

CW- When did that start to be just 20 hours?

I5- Since last year?

CW- And you process only fish at the plant, does it come frozen too?

I5- Its only fish, it come frozen and also fresh.

CW So you aren't getting frozen fish?

I5- Not even, we get some fresh but very little now, imagine earning just \$160 a week for 20-26 hours a week, its nothing , what does that pay for ? We have to pay a babysitter for the child, you have to pay your bills everything, rent for the apartment, gas for the car it doesn't cover the costs for anything, and we have our family in Guatemala too

CW- And you are helping with the family too?

I5- It is worse because of the accident that happened (husband's aunt was murdered in New Bedford leaving 6 children in Guatemala) there are six children there and its only a little that we can send once in a while, and they call and say that they need money, they need to buy things, and sometimes my husband has to borrow money before payday comes, and so he has to pay back what he borrows for them because there are six children.

CW- But is anyone else helping them?

I5- There is an uncle here who lives in Boston, he is just helping one of them, one is going to school, two are going to school but the oldest is about to graduate and so he is helping him in his last year of his studies, and he has to buy his graduation ring and all that . He is studying and also works after school . It's difficult.

CW- Is it just the three of you at home or does anyone else live with you?

[39:33] I5- No its just the three of us.

CW- Do you have a lot of family who live around here?

I5-We have a lot of family uncles, cousins a lot. Some are already permanent residents who have been here many years, but that doesn't mean anything, because family doesn't help you out . either . You have to take care of yourself on your own.

CW- Have you heard about any of the talk about why the fish is so scarce?  
What do they say about that at work, do they say it will get better?

I5- No, if it were to get better they would not have transferred us to work for the temp company.

CW- Tell me about that.

I5-They gave us the news at the last minute that we were now going to work for the temp company.

CW- So before you worked directly for the company?

I5- Yes, we worked directly for the company and they told us we were getting transferred to the temp company. At first they said that we would continue to work directly for the company but another company was going to give us our checks, they said it was another company not a temp company. They should have told us it was with a temp company , we thought it was another company not a temp company.

CW- So why don't you want to work for the temp company?

I5- Because, imagine, if we just work for the temp company and we are only making \$160 a week and that is not enough to live on and I don't want to work for a temp company because with a temp company you might only work two months and they send you home, and where are you going to find work then? People need to work because you have your children, like me I have to child here and I need work, I think more so the women in the seafood processing companies . Men can go into construction, because they are men they can get work that is harder. But to work for a temp company they send you wherever -to work in the fields, and it is not work for women to do and if you can't withstand the work they send you home.

CW- How long have you been working for the company?

[43:00] I5- I worked in 2002 when I started and I worked for two years and then after a little time I went back after my pregnancy. They didn't want to take me back but eventually they took me back. And then work slowed way down and we were sent home we were laid-off.

CW- When was that?

I5- That was in 2005.

CW- How long were you laid-off?

I5- That lasted about a year. We didn't get called back soon and they didn't call us back but they hired others and they just told us "we'll call you" but they never called us, and that's the only place we had worked and imagine, they give work to other people. And when you ask for work they tell you there is no work that they are all full, I don't know what. But if they tell you they are going to

call you and they don't give you work,, and so that's when I went to work at the scallop place and I was there for a year too, more than a year and then the problems started that I told you about so I left because I didn't want to get fired. But a few days later the girl (that she had the problem with) got fired. Because she told us that she would cause trouble there (*hacer la vida imposible*).

CW- Is work there like that still? Are there people who are out to make trouble? What are the conditions where you are now?

[45:11] I5- No there they treat us well, I'm not going to tell you something that it's not-they treat us well,the boss (supervisor) is a good person , very calm. He tells us what we need to do, he doesn't rush us or anything. We know what time we have to come in and he just checks on us to see if we are working or not. He might just remind us about our hair nets that we might not have on properly, or of there is a hole in it, or if you are talking too much he might say "we are here to work not to be chatting" he calls attention to just those kinds of things . But no he doesn't rush us.

CW- But before it was worse?

I5- It was worse, it was a Portuguese man who treated us badly he'd say all kinds of things to us- he'd call us *Filhos de Putas* (SOB's), bad words and he would be rushing you, if your knives were no good he wouldn't give you good knives, only old knives, it was hard but now its o.k. They don't criticize you. The only thing is that we were transferred to the temp company and the people say the ones left working for the company. There is someone who says that we have no rights anymore at the company that we are just borrowed from the temp company and we have no rights. And I say: "What rights do they have that we don't have too- we are all human beings we are all immigrants." In this country we are all immigrants and we are working. We are criticized for not having papers, because we are Hispanic but we don't come to rob anyone, we come to work , to strive to get ahead to get a few little things , but when you die you can't take those things with you, just your children stay .

CW- So what are you thinking about the future about your daughter-do you talk to her on the phone?

[48:04] I5- Yes every week or every three days I call her, she asks if I'm o'.k. And when am I coming back? "*Dios mio mi hija* things are very hard right now we have to work to be able to go back " but I tell her that she needs to keep going to school. She tells me she wants to be a teacher or a doctor, or she says a nurse so that's why I tell her that for that you need money and that you have to give us time to work, but it is worse now that work is so slow and there are so many people out of work right now, who really need the work but now sometimes you don't even have enough to buy food. So I tell my daughter that she has to wait a little longer, when she turns fifteen we will go back, God willing. If God permits it and the people here allow us to stay here longer and now with the laws and the way they are now.

CW- And if the law would change?

I5- Oh how good would that be! I ask God that there would be a change, that one day we would have a chance, it that could happen from one moment to the next.

CW- In that case would you be able to send for your daughter?

I5- That's what I was thinking. She says that she would like to come here with a visa, but how would I ever get a visa for her, you need money for that, My desire is that she would be able to come here. For us to go back, although we come from there, we still need to have money to live on

because what would we live on in Guatemala without it?

CW- And what is life like for your son, does he have a good life here?

I5- Oh yes he is happy but sometimes he says he would like to visit in Guatemala to meet his sister, he would stay for two months there, so he tells me he wants to go. What we really want is that work would pick up again to give permission to the fishermen to go out more days more months, to give them work and in turn to give us work too to help us out.

CW- Besides going to work what kinds of things do you do after work, do you have friends?

[51:27] I5-When we get out of work, we clean the house, cook to have something to eat and then sometimes we go out to have fun to take our son out to the park, to have a little fun instead of being all cooped up all the time. We go to the park, to the soccer field wherever we go with our son -the three of us..

CW- Do you ever get together with family?

I5- No not very often, sometimes its better to keep to yourself, sometimes if you go to visit family it can cause problems. It is better to keep to yourself like the saying goes- a mule works better on its own .

CW- So you are from Joyabaj but most of the Guatemalans here are from Quiche.

I5- It's about an hour and a half to Quiche.

CW- But are you indigenous or ladina (of mixed Spanish and Mayan ancestry)?

I5- Ladina.

CW- But what is the difference? What are some of the differences , there aren't too many ladinos in New Bedford, the most are Mayans.

I5- Yes, the majority here are Mayan, but the truth is that we are same because there is only one God and we are all brothers, the only thing that changes is the manner of speaking , the language one has-one speaks in Spanish but like my father, he is ladino but he speaks in Mayan language, my grandmother also speaks in Mayan language, she's ladina but speaks Mayan language- language is the only difference, but we are all human beings from the same.

CW- So all your life you grew up with Mayans?

I5- Yes we grew up because they lived close by . We'd go out together to bring our cows to pasture we'd get together to talk , but it's just because we are hard headed we didn't pick up the language.

CW- You didn't use Mayan dress?

[54:30] I5- No we didn't..

CW- So your friends at work are Mayan are they treated differently?

I5- No, we are all treated well, just one person who was criticizing us because we went to work for the temp company. It is just that person I don't talk to her. She was saying things she shouldn't have

when I went back to work she said “that swine-they let that swine get her job back”. And so that's why I don't speak to her.

CW- Was that at another place?

I5- No where I am working now.

CW- It was a woman co-worker, is she envious?

I5- Yes a woman but I leave it in God's hands , she's a little old , maybe she doesn't have a husband and that's why she says these things (laughs).

CW- And so how do you see your decision to travel the journey to come here over all, do you have any regrets?

I5- It was so hard to make the decision. One doesn't know what you are in for, people tell you ahead of time that it is hard . But you make the decision on a whim- that you want to come and if you want to come and you haven't been through it – the desert, the hunger the thirst – it's so hard - all of it. If I were to go back, we'll see later on, if God were to open the doors to give us chance to fix our papers, that's why we face so much criticism now, that's why we don't have our papers.

CW- Is that worse now or has it always been like that in terms of the criticism ?

[57:42] I5- It's so much worse now it's really hard to get a job now, they ask at companies if you have your papers- they are required now- but what can you do if you don't have your papers? Imagine, we can't do anything about it, but they know full well that we don't have them. We are immigrants here all of us are immigrants because here the actual citizens, the real Americans are the indigenous people. A lot of people talk about this.

CW- But where you work are there Americans who work there too?

I5-No, just one American.

CW And the owners?

I5- The owners are American.

CW- And the workers are all immigrants?

I5- All immigrants.

CW- Is it like that in all the factories?

I5- Yes everywhere they are asking for papers.

CW- What are you thinking if work slows down too much, what will these workers do?

I5- Well, what can we do? We have to ask God that the work will pick up, and that the people who don't want to give the permission to allow more fishing to allow more days, to put their hands on their hearts to think about all the people who are out of work , that they would be given the chance to work again.

CW- Is there anything else you would like to include in this interview?

I5- That's all.

CW- Great, thanks so much for your words , we learned a lot and each story is different, thanks so much.

I5- Thank you too. [01:00:26]