

KPBS Transcript of Hugo Castro's Facebook Live video from 6:28 p.m. on April 13, 2017
Translated from the Original Spanish

“I need help. I’m here with very little money – they don’t want to take my (U.S.) dollars and I was threatened by a group of criminals. I’m here on the road to Puebla. Can my friends come for me? It’s leaving Mexico City, um, where Mexico City and the State of Mexico are divided on the way to Puebla. Um, what’s here? Well, there is that big tank of water. And um, (that sign) says ‘Ramp closed in 2 kilometers.’ Um, what else. Um. That’s a gas station across the street and there’s a big arch, an arch made of metal. Seriously, I was threatened. They want ... they want to kill me. The people who are nearby here on the road to Puebla leaving the city in the State of Mexico – the division between the State of Mexico and Mexico City. It’s a big arch over there at the end. I’ve been walking for a long time, nobody wants to sell me anything – I have (U.S.) dollars and – they just pass, stalking me as if they were dogs. They’re groups like this one, look. They’re Adoradores de la Muerte (KPBS Note: ‘Adoradores de la Muerte,’ or Worshippers of Death, could be a reference to Santa Muerte, a female deity worshipped by various drug cartels in Mexico). I need – seriously, I need help! I need help! I can’t move from here they already confronted me. Um, what I have left of battery is going to die. I’m not going to move from here, look, the water tank is here and the big arch on the road to Puebla. The pay – the toll road. I don’t know if – I don’t want to cross over there because there was a group of Adoradores de la Muerte there in trucks like in a caravan. Five or seven of them in trucks. And I don’t know anyone here. And from here where I am, they stopped up ahead at the gas station. I walk and they follow me from behind. So I’d rather not keep walking. It’s something that’s been happening since I stopped posting here on the Internet. I can’t trust the police very much, um, I don’t know. I don’t want to keep walking. If someone could come for me a friend, a friend. I can’t go to Puebla nobody is picking me up, the taxi drivers, the bus drivers, I offer them money and they just laugh at me on the side. The ones that stop are precisely those that like this one – did you see the sign he made me? Look. It’s a group, various groups they stop and they follow me, I keep going, I try to go in between the houses, and the same thing happens. I don’t want to move. I’d be grateful if a friend came by ... Look like right now, the trucks pass and nobody wants to stop. I think Kilometer 37 of Mexico City to Puebla. There was a taxi who could take me to Puebla and from the bus station I could take a bus, but they didn’t want to take my dollars.

And they made fun of me (inaudible) 12 pesos not even that. (KPBS Note: Castro reads a comment on FB Live) I know 'God is with me' but it's various days that I've been like this. It's been many days. They're trucks like the ones coming here look. They come behind me and park behind me. They're from Mexico City. There's like 10 or 15 like those that have passed by. They stop, I keep walking, and they follow me. It's like they're hunting me. Um, I'm going to be here. I'm not going to move. Please someone come here. I'm on (Facebook) Live because they got close to me and they had ... um ... they wanted to threaten me but there were several of them so what I did is I walked a little more and when they saw I was running away more of them came. I've gone many days trying to get to Chiapas but a group from Tamaulipas detected me and are following me. (moan) I don't know what else to say. Look they're these guys. They do that. They pull over up ahead and then they keep going. And they stop over there by the gas station – they're over there like four or five. I walk and they follow me. And they stop up ahead. It's not – rarely have I said something so serious. It's been a few days, it's been a few days, I thought I'd be smarter than them but it's a very powerful group. Like these ones, (inaudible) they're from Mexico City. I don't know how they're operating there's many of them they park and keep going. And they park and keep going. But don't think it's an (inaudible) of five or ten. There's lots of them. And what am I going to tell you. All I know is they're Adoradores de la Muerte all of them have it there and I discovered something in Tamaulipas, near Coahuila. There they go, look. So I don't know, I don't know what else to say. It's like, the last option is (inaudible) message. Look it's like this one. See how I have my phone, that's why they're not pulling over. But they pull over near me and I approach, they don't talk to me, I walk and they advance. A little while ago a group came down to threaten me. There were a few of them they surrounded me all I did was I changed sides I jumped from the other side of the highway. And over there in this area where all the trees are, they have their sanctuaries. This is something perhaps that is happening frequently, rarely has someone been able to report it. I'm reporting it because it's been several days, this situation, and I didn't want to tell anyone because it was very hard to return to Baja California so what I thought was better was to keep going and try to catch up to my other friends. But it seems like I wasn't very smart. There's so many of them. They work with *halcones* (drug cartel spies). Um, wherever I went, the word spread and I would get a taxi and then up ahead someone else would approach me. So ever since I stopped communicating (on Facebook) I've been able to survive. Somehow I'd escape their sight but right now I can't run

very fast I don't have money to rent a place and hide somewhere. What I can testify is that perhaps this is the way they operate in Tamaulipas, in Coahuila and they follow you to wherever they can. So it's sad this is happening in Mexico. There is a lot of impunity and even the federal agencies themselves, the state ones, they're all colluding. They're Adoradores de la Muerte.

(Reads a comment Facebook Live) Um, Mister Clic, if you're nearby here I'm not sure where I am. The kilometers aren't marked very often and when I advance a little this group comes near me and I go around and I haven't been able to see which kilometer I'm at. What I know is there's an arch that unites the part from Mexico City with the State of Mexico. It's a division that has something very weird that perhaps – it's the telecommunications media it has antennas all around it is surrounded with technology and the people who do it well you know who they are. The people who are with evil. They take advantage of technological advancements to be able to surround places. In fact there are places where you can't jump the fence that divides Mexico City from the State of Mexico and where there's a little bit of access is where the watchmen are. Not just here but also in Coahuila and Monterrey the entire bus station is controlled ... they send you to a highway, it's the highway 54 they say they send you through the 57 but no it's the 54 and they do a series of irregularities there. The cartels. That's how they operate until Zacatecas. There's a lot of information. Perhaps that is why they're doing this. But I already made it public. I did it already, Mirna! But they don't let anyone come close. They pass like that and they park up ahead. There's no reason for them to come in that lane when there are three lanes to the right. They go up and they park up ahead look. So I'm not going to move from here. Um. Until I see someone I know. Or can you please communicate with multiple members of the media? I can't imagine how many missing people had this happen to them, in exactly the same way they're operating, from south to north and north to south these groups, the cartels, these power groups, of dark power, they work this way. They go stalking people. You start running out of money, if you have more they kidnap you. In my case I disguised myself a little, anyway I didn't have much money, but regardless I was able to survive a few days. I wanted to recount all this during the trajectory of Viacruces (the caravan) but better if someone picks me up here. You have to know when to stop, no? What I know is they're cartels both in Tamaulipas and they work the same way in Monterrey I don't know if it's the same one but they use transportation, in Tamaulipas, the officials, there's a lot of people colluding. We need an investigation, of the transportation line and alternate transportation that take you for a lower price and are colluding with groups of ...

they take advantage ... cartels. Criminal groups. No, I haven't arrived in Puebla yet. It's where there's an arch. If you look online. There's an arch passing a bridge. Actually there's an arch and a bridge that unites Mexico City with the State of Mexico before arriving in Puebla. Precisely Puebla is on the other side but you have to travel through the Mexico City side you have to go down to the west side and head to the south. These trucks look. There's several. From Mexico City. There's several. There's like 15 that go behind me. I advance and some park in front and some park in back. I don't know what (inaudible) but they're surrounding me. It looks like they're going to a party on the Puebla side. And if you see the car transport vehicle its been a while since it has moved. If I go that way the same thing is going to happen – they open the door, they laugh – I asked them for a ride a while ago but when they started to surround me I stopped I felt like they wanted to hurt me. In fact yesterday it was a group, a convoy of like 40 the ones who were behind the bus in which I was a passenger. I had to get off before, I had to do something there to get off. And I escaped a little but not a lot because well they followed me and followed me. I tried to seem like I was a local but they still noticed. They have one thing in common they are Adoradores de la Muerte. They have their--” (video cuts off here)