

# WHAT COMES AFTER THE AMERICAN DREAM IS CRUSHED?

A TRUE STORY ABOUT A FAMILY'S LIFE AFTER DEPORTATION

BY: MARIA GASCA STAFF

September 15<sup>th</sup>. It is was regular Monday in the Perez House. Rebeca Perez, a housewife, cooks at home for her husband who is soon to be home from work. Emily Perez is helping her mom get the food ready for her dad because she knows it's been a long day for him after working a long shift.

It was getting late and Armando Campos, a family guy, wasn't answering the phone. "His girls" as he used to call them when they were together, were starting to worry about him.

Rebeca received a call around 9 p.m. It was her husband Armando telling her that he was detained by the Des Moines Police Department hours before, and that he was now in the hands of ICE and she couldn't do anything at that moment but pray for him.

"My heart broke into a million pieces when he told me that I couldn't do anything about it, it was the worst feeling ever, my whole family was devastated, I started praying and praying so my family could stay together," Rebeca Perez said.

During this hard period of time, the whole family is being affected in so many ways, not only his wife but the kids too.

"I feel like it is affecting everything, it is affecting my grades, my behavior in school and my emotions too. I miss my dad because when I'm struggling he is the only one that helps me get through whatever is going on. He is always there for me when I need him," Osmani Perez said.

With Armando being the only one that used to work, the rest of the family didn't really need to work since he worked long shifts. He wanted his wife and kids to have the things he didn't have while growing up in Mexico. But now after his deportation they all need

to find a way to sustain the house and their personal needs.

"Now that he is not here, we all have to find a job so we can help my mom to pay for things we need," Emily said.

18 years ago they left Mexico City, their birth place, to have a better life and rise their children in a better place where they could give them everything they needed, and offer them more opportunities to study and have a better life than they did. Now, the family is being obligated to go back to their country because after all, their family is being brutally separated.

"I'm scared to go back because of the violence and the lack of opportunities that my kids will have in Mexico. I am afraid that is the only option I have after my husband's deportation. We came to his country to offer our kids a better future," Rebeca said.

Rebeca and her kids were heartbroken when they received the news that her husband was going to be deported. Today after almost three months of being without him they feel like going through this helped them to become a stronger family than they were before and to not let anything bring them down as a family.

"After all, I think that in some way this helped us to become a stronger family, now we all have to work together if we want to keep living the same live style we were living before. But now, without the most important family member to my kids, their dad," Rebeca Perez said.

This is the reality of millions of families that we are seeing more and more often about deportation around the U.S., another story of a family being separated from each other for trying to have more opportunities for them in a new country.

This was the true story about a hard working family that was separated after trying to make America "great again".

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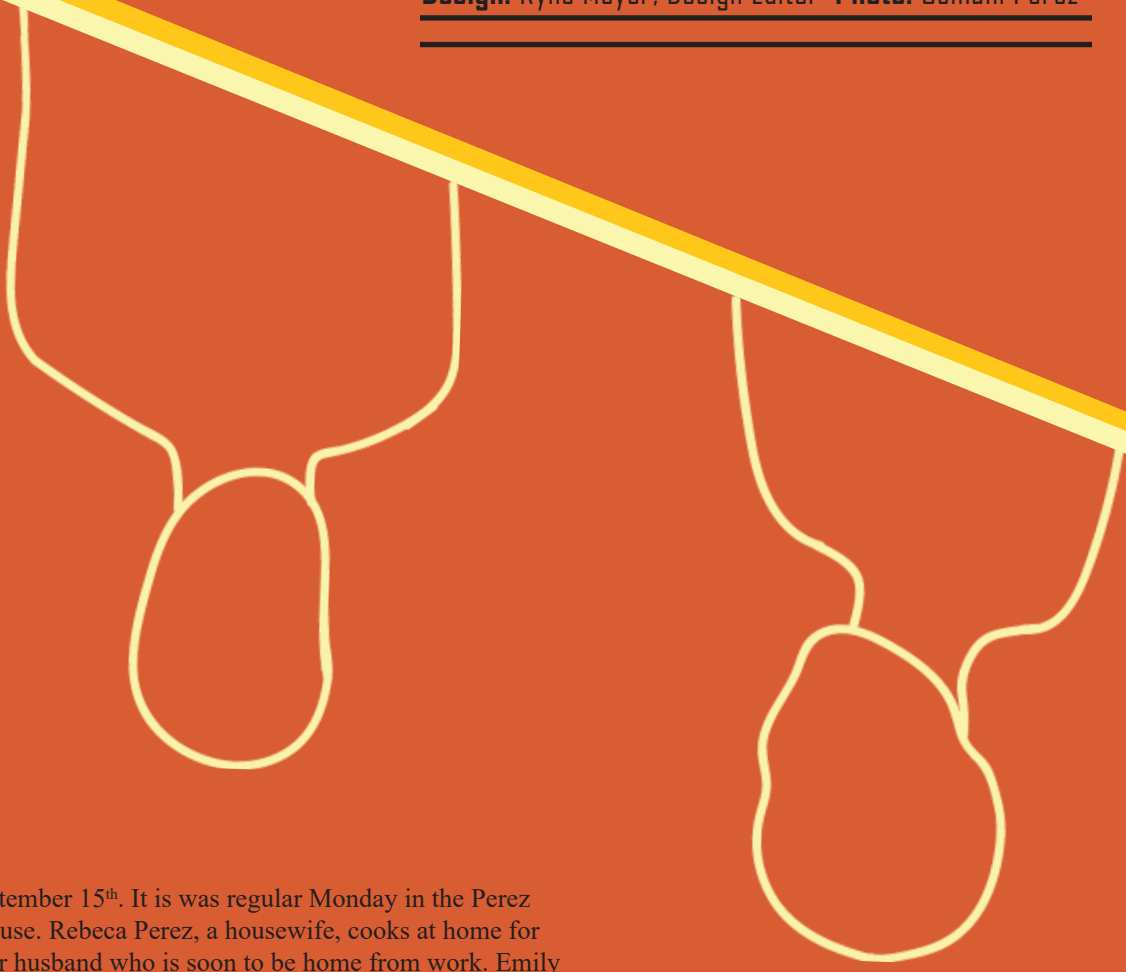
A true story about a family's life after deportation

Words: Maria Gasca, Staff

Design: Rylie Meyer, Design Editor Photo: Osmani Perez

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*Photo of Perez family*