

Refugees Seek Liberty, Justice

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"Give me liberty or give me death." Patrick Henry's words are now being adopted by many foreign refugees.

When Carlos Pereira, a thirty-four year old Cuban refugee who recently arrived was asked why he came to the USA; he answered, "I left Cuba because there you weren't allowed to do anything. You were only permitted on the streets, to and from work. Many of us have been out of work for months and some for years. If you were

caught on the streets without 'un pa se' (a pass) you were sure to be doomed."

"How is the youth handling the change?"

"Even though they're young and will adapt easier, they have the barrier of the language between them and their age groups. Some are afraid to make friends; in other words, afraid of rejection."

"What has been your biggest impression of the US?"

"The way people socialize without being afraid of being stabbed in the back." Yves

Masoui a Haitian refugee answered with a wide smile. After asking him to explain himself clearly he said, "I mean that you can speak your mind and have the right to, without being attacked afterwards."

Esther Lamigueiro, a sophomore at SMSH and also a refugee from Cuba, says that here she is able to pray freely. "In Cuba, because I believed in God and my father was a pastor, every non-believer was against me and my family. Here, in the US, I could believe in God and not be afraid to pray and worship him."