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Youth Violence

I experienced and witness youth violence when gangs threatened my family. I know the cause of this violence was gangs. There is no other way we could have been threatened, but luckily there is solutions. "Ring, Ring!", the phone ringed. Slowly my grandmother made her way to picked up the phone. I will never forget her almost ghost-like skin as soon as the person on the other line talked.

When I was younger I lived in El Salvador, my native country. El Salvador is the third country with the biggest gang rates. My family and I live in a type of small colony. This neighborhood had alot of places were gangs could hide. We would hear them going around the street at night. One day we were all watching T.V when the phone ringed. My grandmother picked up the phone and her face went pale. Her features were as if she had seen a ghost.

When the person in the other line started talking all I could hear were mumbles barely audible. As the days passed by more calls were incoming. My grandmother and older cousins would always be on watch. My grandmother would constantly talk to my aunts and uncles in the United states, she would tell them we had to move. After, about a month later we moved to the city by this time they had told me what had happen. The gang-

members had told my grandmother that we had to pay a certain amount of money or else there was going to be an "accidental" shooting inside the house.

What happens to my family happens to families everyday. Gangs threaten people for money but luckily we have solutions. The police in the U.S help a lot so don't hesitate to call them if you are in danger. In some places or countries the police isn't as powerful and might not be able to help but there's other options. Moving is also a helpful solution.

Violence happens on a daily basis. Youth violence has become even more common now. Video games are much more violent and showing young children examples of aggressive scenarios. Video games aren't the only ones, the whole media shows violent contexts in one way or another. We all experience violence on a regular day from video games to watching it happen in your own school.