

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO SAVE LIVES ON JUNE 21 — THE MOST SUN-BEATEN DAY OF THE YEAR



No More Deaths • No Más Muertes

June 2019

Humanitarian aid worker on trial — as people continue to die in the desert

Dear Friends of No More Deaths/ No Más Muertes,

As you read this, our friend and long-time No More Deaths volunteer, Scott Warren, is on trial in Tucson Federal Court on charges of felony harboring and conspiracy, for providing humanitarian aid to migrants on January 18, 2018 in Ajo, Arizona. Dr. Warren was arrested on January 18th mere hours after we released part II of the Disappeared Report, detailing Border Patrol's interference with our aid efforts. If found guilty, Scott could face up to 20 years in prison.



Dr. Scott Warren - No More Deaths volunteer

THE TARGETING OF HUMANITARIAN AID GROUPS

It is clear from evidence released in pre-trial filings that Dr. Warren's arrest was retaliatory in nature. There are communications between Border Patrol (BP) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW) agents showing that the agencies collaborated to surveil Scott Warren for many months due to his status as a leading local organizer and critic of BP and USFW policies. Additionally, BP agents previously testified under oath that their surveillance of "the Barn" in Ajo, the site at which the assistance

took place, on the day of Dr. Warren's arrest was motivated by intelligence that led them to suspect the presence of undocumented immigrants in the area. However, text messages between the stationed agents that morning include no reference to said intelligence and demonstrate that the agents were surprised to learn of the presence of migrants at the Barn.

The targeting of humanitarian aid workers, though new, is only an escalation of the kind of violence and repression that Border Patrol and other state

You can make a tax-deductible donation online at nomoredeaths.org or by check.

Make checks payable to "UUCT/No More Deaths." Mail them to PO Box 40782, Tucson, AZ 85717.

Please consider setting up a recurring donation, so that we can rely on your support.

No More Deaths gratefully accepts stocks, bonds, endowed gifts, and bequests. We also welcome your ideas for fundraising opportunities.

Please contact us at fundraising@nomoredeaths.org or (520) 333-5699

agencies have been unleashing on migrant and undocumented communities for decades. The charges levied against Dr. Warren aren't an attack just on No More Deaths, they are an attack on the very fabric of a civil society that recognizes and upholds the value of every human being. They are an attack on the values shared by any individual of conscience who would stop to help someone in need. They are an attack on the bonds of care, respect and love that are what makes life itself worth living.

LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT DEATH IN THE DESERT

It is unthinkable that a volunteer providing humanitarian aid to people in need could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty – and that our own government is prosecuting this charge is almost as incomprehensible. Why isn't our government as concerned about the deaths of so many migrants in our border region? (See related article in this newsletter, "Death in the Growler Mountains".) The border policy of "prevention through deterrence," increased militarization of the region, and criminalization of migrants sadly continues the decades long tragedy of deaths in the desert. And now, humanitarian efforts are stymied and criminalized, instead of supported.

DESPITE WHAT HAPPENS, THE WORK WILL CONTINUE

We don't know how Scott's case is going to turn out but what we do know is this: Regardless of the verdict, No More Deaths will continue to resist the criminalization of aid work and assert the right to give aid to those in need and their right to receive it. We are grateful for your steadfast support, which makes our work possible. Your words of encouragement and your financial contributions sustain us and embolden us to stand firm in our commitment. As we head into the unrelenting heat of summer in the desert, we ask you for your continued support with a gift to No More Deaths.

In solidarity and in gratitude,
The No More Deaths/No Más Muertes Community

Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime



nomoredeaths.org

Drop The Charges

Saving Lives in the Courtroom

No More Deaths' community immigration clinic, Keep Tucson Together (KTT), fights every day in immigration courts in Tucson, Eloy, and Florence, Arizona to stop families from being torn apart by the immigration system. No More Deaths volunteers created Keep Tucson Together during the Obama years to help community members avail themselves of the benefits of Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the Obama-era policy to close deportation proceedings. Thousands of young DREAMers received work permits and hundreds of deportation cases in the immigration courts were administratively closed.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Since then, the work of the Community Immigration Clinic has grown exponentially. The bulk of the clinic's work centers around preventing deportations. Volunteers work with those in deportation proceedings to prevent their deportation, working under the philosophy that everyone deserves representation in immigration court.

The clients come from all walks of life around the community: people seeking asylum; people apprehended in the desert facing prosecution; mothers and fathers without status being torn away from US citizen children; and people whose cases were closed under Obama, but have now been

reopened under the current administration. The clinic additionally handles DACA renewals and the citizenship application process for many southern Arizona residents.

Recently, KTT represented a long-term lawful permanent resident who was put in deportation proceedings based on a minor criminal conviction which occurred thirty years ago. Volunteers mounted his defense and not only did the clinic help him win his freedom from deportation, but he has since been able to become a naturalized American citizen. This is one of the Clinic's many successes and shows how Keep Tucson Together keeps families together.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Keep Tucson Together has many volunteer opportunities for those living in and outside of Tucson. If you would like to volunteer with Keep Tucson Together, email KTT's Volunteer Coordinator, Xochitl Mercado at xochitlmercado71@gmail.com. As always, donations to No More Deaths support the clinic's work to provide free, universal representation for the community. Please give generously and thank you for your support!

BY THE NUMBERS....

During the past year, the No More Deaths - Keep Tucson Together - Community Immigration Clinic has:

- Helped more than **300** recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) file their renewal documents
- Represented over **350** individuals in removal proceedings
- Provided legal representation to over **1,300** residents of southern Arizona and operated a 24-7 response line for those stopped by Border Patrol or other law enforcement and
- Assisted more than **400** Tucson residents complete the naturalization process to become citizens.



No More Deaths/Keep Tucson Together Community Immigration Clinic

Death in the Growler Mountains

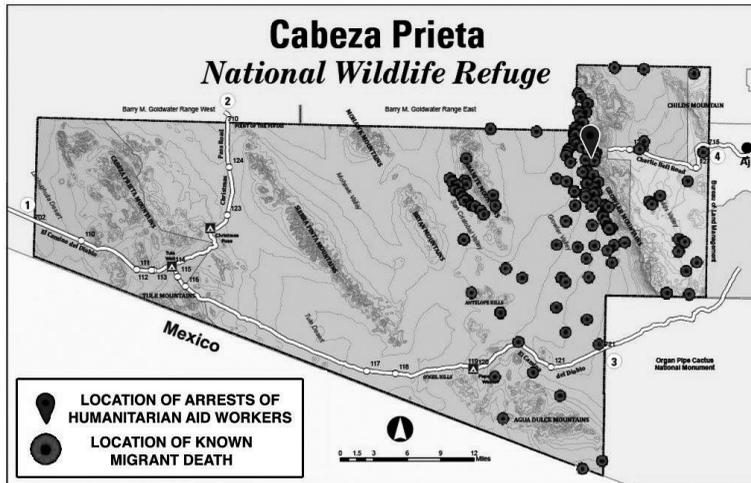
In 2017, nine No More Deaths volunteers were charged with misdemeanors for providing humanitarian aid in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, in the area of the Growler Mountains. Four of the group went to trial in January 2019, were convicted on three misdemeanor counts, and were sentenced to pay fines of \$250 each and 18 months of unsupervised probation. Criminal charges against another four volunteers were dropped in return for their accepting civil responsibility and paying \$250 each. The verdict and sentencing for one other volunteer, Dr. Scott Warren, is still pending (this is separate from Dr. Warren's felony charges – see separate article in this newsletter “Humanitarian Aid Worker on Trial – As People Continue to Die in the Desert”). The essay below, written by desert aid volunteer Joanne Coutts, reflects the waves of emotion that No More Deaths volunteers experience when finding human remains in the desert.

EXPLORING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

The Growler Mountains in southwestern Arizona stretch from Bates Well on Organ Pipe National Monument in the South, through Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and the Barry M. Goldwater Bombing Range in the North. The Arizona Geographic Information System (GIS) for Deceased Migrants shows more deaths

in the Growlers than anywhere else in the desert of this area. This past January, our mission was to explore these mountains, looking for places where humanitarian aid supplies are most likely to reach people in need.

The exploration was generally a success and, like all good explorations, in addition to providing



Documented deaths in the Growler Mountain area, within the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge, shown here; same area where No More Deaths volunteers were arrested.

answers, it threw up new questions. Some were practical - How are people getting to a seemingly inaccessible resting place? Which direction do they travel? Others were more emotionally challenging. During the first week of January we found the skeletal remains of two people in the Growlers.

VISUALIZING DEATH

For me, skeletal remains do not provoke the same sensory reaction as more recent deaths. There is not the over-powering smell that clings to your nose, your clothes, your boots long after you leave the site. There is not the same tactile response of touching flesh or the same visual response of seeing a full person.

What is similar is the profound sense of silence and aloneness, of trying to connect to the feeling of the person as they waited for the inevitable, the

feelings of those they were possibly with and the worry of their families and friends who have no idea what happened to them.

When we find a person, I sit and look around, trying to visualize what they might have seen. I hope that as they let go of the struggle against the physical violence of dehydration, heat or cold and the mental anguish of realizing they could not go on, they found peace in the beauty of the mountains and slid gently into being a part of the soul of the desert.

A CALL TO ACTION

After a few moments the call to action rushes back, the desire to do everything I can to help ensure that the person might be identified. To identify the person can give them back their personhood and return them to their community; comfort their fellow travelers who, even though they may have had to go on, now know that someone cares enough to follow their footsteps and find their companion; and give closure to loved

ones left back in their country of origin. I have less purely altruistic responses too - it makes me feel useful, like I am making some small contribution to alleviate the suffering of one family, one group, one traveler.

All these responses draw me back to keep exploring the Growlers. We will unlock their secrets, find their lost and share their stories.

Join our Longest Day campaign to save lives on June 21, the most sun-beaten day of the year.

For information about this campaign and the work of No More Deaths, connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter @ [nomoredeaths](#) or go to our web site at www.nomoredeaths.org.

No More Deaths was founded in 2004 in Tucson, Arizona. Our mission is to end the death and suffering of migrants on the US-Mexico border by mobilizing people of conscience to uphold fundamental human rights. Our work includes providing aid in the desert, providing aid in Mexico, documenting and denouncing abuse,

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS BY NO MORE DEATHS VOLUNTEERS

searching for the disappeared, helping get belongings back, running a weekly legal clinic for undocumented community members, and alliances with border communities. We are a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. To contact us, call (520) 333-5699 or visit our website nomoredeaths.org.