



No More Deaths • No Más Muertes

Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime

Dear Friends of No More Deaths/ No Más Muertes,

We are writing to you during a dangerous time of the year for migrants and a challenging time for our organization. Last summer was the second hottest and driest that we have ever had in southern Arizona, and summer 2021 is predicted to bring more of the same. Instead of being rare occurrences, extreme temperatures and dangerous weather have become the new normal. Global climate change is disproportionately impacting those who live in the global south, where dangerous weather phenomena have become a regular occurrence as the planet warms. According to the NY Times, "Many semiarid parts of Guatemala will soon be more like a desert. Rainfall is expected to decrease by 60 percent in some parts of the country, and the amount of water replenishing streams and keeping soil moist will drop by as much as 83 percent."

In coastal Central America, raging hurricanes and rising sea levels are destroying local economies, forcing residents to migrate and intensifying already dangerous and violent situations (to which U.S. foreign policy has directly contributed to).



Hundreds of thousands have been forced to move to find work and safety elsewhere; for many, this means migrating to the north to Mexico or the United States.

Climate change also affects peoples' journey of migration through the desert. Arizona has been in exceptional drought conditions for 20 years, and last years' rainfall was the second-lowest on record. Where once people were able to find a cattle tank or stream along desert trails, there is now no available water to drink along the way. In the Arizona desert, average summer temperatures are

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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.

increasing and heatwaves are starting earlier in the season and lasting longer into the fall, making passage so much more dangerous for those who are crossing and more challenging for our organization to offer aid.

In this issue, you will also read about how the global COVID pandemic has impacted our work. We are currently providing humanitarian and legal aid during the pandemic as we were able to do for all of 2020, overcoming unprecedented challenges while navigating a global event that has affected billions.

As temperatures continue to climb in the borderlands during the summer months, we ask you to join our **Longest Day Campaign**, which will culminate on June 20th, the longest day of the year.

This year, we are hoping to raise \$250,000 to support our desert aid, search & rescue, legal aid and northern Mexico work. Please support our **Longest Day Campaign** by giving a gift online at nomoredeaths.org or by using the enclosed envelope.

We greatly appreciate your continued generosity and support. Whether that means a gift, reading this newsletter or sharing it with a friend, we are so glad to have you here with us.

With much gratitude,
The No More Deaths/ No Más Muertes community.

Celebrating the Life of Lois Martin

B. 9-20-1934
D. 12-29-2020

The Southern Arizona humanitarian aid community celebrates the life of our beloved elder, Lois Martin. Lois moved to Tucson, AZ in 2005 with the intention to join in the humanitarian aid work happening on the border. She became active with all of the groups – Humane Borders, Tucson Samaritans and No More Deaths. Volunteers and delegations from across the country experienced her compassionate, feisty and generous spirit. Young adult volunteers who hiked the desert trails on water drops with her joke about how

they “could not keep up with Lois.” A free spirit to the core, Lois showed us how to live purposefully and passionately in the 4th quarter of life.

Remarkably, at the age of 86, she participated in a Humane Borders water delivery mission to the deep desert just 10 days before she died. Some of us think Lois saw death not as an end, but instead as a beginning of the “dive into the Great Mystery.” She held a deep belief about “becoming one with Everything” again. With that deep knowing, instead of letting a sudden illness disable her, she accepted it as an opportunity to cross over and “dive into the Mystery” on 12-29-2020.

Several of us had the privilege of being with her in her home the day before she died. She had such clarity about what was happening and was grateful for her life’s journey and especially for her good fortune to have had so many good friends along the way.

I met Lois in 2008 when I attended my first No More Deaths meeting. She stood out because she spoke up often, offering opinions and insights with a tone of urgency about what was happening on the border. When discussions ended and consensus was reached, Lois was a model for support and action. She spent countless hours volunteering at Byrd Camp, walking migrant trails to leave life-saving water, volunteering in Nogales, taking delegations and groups of new volunteers to Operation Streamline, participating in meetings with land managers at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR), Organ Pipe National Monument and Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge, and was an integral part of the Coalition to End Operation Streamline.



I got to know Lois really well as part of a group that put humanitarian aid (water and food) on a trail in BANWR in 2010 and continued through 2020. Doing so in 2010 was controversial because two No More Deaths volunteers had been cited in 2009 for leaving supplies in BANWR. They went through extensive trials and were found guilty. Lois was part of a group of 13 that protested on BANWR and got cited. More significantly, she, along with others, spearheaded putting water there knowing there could be more citations. Fueled by the knowledge of continued migrant

deaths in the desert, she felt the risk was justified. Lois was a fierce advocate for the right of people to migrate safely and humanely and to end our government's border policy that results in so much suffering and death. Her constant and unwavering efforts inspired us and deepened our respect for her.

Kate Morgan, a long time No More Deaths volunteer, wrote this to Lois a few months before her death. I'm quoting her here because it reflects what so many people who knew Lois felt about her. "I do want you to know how grateful I am for you in my life....I look to you as a guide, a mentor, a role model and a friend. If only you knew how many times I have looked to you and everything you've done with your life, continue to do with your life,I hope some day I can be like Lois....I'll continue to use you as a touchstone in life for the kind of life-long commitment to justice and love and community-building that I hope to be a part of."

I can't think of a finer way to celebrate someone's life than to know that their memory lives on in such a beautiful way.

— Submitted by Jim Marx, NMD volunteer



As we went to press, we received word that Fr. Bob Carney died on April 9, 2021.

Bob was a long-time border justice activist and one of the founders of No More Deaths. We will continue to honor Bob in the coming months. Our condolences to all who knew him. He touched many lives. Presente!

No More Deaths Confronts COVID

In early March 2020, as the global COVID pandemic spread, NMD Desert Aid volunteers implemented a COVID Response Protocol. In the desert we meet people who are medically vulnerable due to the stress of their journey as well as chronic malnutrition or untreated illness. Most travelers have had poor access to healthcare in their home communities and will have difficulty accessing medical care in the U.S., so

preventing COVID transmission in our shared space is paramount.

NMD volunteers adopted the CDC's COVID recommendations (adherence to hygiene, masking, quarantine, and social distancing) and included exposure risk assessment and self-care for volunteers. In humanitarian aid spaces, we improved ventilation, created isolation areas, installed more hand washing stations, and stocked PPE supplies and vitamins. Travelers gladly participate in the protocols, having witnessed sickness and death from COVID in their home communities.

Many travelers from Central America tell us the pandemic triggered their decision to migrate when the COVID shutdowns occurred. For centuries, Central American societies have been manipulated by Europe and the U.S. via military incursions, covert disruption of governments, and financial coercion. U.S. agribusiness and corrupt U.S.-backed governments have forced people off their ancestral lands into low-wage labor producing cheap goods for consumers in wealthy countries. When the COVID pandemic halted the global chain of consumption, laborers in Central America were left without a way to earn a living. Also, wealthy nations have hoarded COVID tests, PPE and medical supplies so treatment for the poor in other countries is largely unavailable.

No More Deaths' local volunteers recently became eligible for COVID vaccination, and many of us have received our shots. But due to the greed of patent-holder corporations in wealthy nations, people in low-income countries and people in migration will not have access to vaccination for months or years. We will continue to follow our COVID protocols for



as long as necessary to protect the health of our siblings walking through the Arizona desert.
– Submitted by Sara Vazquez, MD, NMD desert aid volunteer

No More Deaths' BIPOC Working Group

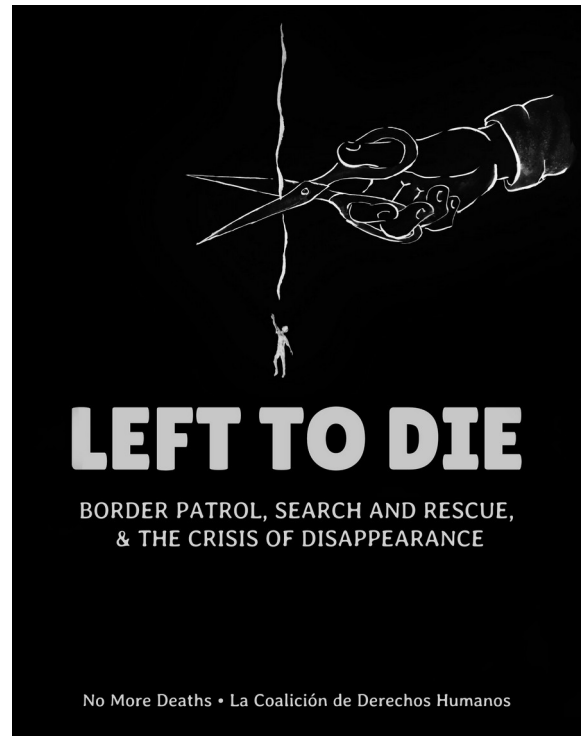
The reality of migration along the US-MX Border involves an influx of people from Central America, South America and the Caribbean; greater migration into US settler territory shows numbers rising among immigrants from East and Central Asia. That means Black people, Indigenous people, and other People of Color (BIPOC). Historically, No More Deaths has struggled to cultivate a meaningful BIPOC volunteer space within the organization. Volunteers who identify as BIPOC have different reactions to the work because it affects us differently. Inherently it changes the way we talk about the work and the way we approach the work. Although our lived and familial experiences cannot be mirrored by the whiteness surrounding this group, we acknowledge the privilege we hold that allows us to support NMD's collective work.

The establishment of the BIPOC Working Group and fund has allowed us to create a welcoming environment with similar voices and ideas. Funding for the working group has allowed us to expand avenues of accessibility for Desert Aid by providing housing, gear, travel stipends and language courses.

We hope to continue cultivating healthy relationships upheld by members of our community that immigration has and continues to affect the most. We encourage any BIPOC folks in the NMD community to join our group and find comfort in each other's presence. You can reach out to the BIPOC Coordinator at bipocmonthlong@nomoredeaths.org.

– Submitted by Veni V., NMD desert aid volunteer

"As crimes pile up, they become invisible." - Bertolt Brecht



Part 3 of [The Disappeared](#) report series, *Left to Die: Border Patrol, Search & Rescue and the Crisis of Disappearance*, written in collaboration with La Coalición de Derechos Humanos, was released this year and is available at thedisappearedreport.org

Leaving your Legacy

If you're able, please consider leaving a legacy or planned gift to No More Deaths. This type of gift can be of any amount and it is a future gift distributed upon an individual's death. Planned gifts can be made through a will or by designating No More Deaths as a beneficiary in an IRA, another type of retirement or pension plan, a life insurance policy, or a donor-advised fund. Gifts of stock or land can also be legacy gifts.

No More Deaths cannot give legal or financial advice, so we suggest contacting an attorney, financial advisor, or CPA, if necessary.

For more information about leaving a legacy gift, please contact us at nmdcvb2019@gmail.com.

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, searching for the disappeared, helping get belongings back, running a biweekly 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 at nomoredeaths.org.