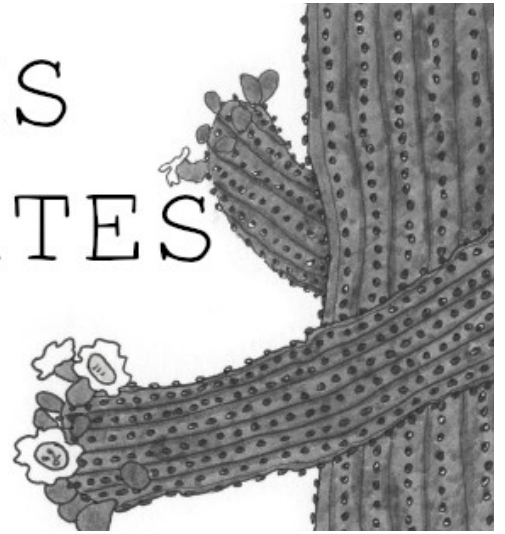


NO MORE DEATHS NO MÁS MUERTES

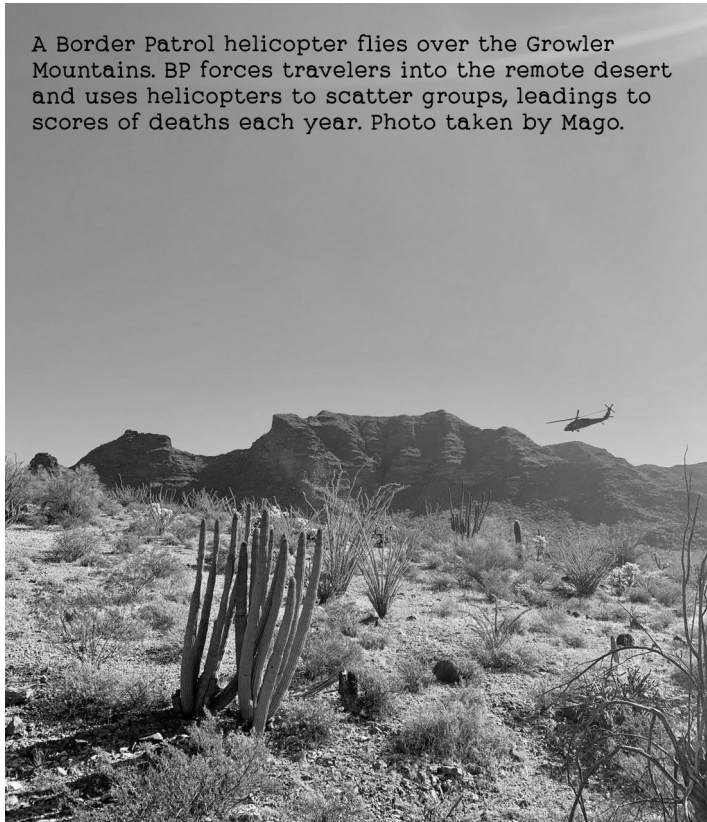


Fall/Winter 2021

Dear Friends of No More Deaths / No Más Muertes,

Congress' 2022 budget will include billions of dollars in funding to maintain and expand border surveillance systems, often euphemistically referred to as a "virtual wall" or "smart wall." In remote borderland terrain, surveillance technology is an instrument of death and disappearance. Drones, surveillance towers, motion sensors, and other devices detect people's movements and summon Border Patrol agents to chase migrants through the desert or mountains.

A Border Patrol helicopter flies over the Growler Mountains. BP forces travelers into the remote desert and uses helicopters to scatter groups, leading to scores of deaths each year. Photo taken by Mago.



In No More Deaths' *The Disappeared Report*, our Abuse Documentation team found that such chases cause "wide-ranging trauma, injury, disappearance and death for untold border crossers on a daily basis."

Even those who evade detection are impacted by surveillance technology, as they are forced to walk even further to do so. This means they face more days of potentially deadly exposure to extreme climate, lack of food and water, and risk of physical injury.

This is the context for No More Deaths' humanitarian aid work. Our form of humanitarian aid is

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

Make checks payable to UUCT/No More Deaths and mail them to PO Box 40782, Tucson, AZ 85717. Please email fundraising@nomoredeaths.org for any fundraising related questions.

No More Deaths is a volunteer run and led organization that values consensus and community based approaches to our work. Our volunteers are the thesis of the organization, their time and efforts make desert aid a reality.

material support for people and their families before, during, and after their encounter with this militarized landscape. We embrace solidarity and mutual aid and reject the idea of "charity." We advocate for the abolition of borders, Border Patrol, and ICE. Funding from No More Deaths's community of supporters enables us to continue to operate our humanitarian aid projects, and to that end we are asking for your help to raise \$275,000 during our 2021 End of Year campaign. Your donations allow No More Deaths to operate numerous aid projects. Some of our biggest costs include purchasing supplies and maintaining vehicles to bring humanitarian aid to desert trails; supporting other rural migrant aid organizations; supporting volunteers who join us from across the country; and covering filing fees for people in immigration court. We encourage you to visit our website, nomoredeaths.org, where you can find our newsletters, Abuse Documentation reports, and working group descriptions. You can also reach out to us directly by email, phone, or mail.

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

status, standard-English fluency, wealth, health, Judeo-Christian acculturation, cis-gender (or assumed), and Whiteness (or proximity thereto). Our position in race, class, and gender hierarchies has validated our presumption that our actions are correct. Often, this worldview has led to actions being taken with authoritative urgency rather than intentionality. By inserting ourselves at the border, NMD has altered the environment migrants navigate in their journey; yet we have not consistently sought leadership from the migrants themselves.

Within No More Deaths we experience white supremacist dynamics. For years we've tolerated privilege-based power differentials in our decision-making; we have lacked migrant/BIPOC participation; and we have often failed to hold individual NMD members accountable for harmful behavior. Some members—mainly those who hold many privileges—ask that we overlook these harms and focus on "the work", in the name of respectability and legacy. They refuse to see how their own white supremacist behavior perpetuates wider systems of oppression. NMD has embarked on an internal process, grounded in love and intentionality, to address our

CONFRONTING WHITE SUPREMACY ON THE BORDER

By Mago, a Desert Aid volunteer

White supremacy is the pretext for borders and justifies the violent theft of land and life from the Black and Brown people of Earth, in the name of capitalism. White supremacy legitimizes the militarized border that kills people in the Arizona desert. No More Deaths acknowledges that white supremacy also influences the way we respond to border violence as an organization and as individuals born into a fundamentally racist society.

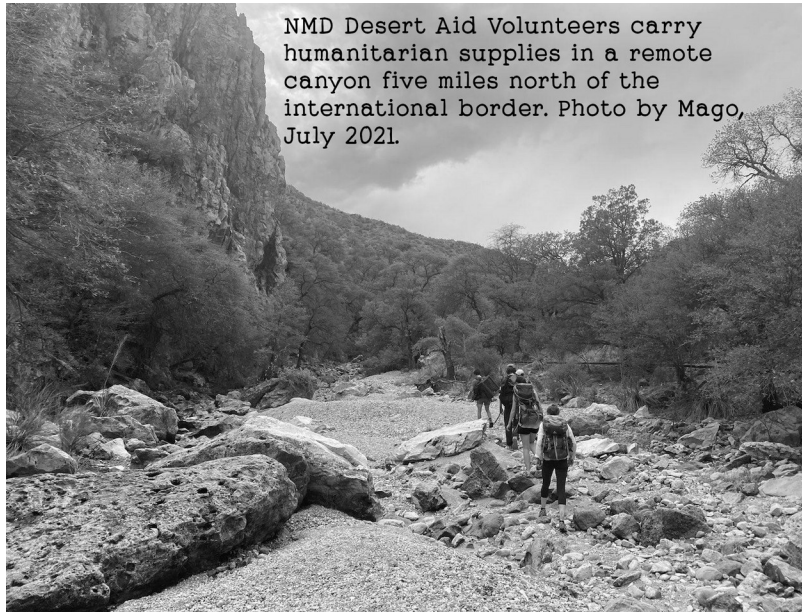
From NMD's inception, our humanitarian aid volunteers have typically embodied multiple privileges: "legal"



This single-layered blockprint depicts a segment along the West Sonoran Desert, lands traditionally stewarded by the Tohono O'odham and Hia Ced O'odham. This piece highlights the self-determination of people in migration and the innumerable acts of solidarity people engage in on their travels away from their homelands.

Artwork by Yanely Rivas (October 2021).

organizational white supremacy. We will work to amplify the voices of our migrant and BIPOC and femme/queer members, be proactively accountable to the wider border community, and de-platform our most-privileged members. As an example of change, our Desert Aid work has moved toward a model of mutual aid (including humanitarian aid) that centers the self-determination and talents of migrating people and states explicitly that we are not saviors.



NMD Desert Aid Volunteers carry humanitarian supplies in a remote canyon five miles north of the international border. Photo by Mago, July 2021.

We bring these struggles to our supporters' attention because NMD's mission includes global movement building. We believe that another world is possible—a world without white supremacy or injustice. Meanwhile, our work continues in the desert, the borderlands, and the courtroom, while we grow stronger as a community. We still believe we are doing crucial and lifesaving work in response to state violence at the border. But NMD's work should always be WITH oppressed people, not FOR them: "Proponer y No Imponer, Bajar y No Subir."

COMPLACENCY IS NEVER AN OPTION

By Yolie C, Fundraising Coordinator for No More Deaths

CW: Death

We must acknowledge the harmful and racist policies that have been upheld throughout the years by different administrations – Democrats among them. A case in point is, "prevention through deterrence," a set of policies established by Border Patrol in 1994, during the Clinton administration, with the deadly intent of deterring migration. This harmful policy funnels

travelers into dangerous terrain that is causing thousands of deaths to this day. Under the Obama administration, destructive migration policies led to the deportation of more than 5 million people, leading to the president earning the moniker of "Deporter-in-Chief." These harmful policies are not restricted to the U.S. In 2012, using the "war on drugs" as a shield, the Obama administration justified U.S. military intervention in Honduras, (violence and death continued to thrive which showed just how much U.S. interventionists were tolerating governmental corruption). Biden continues this American tradition by upholding Title 42, instituted by the Trump administration, that essentially closes the border indefinitely to migrants and asylum seekers under the guise of public health.

When we approach dismantling of white supremacy, borders and American Imperialism, we need to remember that this work is ongoing. The work that we do as an organization and as humans is constant and doesn't change when the presidential administration does. There is no breather and there are no breaks. Whether a Republican is at the helm or a Democrat is, the work remains the same because the rules have not changed.



Desert Aid volunteers construct a dome tent at No More Deaths humanitarian camp. Photo taken by Mago, April, 2021.

No More Deaths has witnessed no improvements for migrants under Democrat vs Republican administrations. The first raid on our humanitarian aid camp occurred during Obama's administration. Unsurprising given his administration's creation of the very detention centers that are still in operation today. Once we make our peace with knowing that the state exists to uphold racism and exploitation, we can continue to push on because now is not the time to become complacent. In fact, it's never been the time. It can feel like everything is alright because a Democrat is in the white house but we know that's not true. What we know is this - borders are still in place, ICE is still in operation, migration is still being deemed unlawful and so many other harmful policies are still thriving, completely unchecked despite this shiny and new administration.

JUSTICE FOR BLACK MIGRANTS

As this newsletter goes to press, the world watches Joe Biden's Border Patrol commit anti-Black racist violence at the Texas border. Haitian families seeking to enter the US have been forced to live outdoors in degrading conditions. Haitian men carrying food for their families have been assaulted by armed BP agents on horseback. Daily, ICE continues to deport thousands of Haitian people directly from the US-Mexico border, in violation of their human rights.

Black migrants' treatment by US immigration authorities is always worse than that of non-Black migrants: higher rates of denial of asylum, higher rates of incarceration, higher rates of deportation, routine denial of Temporary Protected Status to migrants from qualifying African nations. There has never been a time in which the U.S. government has not been intentionally brutalizing Black people.

Real immigrant justice means an end to anti-Black racism worldwide. Please support Black migrants, and amplify the work of Black migrant rights organizations.

Black Alliance for Just Immigration <https://baji.org/>

UndocuBlack <https://undocublack.org/>

Haitian Bridge Alliance <https://haitianbridge.org/>

By the Numbers...

Over the past year, No More Deaths volunteers and staff:

- Placed over 12,636 gallons of water on migrant trails in the southern Arizona borderlands. In addition, 480 cans of beans and countless trail snacks, socks, and blankets have been placed along migrant trails;
- Bonded out 187 clients from ICE immigration jails (on humanitarian parole) through our Emergency COVID-19 Bond Fund since March 2020;
- Purchased 119 of bus tickets for migrants;
- Assisted 323 people recover \$138,700 from their jail accounts after being deported to Mexico with uncashable checks/debit cards;
- 422 times in the last year, families all over the United States sent travel money and pocket money safely and cost-free, via No More Deaths volunteers, to loved ones who found themselves temporarily in Nogales.
- Invested \$14,800 into our humanitarian aid camp infrastructure which includes: building tent domes, kitchen renovations, water infrastructure, shade structures and creating a medical tent.

No More Deaths has monthly opportunities for folks from Southern Arizona and across the states to be engaged in border solidarity efforts. Applications for our Local Volunteer Program and the Desert Aid Month Long Volunteer Program are posted every month.

We also have an active BIPOC Desert Aid working group that recruits and provides support/context for BIPOC volunteers.

Our application process prioritizes BIPOC folks. Keep an eye out for upcoming BIPOC Month Long Volunteer programming.

Check out our website for more details on how to get involved: NoMoreDeaths.Org/Volunteer/

For questions about volunteer opportunities please reach out to the Desert Aid Volunteer Coordinators at volunteer@nomoredeaths.org.