Crossing The Line

Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border

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A report documenting human rights abuses suffered by migrants while in the custody of the United States Border Patrol.
Compiled and published by No More Deaths
September 2008

No More Deaths
No Más Muertes
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Glossary of Terms

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Under DHS, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) houses the Border Patrol. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a separate DHS agency. The Border Patrol is responsible for apprehensions and custody of individuals perceived to be in violation of immigration law along the border, while equivalent duties are carried out by ICE in the interior.

Repatriation/Returned
Most of the migrants served at the No More Deaths Border Aid Stations and in Border Patrol custody have signed a ‘voluntary removal’ or ‘voluntary departure’ form and are repatriated. This is a civil procedure, not criminal.

Deportation
One is deported after going before a judge and receiving deportation orders. This is a formal legal proceeding.

Short-term Custody
A period of 72 hours or less of non-criminal custody, before any prosecutorial documents are issued. Individuals are most often held in Service Processing Centers (SPCs).

Detention
A DHS, or privately contracted facility, where a person is detained in ICE custody, and held for a period longer than 72 hours.

Migrant
In this report, the term ‘migrant’ refers to people in transition from one geographical location to another out of personal necessity.

Violation and Abuse
Mistreatment and negation of basic human rights, defined by the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights as “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Standards of Care
The basic, essential human rights that must be given to any human being while in government custody, including but not limited to food, water, medical attention.

Oversight
An independent system to guarantee ongoing access of community and human rights groups to all DHS facilities for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of all standards of care. This mechanism for accountability includes legal recourse for noncompliance.

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)
A statement of agreement between two entities. In this report, the MOUs referenced are those between the Mexican Government and the US Border Patrol that pertain to minors in short-term custody and the repatriation of women and children after dark.
Volunteers with No More Deaths and other humanitarian aid organizations have been working at migrant aid centers in Nogales, Agua Prieta, and Naco, Sonora, Mexico to provide basic care to migrants and others repatriated across the U.S.-Mexico border since the summer of 2006. Initially concerned with the physical and emotional toll faced by migrants who had endured long border crossings, we quickly realized that these conditions were often compounded by Border Patrol practices. We regularly encounter migrants who have been denied food and water and who have been separated from their family members during the repatriation process. We hear accounts of physical and verbal abuse, of injuries sustained while in Border Patrol custody, denial of urgent medical care, and of possessions that are not returned. We urge immediate and fundamental changes to these routine practices.

Recent studies, including those by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Migrant Rights, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and Detention Watch Network, have focused on the abysmal conditions faced by individuals held in long-term Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities. Here we highlight the daily violations of human and civil rights that result from ICE and Border Patrol practices during short-term (up to 72 hours) apprehension, processing and repatriation. There are currently no uniform regulations of short-term custody nor independent oversight of the treatment of those detained. These practices regularly violate domestic and international law, as well as guidelines, Memoranda of Understanding, and recommendations issued by the Department of Homeland Security itself.

The following findings come out of two years of systematic documentation (2006-2008) by medical professionals and trained volunteers working in migrant aid centers and the Southern Arizona desert with people recently repatriated and deported. The violations and mistreatment identified occur in the field during apprehension, in the processing centers, and during the repatriation process. It is apparent from the efforts of these documenters that these violations are occurring daily.

12 primary areas of concern have emerged from this documentation:
1) the failure to respect the basic dignity of migrants;
2) the routine failure to provide and the denial of water;
3) the routine failure to provide and the denial of food;
4) the failure to provide medical treatment and access to medical professionals;
5) inhumane processing center conditions;
6) pervasive verbal abuse;
7) pervasive physical abuse;
8) dangerous transportation practices;
9) the separation of family members;
10) the repatriation of children, women, and the vulnerable at night;
11) the failure to return belongings to migrants prior to repatriation; and,
12) the failure to inform migrants of their rights, coercing them to sign forms, and failing to provide copies of these forms to the migrant in a language they understand.
345 cases of abuse are included in this report. Examples include:

**Physical & Verbal Abuse in Agua Prieta:**
A group of 15 migrants, including 3 women and 2 teenage boys, were detained by the Border Patrol while crossing the desert. The agents who detained them made them run for 30 minutes, telling them that this would discourage them from crossing again. If they stopped running, the agents would kick them to force them to run again.

**Physical Abuse & Failure to Provide Medical Care in Nogales:**
Three women, approximately age 20, sought treatment for injuries sustained while crossing. All reported that the agents who apprehended them had pushed them into cacti as they were walking in custody. None had received treatment for blisters, trauma, or cactus spines.

**Denial of Water in Agua Prieta:**
A group of 9 was in detention from 6pm to 8:30 am. The jail was very cold and they were not provided with food or water. Maria begged for water for her two children, ages 6 and 9, and the BP officers drank in front of them and refused to provide any water for her children or the others.

The above incidents are not extreme cases – they are representative of the most common stories we have heard throughout the two years of documenting abuse in short-term custody. In fact, a series of affidavits from long-term volunteers identifies specific patterns of abuse that they have seen consistently and over time:

“I was repeatedly told that water was provided in a single, large dirty bucket with one ladle placed in the middle of a large detention room,” – Joan Cooney, a retired New York State judge;

“I have spoken with hundreds of migrants who were separated from their family members and repatriated at different times,” – Sarah Roberts, a registered nurse from Tucson, Arizona;

“I have witnessed and/or treated dozens of injuries including sprained ankles, injured arms and hands, lacerations, severely blistered feet, sunburns, and dehydration among returned migrants who had received no medical care of any kind while in U.S. Custody,” – Joseph Shortall, a First Aid certified volunteer from Lakewood, California.

This report includes concrete recommendations for field, processing center, and repatriation conditions. Most critically this report calls for the formation of an independent, community based oversight body with the power to enforce any adopted standards. While the practices we outline in the report clearly document the routine violation of human rights in the border region, our concerns extend to the climate of fear currently gripping immigrant communities around the country. Increasing numbers encounter equally abusive and negligent treatment in regional processing centers if detained by ICE. It is critical that short-term custody and detention reform efforts be linked, in order to ensure that fundamental human rights are upheld by U.S. immigration enforcement bodies. This report also calls for policy makers to respond swiftly and substantively to the root causes of forced displacement and migration spurred by economic need.
Background

A morally intolerable situation inspired a remarkable humanitarian movement in Southern Arizona in the fall of 2003. At that point more than 2,000 men, women, and children had died trying to cross the U.S./Mexico border since 1998, driven by economic inequality and ill-conceived U.S. immigration policy. Most deaths were occurring in the desert’s brutal summer months, where the average temperature reaches 110 degrees regularly. The death toll continued to rise, in spite of the efforts of well-organized humanitarian aid groups like Humane Borders and The Samaritan Patrols. With another summer of inevitable deaths looming, diverse faith-based communities, social activist groups, and concerned individuals felt compelled to find another way to stop unnecessary suffering and to save lives. The result was the convergence of hundreds of local, regional, and national volunteers who came together to work for one common goal. No Más Muertes—No More Deaths.

In March 2004, the Multi-Faith Border Conference was held. At that conference, No More Deaths presented its principles for immigration reform and an invitation to join a campaign in the summer of 2004. Guided by the first presupposition of the immigration reform principles—that the militarized border enforcement strategy is a failed strategy—a coalition of groups determined that an around-the-clock, non-violent, physical humanitarian presence in the desert would be the single most effective response to the tragic crisis.

No More Deaths committed to provide water, food, and medical assistance to migrants traveling through the Arizona desert; to monitor U.S. operations on the border; and to bring the plight of migrants to public attention. In order to do this No More Deaths established desert camps from which to offer aid. The camps were located in remote desert areas that had become highly traveled corridors due to the implementation of the Southwest Border Strategy, and other policies that intentionally shifted traditionally urban migration flows to the isolated terrain of the Arizona-Sonora border as a component of a misguided “policy of deterrence.”

The desert camps continue to play a central role in the direct relief efforts of the group; volunteers coordinate patrols that provide food, water, and medical assistance on highly-used migrant trails while serving as public witnesses to the violence, suffering, and death that plague the borderlands. Since the first camp in the summer of 2004, thousands of volunteers have come from across the U.S. and throughout the world to participate in No More Deaths’ presence in the desert and in Northern Mexico. Volunteers agree to abide by clear medical and legal protocols and work in concert to save human lives.

1 This number has since reached 5,000 victims, as of September 2008. “Migrant Trail Arrives in Tucson to Testify About Border Experience.” Coalición de Derechos Humanos May 30, 2008http://www.derechoshumanosaz.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=101&Itemid=46
2 Faith-Based Principles for Immigration Reform, adopted on April 19, 2004. See appendix.
An equally important component to the mission of No More Deaths is the work carried out at the migrant aid stations. In 2006 No More Deaths began to collaborate with partner organizations to open aid stations in Northern Mexico at ports of entry where migrants are returned by U.S. immigration enforcement agencies. In conjunction with The Sonoran State Commission for the Care of Migrants in Nogales, Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, and Citizens for Border Solutions in Naco, No More Deaths offers relief to people who have been repatriated or deported from the U.S. by the Department of Homeland Security and its subcontractors. The aid stations provide food, water, medical attention, clothing, emotional support and orientation to other local resources.

Since its inception, the aid station in Nogales alone has served more than 250,000 people. Of those migrants, many arrive needing extended care, such as hospital treatment. The demographic on average is almost three-quarters men, and one-quarter women and children. The majority of people who pass through the aid stations have been apprehended in the desert while crossing; however, some have been taken into custody while working or at home with their families in cities and towns across the United States. Many people arrive at the aid stations with stories and visible evidence of mistreatment they have experienced while in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security.

As early as the late 1980s, human rights organizations had begun to document the abuses committed by Border Patrol agents against migrants in their custody. The American Friends Service Committee’s Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project documented over 1200 instances of abuse from May 1989 to May 1991. The report accused Border Patrol agents of sexual, verbal, and physical abuse, false arrests, and illegal deportations. In May of 1998, Amnesty International released a report documenting the routine deprivation of water, food, and medical attention, theft, verbal, psychological, and physical abuse and the use of excessive force by the Border Patrol. Since that time, Americas Watch (now Human Rights Watch-America), the National Lawyers Guild, Mexico’s National Commission of Human Rights, and the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, amongst other groups, have documented the ongoing patterns of abuse of migrants by DHS agents.

Highlighted in this report are the daily violations of human and civil rights that continue to occur during apprehension, processing and repatriation in short-term custody. These practices regularly violate domestic and international law, as well as guidelines, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), and recommendations issued by the agency itself. The testimonies of the report reveal a systematic refusal to respect the dignity of human beings and a failure to uphold human rights as well as international law.

7 American Friends Service Committee - United States-Mexico Border Program. Records, MSS 0644. Mandeville Special Collections Library, UCSD.
Methodology of Documentation

For the past two years, volunteers from No More Deaths and partner organizations have documented human rights abuses occurring in short-term Border Patrol custody along the Arizona-México border. Volunteers have been stationed on an ongoing basis since June 2006 at sites at the Agua Prieta, Naco, and Nogales ports of entry, dedicated to receiving repatriated migrants. While providing basic care addressing the various physical and medical needs of migrants, volunteers began to hear stories about and see evidence of the harrowing, difficult journeys that so many undertake. Systematic methods of documentation have been established to record the lived experiences of migrants in U.S. custody.

Volunteers first take a report each time a DHS or Wackenhut bus returns a group of migrants to one of these three ports of entry on the Arizona-México border; this documentation is general, and includes rough estimates about the size of the group, the time of arrival, and the location of drop-off. Volunteers then assess the number of exceptionally vulnerable people in the group: women, children, and those in need of medical attention.

Medical assessments are taken, beginning with those displaying obvious medical distress. All medical needs are always addressed first, along with other basic necessities such as food and clothing. Volunteers do this work with great care, paying attention to the strain an individual might feel of having gone through an incredibly difficult emotional and physical experience. Only after all other needs have been addressed is the survey discussed with individuals. It is made clear that they do not have to participate and that receiving additional services is not contingent on them participating. For individuals that give their consent, a survey is conducted.
All the volunteers administering the surveys have been trained extensively and are fluent in Spanish. No information given is shared with others on site, and personal information is only included in an optional question at the end of the survey. For confidentiality, all last names and other identifying information contained in the original documentation have been omitted in this report. Volunteers discuss with the person interviewed the possibility of their testimony being used in a publicly distributed report and address any concern expressed with their information being included. Both closed and open-ended questions are asked, allowing for people to share personal testimonies and experiences. These testimonies can be viewed in their entirety in the appendix of this report. Information collected is then transferred into a site-specific spreadsheet and entered into a secure online database. Finally, the data is classified by category of violation, project site, and date.

After compiling almost two years of documentation, review and categorization of the patterns of abuse found regularly in our surveys began. Twelve “Areas of Concern” were identified and are featured in the findings. Using these areas of concern as the foundation, recommendations have been established for custody standards directly responding to each point. The documentation provided in this report, with the evidence to support it, is intended to be a catalyst for changing policies and how law enforcement treats migrants.

It is important to emphasize that this report is not the result of statistical analysis. Rather, the nature of this report is qualitative. The aim is to shed light on and publicize the systematic human rights abuses that thousands suffer at the hands of U.S. immigration law enforcement agents, using testimonies of the individuals who have experienced these abuses first hand.
Report Findings

The human rights violations identified in this report occur at all three stages of short-term custody: in the field during apprehension, in the processing centers, and during the repatriation process. It is the experience of No More Deaths volunteers that migrants suffer this mistreatment on a daily basis. The question is not if these practices are intended outcomes of Department of Homeland Security policy. The dearth of enforceable custody standards and the lack of mechanisms for holding Border Patrol agents who commit abuses to account are directly to blame. Culpability lies with an internal agency culture that accepts and tolerates abuse, as well as with the highest levels of DHS administration.

Presented here are the twelve categories of abuse that constitute the heart of this report, along with a series of cases that illustrate each category of mistreatment. The appendix contains complete documentation of the human rights violations, organized by abuse type and cross-referenced when cases include multiple categories of violation.
Failure to Respect the Basic Dignity of Migrants

Repatriation of migrants without their clothes or shoes—Migrants being denied the right to sleep while in custody—The forced holding of strenuous positions for no apparent reason, other than to humiliate

“You’re a piece of shit.”

3. Alfonso, 27, and Jorge, 34, witnessed an agent kick one man’s legs apart so roughly that his pants ripped. When a woman said, “How can you treat us like that, we’re not from the streets,” an agent said, “You’re a piece of shit.” Another agent told them, “The next time you run we’ll kick your butts and leave you here in the desert.” The agents threw away all of their food and gave their fruit to Border Patrol horses.

Sexually Harassed by Agents

5. Manuel and Liliana, from Oaxaca, reported sexual abuse by the Border Patrol. Border Patrol agents splashed perfume on both of them and grabbed Manuel’s genitals. When Manuel and Liliana asked for water to drink, the agents then threw them water mixed with mud.

Forced to Run in Place

8. A group of 15 was forced to run in place for 30 minutes by Border Patrol agents who told them that they were making them do so to ensure that they would not want to come back. They kicked anyone who stopped, including a 14-year-old boy, a 16-year-old boy, and three women.

Made to Roll in Mud

10. Herman’s group was beaten and verbally abused by the Border Patrol, who called them “pendejos” (assholes), “mala gente” (trash), and “mojados” (wetbacks). They were also forced to lie face down in the mud while the agents did paperwork and talked to each other; the agents continued to randomly strike people, telling them that they were making them muddy to make it easier to find them if they tried to come back. Herman’s group was detained overnight and all were covered in mud when they arrived at the migrant center.

“There is a lack of compassion and concern about the welfare of migrants who have been in the custody of the United States Border Patrol.”

- Ian Eastman
Failure to Provide and the Denial of Water in the Field and Processing Centers

- Jimmy Wells

“Many migrants have told me that US Border Patrol agents would drink water and other liquids in front of them taunting them with it but not offering them a drink… knowing they were dehydrated.”

- Jimmy Wells

Inadequate amounts of potable water available—Unsanitary distribution methods—Denial of water when requested, even by vulnerable populations—Refusal to provide water in spite of evidence of kidney damage and other serious ailments

One Liter for Eight People

15. A male, age 25, from Chiapas, Mexico, reported that he and his group were only given one liter of water to share between 8 people. He also had severe blisters on his feet, and was sworn at and kicked in the chest by a Border Patrol agent.

Pregnant Woman Denied

16. Alejandra, a woman who was four months pregnant, reported being denied food and water while in Border Patrol custody. She also had four blisters and athlete’s foot.

No Water for Children

20. 34 men and two children were repatriated after being in custody for 24 hours. They were given no food or water.

No Water Received

30. One male, age unknown, was in custody for eight hours and offered no food, water, or medical care before being repatriated at 9 pm. He witnessed the beating of two other migrants by Border Patrol agents while in the processing center.
Failure to Provide and the Denial of Food in the Field and Processing Centers

Agents throw away migrants’ food, or feed it to their horses in front of them—Requests for sufficient amounts of food dismissed in processing centers—Children and pregnant women consistently denied access to adequate nutrition—Systematic denial of food exacerbates the implications of dehydration, rhabdomyolysis (kidney failure), and other serious ailments common among migrants

Families Go Hungry
36. Five mothers with five young children were apprehended by the Border Patrol as they crossed the desert. They were not given food or water in the desert, on the bus, or in the processing center. Additionally, they were not examined for medical needs despite having spent three days in the desert and having young children with them.
59. Corbita reported that Border Patrol denied her and her daughters, Gaby and Juana, of food while they were in custody from 10 am until 8 am on the following day.
89. A group of 32 migrants including six women and two children were repatriated together. The group included a family of four from Georgia that had spent an entire night in Border Patrol custody and were not given food.

10-Year-Old Deprived
45. A female, age 10, was not given sufficient food or water during the seven hours she spent in a processing center.

Pregnant Women Denied Food
46. A female, age 24, who was also five months pregnant, was denied food by Border Patrol agents, despite her specific requests. When she was repatriated, she reported feeling faint and dizzy.
50. Two pregnant women, ages 22 and 16, were denied food and sufficient water while in custody. They reported verbal abuse by a Border Patrol agent.

78 Hours Without a Meal
47. A male, age 29, was detained for over 78 hours without receiving any food or water.

Food Given, Then Taken Away
78. Eighteen men, fourteen women and three young boys reported that they had been given food, but it was then taken away from them and thrown away.

“I never met anyone who told me they received sufficient food while in Border Patrol custody.”

- Deb Bergman
Failure to Provide Medical Treatment and Access to Medical Professionals

Medications for pre-existing conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes confiscated and not returned—Open wounds, broken bones, and heat stroke go untreated before repatriation—Blisters that cover entire soles of feet and have become infected, requiring amputation due to lack of care—Migrants repatriated from hospital emergency rooms wearing hospital gowns and with unfilled prescriptions.

Pregnant Woman Falls, Goes Untreated
103. A pregnant female, age 18, was experiencing pregnancy complications and stomach pain after falling. She had received no care while in Border Patrol custody.

Bounding Pulse Signals Severe Dehydration
106. Three males were given insufficient food and inadequate medical care. One of the males had a painful, dislocated knee, blisters on his feet, a red rash, and an unusually strong and bounding pulse—a sign of serious dehydration.

Blood Pressure Medication Confiscated
107. A male, age 50, reported being ill while in Border Patrol custody for nearly ten hours. Agents confiscated his blood pressure medication and did not return it, even upon repatriation. He was also denied sufficient food and water while in custody.

Fingers Amputated
122. A man, age 21, was repatriated with a serious injury to his hand that cut down to the bone; skin and muscle had been lost. He was told at the health center in Naco, Mexico, that it may have been too late to save his fingers, though if proper medical treatment had been given during the eight hours he spent in custody, the fingers could have been saved.

Repatriated with Cactus Spine Lodged in Eye
123. A man, age 28, was repatriated with a cactus spine in his eye, causing it to bleed. He had been in custody without receiving any treatment for the eye injury. No food and insufficient water were provided.

Migrant Repatriated Delirious, Unable to Walk
129. Mario, age 20, was repatriated with no concern paid to the fact that he was extremely weak and barely able to walk. Upon arrival at the No More Deaths aid station in Nogales, Mario was dizzy, agitated, and delirious, unable to name the country he was in. En route to a Nogales, Sonora hospital, his eyes began to roll back into his head. Prior to being taken into Border Patrol custody, Mario had gone 10 to 15 days without food in the desert.

Coughing Up Blood
141. Lorenzo was repatriated with severe lung problems and blood in his saliva. He arrived at the aid station complaining about pain in both sides of his chest, in his lungs. It hurt when he spoke and the pain reached all the way to his back. He was coughing up blood. He had received no medical treatment while in custody, and was immediately transported to a hospital.

“I have treated hundreds of injuries among returned migrants who had received no medical care of any kind while in US custody.”

- Jim Walsh
Inhumane Processing Center Conditions

Holding cells kept at extreme temperatures—Denial of blankets, or distribution of filthy blankets riddled with cactus spines—Migrants forced to sleep on overcrowded floors of cells.

Denial of Access to Bathrooms
155. Ninety-five men, twenty-eight women, and four children, ages four to eleven, were reportedly held in Border Patrol custody for four hours after being in the desert for up to three days. Border Patrol agents did not let women go to the bathroom. One man saw an agent choke a twenty-year old male on the bus but could not see the name on the agent’s badge.

Hands Held Behind Heads
156. A man, age 20, reported that he and other people in custody were forced to stand for a long time with their hands behind their heads for no reason.

Rain Soaked in Custody
158. Gabriel, age 42 from Veracruz, reported being denied treatment for potentially cancerous ulcers while in Border Patrol custody. When he was put into custody, he was soaked from the rain and did not receive a towel or dry clothes. He was not allowed to see a doctor, was given no medicine, and just a few crackers. Gabriel said he was dying and felt very sick. Gabriel had walked for a night and a day, trying to get to Kentucky; he had been told by his doctors in Mexico that he had only a short time to live due to his ulcers, and he had come to earn money for his treatment.

Woman Suffers Sexual Harassment in Processing Center
159. Imeldo, age 21, was sexually harassed while in Border Patrol custody. After five days walking in the desert, she was held for two days by the Border Patrol; during this time, a man dressed in civilian clothing asked her to lift her blouse. She was also forced to lie on the floor of her cell.

Mother Refused Blanket for Baby
160. Angelica, age 28, was mistreated while in Border Patrol custody. She and her baby daughter did not receive anything to eat during the 12 hours they were in custody, and Angelica did not receive a blanket.

“[In Border Patrol Processing Centers] I witnessed detainees wearing only t-shirts, with their arms inside their sleeves, and sitting huddled together.”

- Aaron Boeke
Verbal Abuse

Migrants abused by agents using derogatory racial and sexual epithets—Yelling and Screaming for no apparent reason, both in the field and in processing centers—Often accompanied by physical abuse and threats of violence

“Pendejos”
165. Seven women and a twelve year old boy were in custody for fifteen hours; during this time they were only given juice and crackers in spite of their requests for food. The agents said there was no more food, but that they would “go outside and kill a dog and make a hamburger for [them].” They were also called “pendejos” (assholes) by an agent. Additionally, severe blisters and an infected knee of the women received no medical attention.

Vulgar Response to Food Request
177. 34 men, one woman, and two youth, both age 17, reported being held for about 8 hours and only receiving a little cup of water and crackers. When they asked for food, they were told, “We're not a FUCKING restaurant!” Several had severe blisters and cramps.

Migrants Threatened with Longer Custody
183. Alberto and Juan reported that a Border Patrol Agent named J. Gutierrez verbally abused two migrants, threatened to hit Juan when he was in pain, called them “pinche madres” and “trash”, and threatened to keep them longer in the processing center. Later, the migrants were given crackers in their cells. The same agent entered the cell and insulted them in the same way, swearing at them for not throwing away the wrappers despite the lack of a trash can. He said they would stay until they cleaned it up, so they all put it in their pockets.

“You're in my country”
184. Jonathan, age 14, reported being grabbed by his neck and threatened by a Border Patrol agent. The agent said, “Me vale verga que seas menor de edad. Que si seguier con ese comportamiento lo iba arreglar allá atrás. Estás en mi pais,” (“I don’t give a shit that you are a minor. If you continue with this behavior we’ll fix that out back. You’re in my country.”) The Border Patrol agent grabbed his neck from behind with one hand and used the other to inspect his body. Jonathan, who is about five feet tall and very thin, was traveling with his aunt Angelica, who witnessed this abuse.

Agent Delivers Blow with Shovel
194. Saul reported that Border Patrol agents referred to him as “motherfucker,” “fat ass,” and said, “If you move we’ll shoot you.” Three other migrants tried to run when they were found; one was chased, caught, and kicked to the ground, while another’s face was rubbed in the sand after apprehension. Saul reported that as agents chased the men, they were yelling that they were going to “kick their ass[es].” Another agent had a shovel with which he hit one of the men in the right eyebrow. This migrant’s eye area became very swollen, and he was examined at the processing center. It is unclear what type of treatment, if any, he received, because he returned looking the same.

“In a routine manner, migrants are verbally abused and called names including “pendejo”, “puta” and “chingado.”

- Sally Meisenhelder
Physical Abuse

Common abuses include agents shoving migrants into cacti, agents striking migrants, the use of chokeholds, sexual assault and the use of standing and sitting positions that are painful—Used as a tool to instill fear in the victims and those who witness the abuse—So pervasive that migrants encountered by humanitarian aid workers have been reluctant to have an ambulance called due to a fear of being beaten

Shackled and Isolated
196. Upon asking for food, Oscar was shackled by his hands and feet and placed in a tiny cell without food until they took him out to get information from him.

Woman Sexually Assaulted, Witnesses Dog Attack
200. A young woman, age 17, reported being touched inappropriately while in Border Patrol custody. She was searched by male agents who touched her chest and thighs and reached into her pockets. She was additionally given insufficient water and food and separated from her family at the processing center. Border Patrol agents found them after they had been walking for a week. They were told that if they ran, the agents would order Border Patrol dogs to attack them. The woman witnessed a dog attack a young boy.

Beaten with Batons
207. Two men, age 25 and 28, reported being chased by agents on horseback. They were hit forcefully with batons on the tops of their heads and faces and were red and bloody when they were taken to the processing center. They did not receive any medical attention.

Bloody Urine
217. Paulino, age 29, from Cancún, Mexico, reported being kicked in the stomach two days prior while alone in the custody of three Border Patrol agents. They told him that they did not speak Spanish and denied him medical attention. When Paulino arrived at the No More Deaths aid station, he was crying and reported feeling strong pain. He had swelling in the genital area and blood in his urine and could barely walk, indicating abdominal or testicular injury. The Mexican Red Cross strongly advised surgery, but Paulino had lost his backpack and did not know how he would pay for the bus fare home, let alone the necessary procedure.

Forced to Walk Barefoot
221. Belen, age 22, from Veracruz, Mexico, reported being held at gunpoint by a Border Patrol agent and told to exit a car. The agent made Belen and the others walk barefoot to a Border Patrol truck and confiscated their shoes. The agent called Belen’s brother “asshole” and “son-of-a-bitch.”

“I have met individuals with black eyes, bruises, lacerations that they reported were inflicted by US law enforcement officials.”

- Jim Walsh
“When a group asked to have the vehicle’s air conditioning turned off, the heat was turned all the way up. They begged the agents to turn off the heat but were ignored. Fearing suffocation, they tried to block the vent with their clothes while the agents laughed.”

- Sally Meisenhelder

Dangerous Transportation Practices

Lack of seat belts in Border Patrol and Wackenhut vehicles—Agents that drive at high speeds over rough terrain—Hazardous overcrowding—Vehicles kept at extreme temperatures

Nosebleeds from Excessive Heating

251. Juan, age 24, from Mexico City, Mexico, reported that Border Patrol agents turned on the heat in their van so that the high temperature caused Juan and others to get nosebleeds. There were 11 people packed into the back of the van. They could not breathe and were bathed in sweat. The Border Patrol agents did not give them any medical attention.

Excessive Air Conditioning

252. Twenty-eight men, sixteen women, and five children were held for 24 hours and given water but no food. Border Patrol agents were rude to them and while on the bus the air conditioning was on full blast. When the migrants asked that it be turned down, the agents yelled at them to “shut up.”

High Speed Driving

253. A group of migrants, including 15 men, four women, and one child, reported being “treated like animals” by Border Patrol agents. They reported having things thrown at them and being pushed and yelled at. They also reported that the agents drove dangerously fast, causing their heads to hit the sides of the transportation vehicle. They reported not being given food during their detention either.

High Temperature Vehicles

254. A group of 31 men and four women were repatriated to the Nogales port of entry. They reported spending several hours in Border Patrol custody, where they did not receive food or water. They also reported being forced to spend hours in a 108 degree Border Patrol vehicle without air-conditioning. Four had untreated blisters.
Separation of Family Members

Migrants denied information about the whereabouts of their relatives—Families held in custody separately—Repatriated at different times to different ports of entry, making it nearly impossible to reunite—The Border Patrol lateral repatriation strategy exacerbates these concerns by repatriating migrants to ports of entry other than the closest one to which they crossed.

Brothers Separated
259. Luis Fernando, age 24, was chased, along with his brother, by Border Patrol agents. When they dropped to the ground to turn themselves in, a Border Patrol agent grabbed his brother’s head and slammed it into the ground three times, put his foot on his brother’s head, and said “fuck you” several times. While handcuffed and walking to the Border Patrol vehicle, Luis fell—this did not elicit any concern from the agents. Luis and his brother were separated while in custody. He was told that his brother was repatriated first, but did not know to where.

Uncle and Nephew Separated
261. Twelve men and two women were repatriated; after five days of walking they were held for 24 hours and given only water and crackers. The 17 year old nephew of one man was separated from him; one woman was two months pregnant, nauseated and alone with two children; her husband had been killed in the desert previously.

Released Several Hours After Family Members
262. Jacobo was held by the Border Patrol for 36 hours before being repatriated in the middle of the night. He was not given ‘real’ food, only crackers, and provided no medical care; he also was not released with the rest of his family members, who were only detained for 10 or 12 hours. He also reported that Border Patrol agents “usan nombres malas” [use bad names] when referring to migrants.

Underage Siblings Laterally Repatriated
263. Efrain was stopped by the Border Patrol with his sister, Rosa, age 16. In custody, they were separated, even though Efrain and Rosa insisted that they were family. After being in custody for almost two days Efrain was repatriated but denied any information about the whereabouts of his sister. It is unclear if she was taken to Nogales, remained in custody, was selected for prosecution, or was put in the care of the Consulate. It is likely they were repatriated through different ports of entry, as Efrain reported traveling a long distance before being repatriated.

Denied Information about Cousin
264. Arturo was separated from his cousin, Jesus, with whom he traveled. The agents did not permit him to get near his cousin nor to find out any information about his location.

“The only option to locate family members was to wait at the port [of entry] for hours or days.”

- Kathryn Babcock
Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night

Repatriation of women and children after dark, in violation of previous Memoranda of Understanding signed by the U.S. and Mexican governments—Migrants repatriated in the middle of the night to unfamiliar cities after shelters and other services are unavailable—Any one already denied food, water, and medical attention is at high risk for being a victim of crime or violence

4:30 am
269. Maria, four other women and two children were repatriated after 6 hours in Border Patrol custody. They were denied access to food, water, or medical care before being repatriated at 4:30 am.

Midnight Repatriation
272. Four men and five women were repatriated in the middle of the night; after four days in the desert, they received only water and freeze-dried beef food packets and they arrived at the aid station with untreated blisters.

Children Returned in the Middle of the Night
275. Seven men, five women and two young boys, were repatriated in the middle of the night.

Women Repatriated After Dark
305. Four women were repatriated to Nogales in spite of the increased dangers to women, children, and vulnerable populations at night.

Mother and 6-month-old Put On the Street
309. Maria and Jesus were repatriated at 12:30 am, along with another woman traveling alone with her 6-month-old baby. She had requested food and a blanket for the child from the Border Patrol; in spite of the fact that the child was visibly shivering, the agents did not respond.

“I observed many vulnerable individuals such as women and young people left... by United States officials late at night.”

- Beth Eastman
Failure to Return Personal Belongings

Common belongings unreturned include clothing, money, contact information, and identification—Identification documents are necessary for migrants to receive social services, to buy bus tickets or to work, and to avoid being detained in their country of origin—Confiscation of personal belongings often means people lose the few mementos of home brought with them on their journey.

Migrant’s Possessions Confiscated
313. A male, age 27, reported that a Border Patrol agent grabbed the Holy medal around his neck, acting like he was going to strangle him. The agent also took all of his possessions except the clothes the migrant was wearing and did not return them. He also was not provided with food or sufficient water.

Teenage Girl’s Backpack Taken
319. A girl, age 14, reported being denied sufficient food and water and witnessed physical abuse by Border Patrol. The Border Patrol confiscated her backpack and left her without a coat to wear. She reported that Border Patrol gave her only water, juice and crackers while she was in custody for a long time. She saw Border Patrol agents hitting people in custody.

Migrant Loses Driver’s License
321. Pastor, age 41, reported that Border Patrol agents confiscated his Mexican identification documents, including his driver’s license, without returning them. They also took his hat, glasses, clothing, and tennis shoes and failed to return them.

Group’s Identification Thrown Away
335. Fifty men reported that the Border Patrol took and threw out their identification documents.
338. Fifteen men, twelve women, and three children, ages one, four and fourteen, were repatriated after being kept for 24 hours in the processing center. Agents took away their ID documents and did not return them upon repatriation.

“No numerous cases are reported to me of migrants who have not had their personal belongings returned to them: identification, important paperwork, medication.”

-Maryada Vallet
“In the course of interviews with returned migrants, not one has told me that their legal rights have been explained to them... [and] that all of them have signed documents... in English, when very few of them speak or read English.”

- Sally Meisenholder

Failure to Inform Migrants of their Rights

- Forms not provided in a language migrants can read—Coercion into signing forms under the threat of further criminal penalty—The failure to inform migrants of their rights to legal counsel and to their Consulate

- Consulate Not Informed About Minor in Custody
342. A group of twelve people—three women and nine men—reported being detained for five hours without receiving any food. One of the young men was a minor, and should have been transferred to the care of the Mexican Consulate. Instead, he was repatriated as an adult.

- Unaware of Right to Legal Counsel
343. A 19-year-old male reported being kept in a processing center that was extremely cold. Additionally, he did not understand his right to see a lawyer and was not given sufficient food or water.

- Agents Refuse to Explain Implications of Document Being Signed
344. A group of three men and nine women were repatriated after being in Border Patrol custody for 16 hours. The agents had thrown away their backpacks and yelled at them; when they told one man to get up and he didn’t, a Border Patrol agent kicked him in the eye with his boot. Two women had untreated blisters and another was forced to sign a document in English that she did not understand. When she asked, the agents refused to tell her what she was signing.

- Man Forced to Sign Document Written in English
345. A male, age 21, reported being denied water in spite of his repeated requests. He was also forced to sign papers he did not understand as they were not provided in Spanish, and his belongings were taken and not returned.
In light of the widespread human rights violations that No More Deaths and partner organization volunteers have documented, and in consultation with medical professionals and others with extensive experience providing care to repatriated migrants, the following recommendations for short-term custody standards have been developed. Outlined below are acceptable minimum standards of care, largely organized to correlate directly to the areas of abuse previously mentioned in the report. They are followed by a specific set of recommendations relating to standards of medical care that ought to be available to migrants at all times in the field and in processing centers.

The standards have been designed to be sufficiently concrete to allow for timely implementation; however, they are presented here with the understanding that room remains for them to be updated if and when the needs of migrants change.

Access to Water

- Agents should always have water available in the field. Every migrant who is apprehended should be given an individual bottle of water without having to request it. Electrolytes should be available for any migrant who needs them.
- If migrants are unable to drink, or vomit upon drinking, this is a sign of severe physical distress and a potentially dangerous stage of dehydration. In this case, medical professionals should be called and migrants should be evacuated immediately from the field to a medical facility.
- In the processing centers, migrants must always have unlimited access to water. Every migrant should be able to help himself or herself to water as desired.
- Every migrant should have his or her own cup so as not to be exposed to potential disease. This could be achieved by having water coolers and cup dispensers in each cell or by distributing individual bottles.

Access to Food

- Agents in the field should be provided with basic snack mixes that they should provide to all migrants they encounter, many of whom may not have eaten for days. A simple mix of dried fruit and nuts would provide the appropriate combination of salts, proteins, and sugars.
- As migrants are being processed in the centers, each migrant should be provided with a food pack.
- Meals should be given regularly, to allow for migrants to recuperate. Mechanisms should be in place to ensure that any migrant gets at least one meal while in the processing center, and subsequent meals at set intervals of eight hours. Children and pregnant women should be given additional access to food.
- Meals should be nutritious and simple. A recommended meal would be soup, a ham-and-cheese or turkey-and-cheese sandwich, a banana or apple, and milk. Hot drinks as should be available.
Processing Center Conditions
- Upon admission, migrants should be informed of their rights in a language they understand, including the right to petition for asylum, to see a judge or attorney, and their right to consular notification.
- Migrants should be able to make telephone calls to legal counsel and to their Consulate.
- Upon admission, migrants should be provided with two clean blankets each. Cells should provide adequate space and facilities for sleeping.
- Migrants should have (and be told) they have access to toilet facilities upon request.
- Migrants should have access to basic toiletries, including soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. Diapers and sanitary products should be immediately available upon request. Migrants should be informed that they have this access.
- A female officer should always be present when women or children are in custody at the processing center.

Access to Medical Treatment
- Migrants should be assessed and provided medical care in the field and at the processing centers as detailed below.
- Migrants who receive medical care while in custody should receive full treatment for their conditions (i.e., broken bones should be set; open wounds that need stitches should be stitched) and any prescriptions should be filled prior to their repatriation. All open wounds, including puncture wounds and blisters, should be cleaned and attended to prior to repatriation and as soon as is feasible once the migrant is in custody.

Safe Transportation
- Temperatures in vehicles should be kept in a consistent range in which migrants will be comfortable.
- Transportation should always be at a safe speed that takes into account road and weather conditions.
- Migrants should not be crowded into vehicles. In vehicles with seatbelts, there should be a seatbelt for every migrant.

Humane Repatriation & Deportation Practices
- All removals from the U.S. should take place during daylight hours.
- Family members should be kept together and should be returned together.
- All property must be returned to migrants, including their paperwork, identification, medications, and money.
- All migrants should be fully clothed when deported. This includes the return of any belts, shoelaces, or other items taken from them. Migrants who do not have clothes when they are arrested must be provided with them, including socks and shoes. Migrants wearing wet or otherwise inappropriate clothing should receive new clothing.
- If migrants are asked to sign any paperwork prior to voluntary repatriation, the content must be fully and accurately explained to them, along with the options they may have. Complete copies of the paperwork, in a language that they understand, be provided to the migrant.
- To facilitate family reunification, DHS must provide all appropriate consulates with a complete list of all repatriated and deported individuals on a daily basis, including the port of entry and time of removal.

Independent Oversight
- A Community Oversight Committee must be established to ensure compliance. This committee, including members who are medical and legal professionals in addition to individuals who work in the area of human and migrant rights, must have access to SPCs and Border Patrol/DHS facilities.
Additional Recommendations Regarding Access to Medical Treatment

In the field, before transportation to a processing center, an agent with at least First Aid certification will:

1. Assess for signs and symptoms of dehydration and heat illness:
   - disorientation
   - nausea and/or vomiting
   - muscle cramps
   - diarrhea or consumption of contaminated water
   - dizziness
   - paleness; cool, clammy skin
   - shortness of breath
2. Assess for any injury to extremities:
   - inability to bear weight without severe pain.
   - a limb that is swollen and red
   - any open, oozing wound
3. Ask if any woman is pregnant; she will be at much higher risk.
4. Assess if there are any children or people over 50 years old that will be at higher risk.
5. Ask if there is any person with an underlying condition such as diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease.

If any of the above is present in the field, an ambulance will be called so a licensed medical provider can conduct a full assessment. Complete information as to the destination and whereabouts of anyone evacuated by ambulance will be provided to family members traveling with that person and to the relevant authorities from the appropriate country.

At every processing center,

1. A licensed medical provider will be on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They will ask all persons who are to be processed how they are feeling and if they are in need of medical care, as they enter.
2. All persons will be assessed by the licensed medical provider, as they enter the center, for signs/symptoms of dehydration and heat illness (this includes nausea and vomiting and other above stated symptoms); injuries to extremities; allergic reactions, rashes, spines/puncture wounds that lead to infection; open wounds; pregnancy; age; and underlying conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. Persons on medications and with their medications will be allowed to take their medications on schedule.
3. Persons discharged from a medical facility will have their prescriptions filled immediately so they can stay on their medication and will have follow-up while at the center with a licensed medical provider.
Conclusion

The guidelines outlined in this report regard the most basic needs of human beings, and in no way should be considered the pinnacle of human rights protection. Ongoing work must be done to strive for the dignity and justice that constitute the inherent rights of all people. The U.S. government’s failure to uphold these fundamental human rights in their routine practices is disgraceful and completely out of step with international standards.

The border will never be secure while human rights are being trod upon. Border Patrol agents, federal law enforcement officers and the agencies that employ them need to be held accountable for their actions.

While the practices documented in the report clearly reveal the routine violation of human rights in the border region, our concerns extend to the climate of fear currently gripping immigrant communities around the United States. Increasing numbers of migrants encounter equally abusive and negligent treatment in regional processing centers and in ICE enforcement practices. It is critical that short-term custody and detention reform efforts be linked, in order to ensure that fundamental human rights are upheld by all U.S. immigration enforcement bodies.

This report also calls for policy makers to respond swiftly and substantively to the fundamental causes of forced displacement and migration spurred by economic need. Without addressing the economic and social roots of migration, policies based on the strategy of deterrence do not ‘deter’ anyone but rather serve to compound the distressing climate of death and suffering in the borderlands.

“I observed several steady patterns of human and civil rights abuses perpetrated by the US Border Patrol.”

- Deb Bergman
Failure to Respect Basic Dignity

Two men in their early 20s arrived at the aid station without shoes, and told us to expect more from their group, none of whom had shoes. They were part of a large group that was not wearing shoes when the truck in which they were traveling was stopped by the Border Patrol. They were taken into custody and when they asked for their shoes, which had been in the truck, the agent said there were none. They remained without shoes during their time in Border Patrol custody.

A resident of the United States was not allowed reentry to the country after spending several months in Mexico for brain surgery in January. She attempted to return to the U.S. in late January or early February, but was not allowed in as the immigration officer accused her of possessing a stolen identification and green card. (The immigration officer retained the green card.) The woman spent several months with family in Mexico, and crossed the border in June, at which point she was picked up by the Border Patrol in Douglas and subsequently detained for ninety days.

Alfonso, 27, and Jorge, 34, both from Oaxaca, were physically and verbally abused by the Border Patrol. Agents kicked one man’s legs apart so roughly that his pants ripped, and both Alfonso and Jorge were pushed. When a woman said, “How can you treat us like that, we’re not from the streets,” an agent said, “You’re a piece of shit.” The men were told by an agent they described as “Chicano” that “The next time you run we’ll kick your butts and leave you here in the desert.” The agents threw away all of their food and gave their fruit to Border Patrol horses. Both men expressed anger when they started to talk about the incidences.

Valentina, 20, from Zacatecas, was physically abused and denied water while in Border Patrol custody. She was spotted by agents on helicopter and dirt bike; they screamed at her but she did not understand them, and they then dragged her into their van. When Valentina asked for water, Border Patrol officials threw a bottle of mud mixed with water at her; they also took all her belongings. Border Patrol confiscated all of her luggage. She did receive beans to eat. Before being apprehended, Valentina crossed through Altar alone and had already walked for 15 hours, in the hopes of reuniting with her child in California.

Manuel and Liliana, from Oaxaca, reported sexual abuse by the Border Patrol. Border Patrol agents splashed perfume on both of them and grabbed Manuel’s genitals. When Manuel and Liliana asked for water to drink, the agents then threw them water mixed with mud. They had crossed through Altar and were headed for New Jersey to look for work.

After walking for two days a group of 13 men were detained for 15–24 hours. The dried beans they were given to eat at the processing center made one man throw up and none of their shoelaces were returned.

7. Agua Prieta: 8/14/2006, 8:30 pm.
Marta and Cristobal were repatriated after two hours in Border Patrol custody. After being detained for two hours, one woman and a man were repatriated. They had crossed through the fence and were taken to an apartment in Douglas. The next day someone brought them lunch, and around 5 pm a woman and man came to the door. The man had a rough voice and was in a green Border Patrol uniform; he was knocking on the doors and windows and saying “open the door or I’ll call the police”. He opened the door by reaching through a window and entered the house with two other men. One of them was carrying a rifle on his shoulder. The day before they had also attempted to cross at the fence and Border Patrol agents shot at them twice, yelling “Come here bitch” in English several times. So today, when the man entered with the rifle they thought they might be shot.
The agent took them out to the street to do paperwork and said by signing documents they would be voluntarily returning to Mexico. The man with the rifle told one agent to tend to Marta and he would tend to Cristobal. Cristobal tried to read what he was going to sign and the man with the rifle told him to hurry up and sign it, and if he didn’t the agent would sign the form himself. He also said that if he didn’t sign it he would bring criminal charges against him. When they were being brought from the processing center to the migrant center, they told Marta to “get your ass in the truck”. The man with the rifle didn’t have a name tag and they didn’t notice the badge number.

8. Agua Prieta.
A group of 15 people was forced to run in place for 30 min-
utes by Border Patrol agents who told them that they were making them do so to ensure that they would not want to come back. They kicked anyone who stopped, including a 14 year old boy, a 16 year old boy, and three women. A Chevrolet Tahoe and Ford truck were at the scene, as was a red horse. One of the agents had a red beard, was tall (1.7 meters), and wore dark glasses.

A Border Patrol agent described as “Chicano” took Jaziel’s backpack and threw it to his dog, who ripped it apart. He was then detained for eight hours with no water or food.

10. Agua Prieta.
Herman’s group was walking through cold, wet washes when Border Patrol arrived. The group tried to hide in an arroyo, but when they were found the Border Patrol agents started kicking them. Herman tried to cover his face, and the agent grabbed him by the back of his clothes, lifted him up and kicked him some more. After beating the whole group, the BP transported them out and continued to harass them verbally, calling them “pendejos” [assholes], “mala gente”[bad people], and “mojados”[wetbacks]. They were also forced to lie face down in the mud while the agents did paperwork and talked to each other; the agents continued to randomly strike people, telling them that they were making them muddy to make it easier to find them if they tried to come back. Herman’s group was detained overnight and all were covered in mud when they arrived at the migrant center.

11. Agua Prieta.
While at the Border Patrol processing center, Manuel witnessed another young man ask for food. The agent became angry; he shackled him by the hands and feet and made him lie face down; he kicked the young man, saying “this should take away your hunger!” After that Manuel saw two agents carry the other man into a cell where he was alone.

A 28-year-old woman reported extreme humiliation at the hands of officers in the desert. They forced her and others to take off their shoes and walk for half an hour in their socks and to lie face-down in the dirt for an hour. The agents, who said that they were “like animals”, verbally abused the group. The migrants had to watch as their food was fed to the agents’ horses. They were held in the processing center for three days, and received a total of five packets of crackers and one gallon of water to be shared among seven people. The woman was denied medical care in spite of nausea and stomach pain. The migrants’ sweaters were confiscated despite the extremely cold temperatures of the processing center and they were given dirty blankets covered in cactus spines.

A female, age 38, reported that one gallon of water was given to seven women to share for three days.

Three men from Hermosillo, Mexico, reported being denied water while in Border Patrol custody. When the three men asked for water, agents told them to quit bothering them and refused to give them water. The men had spent six days in the desert prior to being in custody.

15. 8/14/2006, 4:20 PM.
A male, age 25, from Chiapas, Mexico, reported physical and verbal abuse by Border Patrol agents. The agents swore at them and called them names. The man was kicked in the chest by an agent. He and his group were only given one liter of water to share between 8 people. He also had severe blisters on his feet.

16. 8/17/2006, 5:00 pm.
Alejandra, a woman who was four months pregnant, reported being denied food and water while in Border Patrol custody. She also had four blisters and athlete’s foot.

17. 8/3/2006, 9:45 AM.
Forty men and five women were held for 24 hours and repatriated; they were given one cup of water and one package of crackers each after walking for two days in the desert. A group of people in trucks attacked them, kicking them and hitting them with batons.

18. 8/1/2006, 7 PM.
Ten men and three women were repatriated after being held for 10 hours after five days in the desert. They were given no water and only a package of crackers. Several had severe blisters.

19. 8/13/2006, 9:15 AM.
Thirty-five men and nine women were repatriated. They had been held by the Border Patrol for seven hours without any food or water. Some of them complained of blisters.

Thirty-four men and two children were repatriated after being detained for 24 hours after 24 hours in the desert. They were given no food or water.

A group of eight was repatriated after being detained by Border Patrol for over 14 hours without food or water after having walked in the desert for a day and a half.

Fourteen men, two women and an 8-year-old boy, were repatriated in the middle of the night after having been detained by the Border Patrol for three hours and not given any food or water.

Forty men and two women were repatriated. Only some of
the migrants had been given food or water.

   Twenty men, 17 women and two young boys were not given any food or water after being held overnight by the Border Patrol.

   A group of 31 migrants reported being detained for a total of 18 hours and only receiving water and food once during that time period. They also reported that one agent in particular was very “pushy and aggressive.”

   A group of 11 persons reported being detained by Border Patrol for time periods ranging from 10 hours to one night. They reported being offered very little water; some were offered food while others were not. One woman complained of kidney pain. No one reported being offered medical care.

27. Nogales: 7/18/2006, 3:30 PM.
   A group of 45 persons (20 men and 25 women) were repatriated to the port of entry in Nogales. Some reported being detained for 10 hours, while others were detained as long as six days. They were given only crackers to eat, and reported that they were not given sufficient water.

   Thirty-nine people were repatriated to the Nogales port of entry by Border Patrol transportation agents. They were detained between 24 and 27 hours. They reported not being given sufficient water while in Border Patrol custody.

   A group of more than forty women and children were detained for 12 hours without receiving food or water after having walked for days in the desert.

   One male was in custody for eight hours and offered no food, water, or medical care before being repatriated at 9 pm. He witnessed another migrant being struck by Border Patrol agents while in the processing facility. He saw one man being hit twice in the chest while in the processing center.

   A group of 20 men, women and children were detained 8-12 hours overnight before being repatriated at 8:15 am. They were not given any food, water, or medical care.

   A group of nine was detained in a processing center that was extremely cold. No one was given water or food; when Maria begged for water for her two children, ages six and nine, Border Patrol agents drank water in front of them but gave them none.

33. Agua Prieta.
   Francisco was detained with seven others for nine hours and received no water or food, despite the fact that they had been walking for three days. One person in the group said that there was a bathroom with a tap but they did not think the water was clean. They asked for other water but did not receive any.

34. Agua Prieta.

Seven males were held for 10 hours after two days in the desert; they were given no water.

4. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity.
5. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
9. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
72. – see Denial of Food
73. – see Denial of Food
79. – see Denial of Food
81. – see Denial of Food
83. – see Denial of Food
86. – see Denial of Food
87. – see Denial of Food
88. – see Denial of Food
90. – see Denial of Food
94. – see Denial of Food
95. – see Denial of Food
96. – see Denial of Food
131. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
137. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
138. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
150. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
151. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
154. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
158. – see Processing Center Conditions
177. – see Verbal Abuse
188. – see Verbal Abuse
189. – see Verbal Abuse
190. – see Verbal Abuse
218. – see Physical Abuse
220. – see Physical Abuse
222. – see Physical Abuse
223. – see Physical Abuse
226. – see Physical Abuse
227. – see Physical Abuse
241. – see Physical Abuse
242. – see Physical Abuse
246. – see Physical Abuse
248. – see Physical Abuse
254. – see Dangerous Transportation Practices
268. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
269. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Population at Night
345. – see Failure to Provide Inform Migrants of their Rights

Denial of Food

   A male in his late 30s was held in detention for four days, and received food only twice per day during that time. His meals included only a small hamburger and a small container of juice. Additionally, he did not have sufficient clothing for the cold indoor temperatures, slept on the floor without a mattress, and was not given the opportunity to shower.
Five mothers with five young children were apprehended by the Border Patrol as they crossed the desert. They were not given food or water in the desert, on the bus, or in the processing center. Additionally, they were not examined for medical needs despite having spent three days in the desert and having young children with them.

A woman, age 24, reported being denied food in the processing center.

Seven men between the ages of 18 and 53 and one woman, age 28, reported being detained for 6.5 hours by the Border Patrol without receiving any food and withstandng exceptionally cold cell conditions.

39. Naco: 1/19/2008 1:40 pm.
A group of eight men between the ages of 18 and 40 were detained for over four hours and received nothing to eat except for crackers.

A young man reported being separated from the friends with whom he had been traveling. He was detained for 12 hours, during which time he was denied sufficient water or food.

Six men between the ages of 23 and 60 were detained for 12 hours and received only one package of crackers and inadequate water. Additionally, the cell temperature was extremely cold.

42. Naco: 1/8/2008, 8:30 am.
A woman, age 22, was kept for six hours in detention without being given anything to eat despite her requests.

43. Naco: 1/8/2008, 8:30 am.
A group of nine people, four women between the ages of 24-42 and five men between the ages of 28 and 42, were held for six hours in custody without receiving sufficient water or any food.

Two women and a man reported receiving insufficient food while detained and also said they were verbally abused by the Border Patrol.

A female, age 10, was not given sufficient food or water during the seven hours she spent in a processing center.

46. Naco: 3/7/2008, 6 pm.
A female, age 24, who was also five months pregnant, was denied food by Border Patrol agents, despite her specific requests. When she was repatriated, she reported feeling faint and dizzy.

47. Naco: 3/8/2008, 8 am.
A male, age 29, was detained for over 78 hours without receiving any food or water.

A male, age 29, reported being detained for over 48 hours without receiving any food or water.

Four men between the ages of 19 and 30 were detained for over 48 hours and received only small amounts of water and juice. Additionally, they reported verbal abuse by the Border Patrol.

Two pregnant women, ages 22 and 16, were denied food and sufficient water while in custody. They reported verbal abuse by a Border Patrol agent.

51. Naco: 3/14/2008, 7 pm.
Three men reported verbal abuse, denial of food, and lack of sufficient water while they were detained.

52. Naco: 3/14/2008 6:30 pm.
A male, age 27, reported verbal abuse and denial of sufficient food or water while detained.

A male, age 21, reported verbal abuse by a Border Patrol agent, and was additionally denied food and sufficient water.

54. Naco: 3/20/2008 5:45 pm.
A male, age 39, was denied food and water, and was very disoriented upon being repatriated.

A male, age 29, was kept in custody for 43 hours without being given any food or sufficient water to drink.

56. Naco: 3/31/2008 4 pm.
A male, age 30, reported severe verbal abuse by Border Patrol agents and a lack of sufficient food or water.

Two men, ages 19 and 27, reported verbal abuse by Border Patrol agents and were not given sufficient food or water.

58. 7/17/2006.
Roberto, age 27, reported receiving no food while in the custody of Border Patrol for two days.

59. 7/21/2005, 8:25 am.
Corbita reported that Border Patrol denied her and her daughters, Gaby and Juana, of food while they were in custody from 10 am on 7/20/2005 until 8 am on 7/21/2005.

60. 7/26/2006, 3 am.
Felipe, from Guerrero, Mexico, reported receiving no food or water while in Border Patrol custody for 8 hours. Felipe had traveled with a group of 12 with three minors. They left him behind when he tired after walking for four days in the desert. While in the desert he was ate only one can of tuna per day and found cattle tanks to refill his water bottles. Felipe had bad blisters, leg cramps, and dizziness. While with No More Deaths volunteers at the aid station, he ate two burritos and felt nauseous but did not vomit.

61. 7/18/2006, 3:40 pm.
A man reported being denied food by Border Patrol while in custody. He went 8-12 hours without eating. He said that Border Patrol agents handled the men roughly.

Twenty-four men and two children, age three, were repatri-
ated. They reported only being given water and no food after being held for over two days.

Four men were repatriated. They reported being given crackers and water only and held for 20 hours. Several of the men had blisters.

Two men were repatriated after being held for 16 hours. They reported being in the desert 4-5 days. They were given only crackers and water while in custody.

Thirty-eight men, 20 women, and one child, age six, were repatriated. They had been held for 24 hours and given water but no food.

Thirty-six men were repatriated. In custody, they had been given water and no food and were held for 24 hours.

Forty-two men and 19 women were repatriated. They reported having been given only water and no food while in custody.

Ten men, three women, and one minor, age 15, were repatriated after being held for 24 hours. The Border Patrol agent yelled at the minor, using many “groserias” (bad words). The group reported being given only water and no food after two days in the desert.

One man and two women were repatriated together. They had been detained for 23 hours, given no food, only water. They reported being verbally abused by the Border Patrol agents.

70. Nogales, 8/17/2006, 3:30 am.
Ten men were repatriated after being held for 17 - 24 hours in Border Patrol Custody. They received water and one packet of crackers after two days of walking in the desert.

A repatriated group reported being given water and a cold bag of beans in custody and held for 24 hours after two days of walking in the desert. Border Patrol threw away their food in the desert.

Eight men, 17 women, and four children were repatriated. They had been detained for 12 hours and given no food or water.

Fifty people were repatriated together. They reported that they were with the Border Patrol for two days and given no food and just a little water after they had spent 3-5 days in the desert.

Eight men were repatriated together. They had been given water, but no food.

Seven men, and one woman were repatriated together. They had been given only water and crackers in custody after two days in the desert.

Six men were repatriated together. In custody they’d only been given water and no food.

Forty men were repatriated. They were detained for 24 hours and only given water and no food.

Eighteen men, 14 women and three young boys reported that they had been given food, but it was then taken away from them and thrown away.

Thirty-five men and four women had been detained by the Border Patrol and were not given any food or water while in custody.

Forty-five migrants were detained for two days and were given only water and cookies as replacements for meals.

81. Nogales, 7/30/2006, 4:45 am.
Four men were repatriated together and reported being given no food or water while in custody.

Thirty-five men and 11 women repatriated together. They reported spending three days in the desert and while in custody only being given one hamburger per day.

Seven men were repatriated together. They reported being held for 12 hours and given no food or water.

84. Nogales: 7/31/2006, 8:30 am.
Twenty-one men, 15 women and seven children, ages 10 months to 14 years old, were repatriated together. They’d been held from 12 - 24 hours in custody after two days in the desert. Some of them reported being given crackers and sandwiches, others only crackers.

Seven men were repatriated. They had been held for 2-6 hours after 1 1/2 to two days in the desert. They were given only water and no food.

A group of 37 migrants including one woman and two children, age 11, were detained by the Border Patrol after having crossed from Altar, Sonora. They reported being detained for two hours and were not offered food or water.

A group of 34 men, one woman, and two children were repatriated to Nogales. The Border Patrol failed to provide the group with either food or water during their time in custody.

 Twelve people were repatriated together. They had spent between six and 17 hours in Border Patrol custody. They only received juice and beans once in 17 hours of being in custody.
A group of 32 migrants including six women and two children were repatriated together. The group included a family of four from Georgia that had spent an entire night in Border Patrol custody and were not given foods.

90. Nogales: 7/15/2006, 4:00pm.
Seventy-seven men, nine women and two children were repatriated together. They spent a full day in the custody of Border Patrol and reported receiving water and a cup of noodles only once during that time. One person reported a bee sting. They did not report receiving medical attention.

Forty-five men and four women were repatriated together. They had been detained in Border Patrol custody for one night and two days. They received water, but were not given food. One man had a swollen and blistered foot.

Thirty-five people, including three women, were detained by Border Patrol agents for 36 hours. They reported being given water, but only a few sandwiches for the entire group. One person reported having blisters.

93. Agua Prieta: 8/11/2006, 8:00 pm.
Group was offered medical help, did not take it because didn’t want legal trouble. They were detained from 8 am- 12 pm and from 1 pm - 7 pm in another processing center. They were given water and Tylenol but no food; they reported the Latino Border Patrol agent who worked with them to speak good Spanish and behave professionally.

A group of 12 Mexican citizens were detained from 7 am-2 pm and provided no food, water, or medical care before they were repatriated.

95. Agua Prieta: 11:45 pm.
Eliseo and 11 other men spent 15 hours in Border Patrol custody. They were not given fresh water or any food. Some said they drank from the sink in the bathroom but it was hot and tasted bad. All of them were together and had spent two days and two nights in the desert.

96. Agua Prieta.
Thirteen people were held for six hours in Tucson, receiving one 8 oz. bottle of water each. Francisco, Dennis, Pedro, Misael, Cristain, Guillermo, Tomas, Alejandro, Daniel, Miguel, Felipe, and Jorge walked for two days without eating or drinking water. They were given no food.

97. Agua Prieta.
Pedro reports that he was held about 10 hours. The people with whom he was in custody only received one bottle of water each and no food. This was overnight (8pm-morning).

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A group of nine people, including four minors, were apprehended by the Border Patrol and were not given food, water, or proper medical treatment in the desert, on the bus, or at the processing center. One of the men was delirious and had badly blistered feet, and the children were all very hungry after four days in the desert and several hours in the custody of Border Patrol.

A female, age 22, was not given food, water, or medical care, despite her swollen, twisted ankle. She was riding in a vehicle that was being chased by the Border Patrol and was pushed out of the vehicle while others jumped. She was picked up on the highway and dropped off at the border without receiving the medical attention she needed.

A male in his 30s was repatriated with swollen, discolored feet and in severe pain. The Border Patrol offered no medical treatment.

A male in his 30s was repatriated with open, deep blisters that resembled third degree burns. He received no medical treatment from the Border Patrol.

A group of five people, two women, one man, and two minors, were in need of medical treatment that was not provided. The women had blood-filled blisters on their feet, the children were exhausted, and the man had an open wound from a barbed wire fence.

A pregnant female, age 18, was experiencing pregnancy complications and stomach pain after falling on her knees. She had received no care while in Border Patrol custody. Additionally, her 17-year-old male companion had an eye infection.

A male, age 38, was given insufficient water and no food while detained. Additionally, he felt stomach pain and asked to use the bathroom. He was told that there were neither medical personnel nor medicine available. He was then repatriated. Prior to that, he was found by Border Patrol 15 miles past Tucson, and the arresting agent put a large gun to his head and pressed his foot against the man’s neck while he was forced to the ground. The agents threw away his Gatorade and backpack, and then took him to the Nogales station, where he fell ill.

A man, age 38, was given insufficient food and water while in Border Patrol custody (six packets of crackers over the course of two days), and the medical treatment he needed was not provided. He had cactus spines in his left leg and had developed a skin infection.

Three males were given insufficient food and inadequate medical care. One of the males had a painful, dislocated knee, blisters on his feet, a red rash, and an unusually strong and bounding pulse (sign of dehydration).


Failure to Provide Medical Treatment

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A male, age 50, reported being detained for nearly ten hours while feeling ill. The Border Patrol agents confiscated his blood pressure medication and did not return it, even upon repatriation. He was also denied sufficient food and water while in custody.

Two men were dropped off by Border Patrol at the border and were vomiting. Neither had received medical treatment from Border Patrol.

A woman, in her mid-20s, reported being bumped into by a Border Patrol motorcycle and falling face-first onto the ground. No aid or apology was offered by the agent, and she was complaining of lower back pain when she was repatriated. She received no medical treatment from the Border Patrol.

A woman, age 30, reported being denied necessary medical treatment. She arrived at the migrant aid center unable to walk on her own (two people were needed to help her walk on either side) as she had a severely swollen left ankle on which she could bear no weight. She was only offered an ice pack and a baby wipe by Border Patrol, and was not evaluated by medical personnel.

A woman, age 21, reported being denied medical treatment while in Border Patrol custody after spraining her finger. She was only provided with crackers to eat.

112. Naco: 1/7/2008, 10 am.
A woman with a fever did not receive medical treatment despite her requests. She was not provided with food either.

A group of six people, two women ages 17 and 23, and four men between the ages of 22 and 45, received no food or water while in custody. They were also ill with the flu and received no medical treatment and were kept in exceptionally cold cells.

A man, age 50, reported an injury to his ankle that received no medical treatment while in custody. No food or water was provided.

A man, age 47, reported a serious injury to his ankle for which he was denied medical treatment. He was given no food while in custody.

116. Naco: 2/14/2008, 4 pm.
A man, age 37, reported having the flu and a fever and receiving no medical treatment while in custody. He also was not provided with enough food.

117. Naco: 2/10/2008, 5:30 pm.
A man in his 30s reported cuts on his hands that required medical treatment that was denied. He also received insufficient food.

A man, age 24, had severe blisters on his feet that went untreated while he was in custody.

A woman, age 22, reported serious blisters on her foot and being denied treatment by Border Patrol. No food was provided.

120. Naco: 3/8/2008, 8:30 pm.
A woman, age 28, reported being separated from her husband and repatriated alone at the border. She was also denied medical treatment for serious cuts on her hands.

A man, age 49, reported hurting his back badly while in custody and being denied necessary medical treatment.

A man, age 21, was repatriated with a serious injury to his hand that cut down to the bone; skin and muscle had been lost. He was told at the health center in Naco, Mexico, that it may have been too late to save his fingers, though if proper medical treatment had been given during the eight hours he spent in custody, the fingers could have been saved.

123. Naco: 3/10/2008, 3:30 pm.
A woman, age 28, was repatriated with a cactus spine in his eye, causing it to bleed. He had been in custody without receiving any treatment for the eye injury. No food and insufficient water were provided.

124. Naco: 3/12/2008, 1:30 pm.
A man and his three sons were in custody for 24 hours, during which time the man received no food and the boys, who were sick, did not receive medical treatment.

125. Naco: 3/18/2008, 7 pm.
A man, age 21, was repatriated with a bad eye infection and received no medical treatment while in custody. He did not receive food or adequate water while in custody.

A man, age 32, who was a diagnosed diabetic, was denied his insulin by Border Patrol. He also reported being repeatedly knocked down to his knees by an agent in the Naco/Bisbee station. He was additionally denied water and food.

A man, age 37, reported being denied medical treatment for cuts and cactus spines; additionally, no water or food was provided despite his requests. The processing center was kept exceptionally cold.

A man, age 32, was detained in an ICE raid; while in custody, he witnessed other migrants with cactus spines that needed removal and a young woman with what appeared to be a broken leg. No medical treatment was provided in either of the aforementioned cases. Additionally, the center was cold and dirty, and insufficient food and water were provided.

Mario, age 20, from San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, reported being denied medical treatment by the Border Patrol. Though Mario was extremely weak and barely able to
walk, he was repatriated without concern to his condition. Upon arrival at the No More Deaths aid station in Nogales, Mario was dizzy, agitated, and delirious to the point of not understanding what country he was in. On the way to a hospital in Nogales, Grupo Beta said that his eyes were rolling back in his head. Mario went without food for 10-15 days in the desert before being taken into custody by Border Patrol.


Guadalupe, age 35, from Guanajuato, Mexico and San Francisco, California, reported being refused treatment for diabetes by the Border Patrol while in custody. He said Border Patrol agents threw away his needle and insulin. Guadalupe was already missing his left leg because of diabetic infection. It had been amputated. He had no eye problems. His mother and sister died from diabetes. Guadalupe was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes more than 15 years ago. No More Deaths volunteers took his glucose levels. They were very low the first day and the following day they were at 304, indicating a drastic change. His regular insulin dosage was three times a day. The volunteers took him to Clinica Santa Cruz. The physician gave him six days of insulin.

131. 7/27/2006, 11pm.

Alejandro and his group reported being denied food and water by Border Patrol while in custody for 14 hours; they were in the desert for three days before being apprehended. One woman in Alejandro’s group had an injured ankle and told Border Patrol agents but was given no medical treatment.

132. 8/9/2006, 3:50pm.

Laura, age 31, from Mexico City, Mexico, reported being pushed by a Border Patrol agent, resulting in a sprained ankle. She was taken to a doctor and given ice but no medicine for pain or swelling. She had significant swelling in the lateral and anterior parts of her right ankle and was in significant pain. Laura had walked for three hours in the desert before being apprehended.


Eight men and two boys, age 14, were repatriated after three days in the desert. All had bad trench foot and blisters. Two men had large gashes; one man had multiple cactus spines embedded in his skin. First Aid responders spent 1 1/2 hours giving medical treatment at the Mariposa aid station. Border Patrol offered no medical treatment.

134. Nogales, 8/1/2006, 7:45 am.

Eight men and three women repatriated. Several had blisters; some taken in raids, one man taken from his bed while sleeping. No medical treatment offered by the Border Patrol.


Fourteen men, 29 women, and three children were repatriated. Seven people had blisters; a young girl had cactus spines. No medical treatment offered by the Border Patrol.


Five women had been held in custody between 24-36 hours by the Border Patrol. One woman had both ankles sprained and others complained of blisters; no medical treatment was provided.

137. Nogales: 7/18/2006, 8:30 am.

Thirty-two men and 12 women were repatriated after 24 hrs up to 2.5 days in custody. One pregnant woman was not given sufficient food and water. They were in the desert up to three days; many had blisters. They were not offered medical treatment by the Border Patrol.

138. Agua Prieta: 8/19/2006, 8:30 am.

Nine people were repatriated; in custody for seven hours, denied access to food, water. One migrant had a broken foot and was offered an ace bandage before repatriation. Witnesses reported that Francisco, from Jalisco, Mexico, could not walk, and collapsed in front of the center as he was returning to Mexico. He was in a lot of pain, sweating and in tears. The Border Patrol gave him an Ace bandage which was wrapped around his ankle, then sent him back. He was transported to the hospital in Agua Prieta by Grupo Beta.


Maria, from Mexico, injured her left foot, could not walk, and was repatriated in this condition by Border Patrol. She injured her foot attempting to jump over the wall; she felt the pain when she started to run and fell; she could not get up; the Border Patrol did not offer any medical treatment for her injury.


Jovita, from San Marcos, Guerrero, was denied medical treatment for her diabetic condition. The Border Patrol agents laughed at her and said she would have to work to pay the doctors who would treat her diabetes. She was verbally abused and threatened with incarceration for invented reasons. She was repatriated cold, wet, and with a fever.


Lorenzo, from Mexico, was repatriated with severe lung problems and blood in his saliva. He arrived at the aid station complaining about pain in both sides of his chest, in his lungs. It hurt when he spoke and the pain reached all the way to his back. He was coughing up blood. Grupo Beta was contacted and they transported him to the hospital. The Border Patrol offered no medical treatment.

142. Nogales: 7/19/2006, 8:30 am.

Ten men were repatriated; after four nights in the desert, many had untreated blisters.


A group of eight that included a 10-year-old was repatriated after four nights in the desert, many had untreated blisters. They were not offered medical treatment by the Border Patrol.


Thirty men, 15 women, and one boy, age 14, were repatriated, after 14 hours of Border Patrol custody. Six to eight people had severe untreated blisters; they received care at the No More Deaths aid station.
Forty men and 20 women repatriated after 4 - 7 days in the desert. One had a split finger, six people had severe blisters and foot infections, and one needed a knee brace.

A woman in a group of fifty migrants, including two small children and two infants, reported not being given adequate medical care while in the custody of the Border Patrol, even though she reported feeling nausea, vomiting blood, and severely blistered feet. She was also unable to report the amount of time she had spent on the bus.

147. Nogales: 7/14/2006, 8:45 am. 
Sixty-one people, of whom 40 were men, 15 were women, and six were children, were repatriated after between three and eight hours in Border Patrol custody. They were yelled and cursed at by the agents. One boy had a fever and a woman in the group had diarrhea; neither reported being given medical attention.

Twenty-one people, 18 men and three women, were in Border Patrol custody for periods of time ranging from one to five days. Twenty-one people were detained by Border Patrol agents. No one was given sufficient food; one woman complained of illness and dehydration, and another of bleeding and pain. No one reported receiving medical attention.

Maria, age 19, was repatriated early in the morning with an untreated sprained ankle.

Gregorio was repatriated alone at 2 am. He and everyone in his group, about 30 people, asked the Border Patrol for food and water and were all denied. Also a fellow cellmate with a sprained ankle asked for medical care but was just given an ACE bandage to administer himself. Gregorio also reported that an agent yelled and cursed at him, telling him to sit down, even though he was having trouble due to an obviously injured leg.

Rosaria, age 50, from Chiapas, reported being denied food, water and medical attention by the Border Patrol. When she arrived at the aid station, she felt nauseous, dizzy, and was disoriented to space and time. She said she had not urinated for 1.5 days and had vomited and reported she saw blood in her vomit. Rosaria had spent three days and two nights in the desert without any food or water, except cactus spines. Rosaria was left behind by her group because she fell and hurt her right leg. She said she stood by a road for a long time before someone stopped and asked if she wanted them to call the Border Patrol. They called and she was picked up. She vomited on the bus and Border Patrol gave her a bag to hold her vomit. Rosaria couldn’t remember how long she had been detained.

No More Deaths volunteers took Rosaria to a migrant center and gave her soap and shampoo so she could shower. She bathed, drank 4-5 glasses of water over a couple hours, and slept.

A volunteer gave her ibuprofen for her pain from her fall in the desert. The following day, June 23, 2006, volunteers took her to the No More Deaths office where she rested and ate small snacks. Then she called her daughter in LA. Her daughter had thought she was dead because Rosaria didn’t arrive with the rest of her group. Rosaria had lost her house in Chiapas because she could not afford her mortgage.

Gloria states she was arrested in Arizona and that the Border Patrol agents violated her rights; her foot was broken and she did not receive medical attention. For her daughter Cindy and her husband Ricardo she is making this complaint and asking for justice.

153. Agua Prieta. 
A man, Alberto, was repatriated very ill and dehydrated after two days of walking. He was very thin, could not hold down food or water, and was vomiting. The No More Deaths aid station volunteers called Cruz Roja and he was taken to the hospital.

154. Agua Prieta. 
Solidey, a 16 year old boy, and his brother Xochitl were held in custody for five hours and given no food and no water. Xochitl very likely had a broken foot; he could barely walk. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital in Agua Prieta after receiving no medical care in custody.

A volunteer gave her ibuprofen for her pain from her fall in the desert. The following day, June 23, 2006, volunteers took her to the No More Deaths office where she rested and ate small snacks. Then she called her daughter in LA. Her daughter had thought she was dead because Rosaria didn’t arrive with the rest of her group. Rosaria had lost her house in Chiapas because she could not afford her mortgage.
No Más Muertes

Processing Center Conditions

155. 8/1/2006, 5:30 pm.
Ninety-five men, 28 women, and four children, ages 4-11, were reportedly held in Border Patrol custody for 14 hours after being in the desert from four hours to three days. Several women were denied medical attention. One woman had a bad sprain and a few people had blisters. Border Patrol agents did not let women go to the bathroom. One man saw an officer choke a 20-year-old male on the bus but could not see the name on the officer’s badge.

A man, age 20, reported that he and other people in custody were forced to stand for a long time with their hands behind their heads for no reason.

August 1, 2006, 8:45 am. Juan, age 23, from Guerrero, Mexico, was verbally abused by the Border Patrol agents who yelled at him. He was not given any food while at the processing center and was very cold.

Gabriel, age 42 from Veracruz, reported being denied treatment for potentially cancerous ulcers while in Border Patrol custody. When he was put into custody, he was soaked from the rain and did not receive a towel or dry clothes. He was not allowed to see a doctor, was given no medicine, and just a few crackers. Gabriel said he was dying and felt very sick. Gabriel had walked for a night and a day, trying to get to Kentucky; he had been told by his doctors in Mexico that he had only a short time to live due to his ulcers, and he had come to earn money for his treatment.

159. 7/17/2006.
Imeldo, age 21, was sexually harassed while in Border Patrol custody. After five days walking in the desert, she was held for two days by the Border Patrol; during this time, a man dressed in civilian clothing asked her to lift her blouse. She was also forced to lie on the floor of her cell.

160. 7/26/2006, 8:43 pm.
Angelica, age 28, was mistreated while in Border Patrol custody. She and her baby daughter did not receive anything to eat during the 12 hours they were in custody, and Angelica did not receive a blanket.

161. 7/30/2006, 4 pm.
Jose, age 18, reported being physically and verbally abused by Border Patrol agents. An agent told Jose to “shut up” and to not raise his voice; to make his point clear, he threw Jose against a wall, and hit him twice in the ribs on his right side and on his head. When he arrived at the migrant center, Jose still felt pain where he had been hit.

Six men and four women were repatriated after being in a Border Patrol processing center that was very hot inside; one of the women was nauseated and dizzy and received no medical treatment while in Border Patrol Custody. They were given small cups of water and no food.

163. Agua Prieta.
Jesus, Jose, and Raul were held in a Border Patrol processing center for 3 days after having spent four days in the desert. Once in custody they were verbally abused by a Chicano Border Patrol officer; when they complained about his treatment of them, he responded by turning the temperature in the cell very low. The agents also threw away their possessions; they were repatriated with nothing and without having been given any food.

Verbal Abuse

Two mothers with their young children (8 and 12 months) reported not being given food, water, or necessary medical care at any point during processing. They were also separated from family and friends at the processing center and repatriated separately. The drivers of the bus reportedly verbally abused the two young women by yelling at them to hurry up in threatening tones, including one woman who was injured and having difficulty walking due to the fact that she was carrying her belongings and an infant. The Border Patrol also threw away the women’s food.

A large group that included seven women and a 12-year-old boy were held in a processing center in Tucson for 15 hours, during which time they were only given juice and crackers in...
spite of their requests for more. The agents told them that they
didn’t have anything more to give them, but that they would “go
outside and kill a dog and make a hamburger for you.” They were
also called “pendejos” (assholes) by an agent. Additionally, the
women had blisters which went untreated, and one had an in-
fected knee that was not medically examined.

166. Naco: 1/22/2008, 6 pm.
Five males between the ages of 17 and 45 reported constant
verbal abuse being used against them by agents on the way to
the processing facility. They did not receive any food or water at
any point.

167. Naco: 1/30/2008, 5 pm.
A male, age 20, reported verbal abuse by Border Patrol
agents, extreme heat in the processing facility, and approxima-
tely fifty men being held in very cramped conditions (estimated 10
feet by 15 feet).

A male, age 30, reported verbal and physical abuse by agents.
Injuries were sustained, but no description was provided. He
was held for 14 hours in the desert before being transported by
bus to the processing center.

One male, age 42, reported being denied food and water
while in Border Patrol custody. He and his friends were sepa-
rated and not repatriated together. Additionally, he reported
that on the evening of 4/30/07, he and a group of migrants were
arrested in the desert, where he witnessed the abuse of an agent
towards a young male migrant. The agent picked him up by the
ear and slapped him in the face three times. This man also re-
ported being verbally abused during arrest. He and 150 others
were treated “badly” and “aggressively” by the agents.

Two men, ages 23 and 40, reported that a Border Patrol
agent threatened to hit him with his nightstick.

171. 8/13/2006, 12 am.
Eddie, age 30, from Veracruz, Mexico, was deported having
just been released from United Physicians Healthcare in Tuc-
son, where he was treated for two days for severe foot blisters.
He was in an SUV near Tucson after walking three days in the
desert when the Border Patrol pulled him over. Out of eight
people in the car, four were arrested and the other four escaped
arrest. The others were deported ahead of Eddie. Eddie received
very good medical care in the hospital. The Border Patrol taunt-
ed and made fun of him when they saw his feet but otherwise he
did not complain of their treatment.

Adelfino, age 32, reported being physically and verbally
abused by Border Patrol agents. The agents made Adelfino and
two other men lie down in mud and standing water. The agents
swore at the three men and called them names like “dirty Mexi-
cans” and “stupid pieces of shit.” The first name of one of the
agents was Alfonso.

Ramiro reported being physically and verbally abused by
Border Patrol agents. An agent handcuffed Ramiro and hit him
while he was handcuffed. The agent knocked him to the ground
and kicked him and took his tennis shoes and threw them far
away. The agents called Ramiro names like “stupid Mexican” and
“piece of shit.”

Seven men from Puebla, Mexico, reported being physi-
cally abused by Border Patrol agents. When being apprehended
at 8:30 pm on August 17, 2006, a Border Patrol officer kicked
apart their legs, making them fall. Border Patrol threw away
their toothbrushes and personal items. When one of the men
went to grab his item thrown on the ground, an agent stepped
on it. Agents called them “Stupid assholes” and asked the men,
“Why are you shaking?” One man responded, “Because you’re
screaming at me!” The men reported that one of the agents was
named Ramirez Clemente. They described him as light-skinned
and short with a tattoo on his forearm and dirty blonde hair.

Twenty-eight people were repatriated. They had been held
in the processing center for 12 hours and reported that Border
Patrol agents were verbally abusive and swore at them.

Thirty-five men, eight women, and 1 child repatriated
through the Nogales Port of Entry reported being mocked by
the Border Patrol; some had severe blisters that had not been
treated.

Thirty-four men, one woman, and two youth, both age 17,
reported being held for about eight hours and only receiving a
small cup of water and crackers. When they asked for food, they
were told, “We’re not a FUCKING restaurant!” Several had se-
vere blisters and cramps. One man and his wife with their two-
month-old baby had crossed the border at Tijuana, but were
bussed to Nogales for repatriation.

178. Nogales.
Thirty-seven men, 10 women, and three boys and three girls
ranging from age four to 16, were detained for 24 hours and only
given water and cookies. They reported being verbally abused by
the border patrol agents.

Twenty-eight men, 18 women, two boys and three girls,
reported being verbally abused by Border Patrol agents. The
Border Patrol called them “putos y pendejos” (whores and ass-
holes) and used racist remarks. The migrants also reported being
roughed up while being searched.

180. Nogales.
Fourteen men, 29 women, two boys and one girl ranging
from age eight to 12, were detained for 24 hours. They reported
being verbally abused by the border patrol agents who screamed
at them to “Move it, don’t come back.” There were complaints
made of blisters and one detainee was vomiting in the process-
ing center.
Five men were detained by the border patrol for 24 hours. They reported verbal abuse directed towards children.

A group of 19 men, 10 women, and two children, ages seven and 16, were repatriated together in Nogales. They reported being detained by Border Patrol Agents for two days. They reported being given only four liters of water and one bag of beans for the entire group of migrants being detained at the center. They reported that there were around 100 migrants being detained at that time. They also reported that the Border Patrol agents were very abusive in Spanish and they reported being shoved by agents. The seven-year-old reported nausea and one woman had a minor scrape. No one received medical attention.

Thirty men, 20 women, and eight children were repatriated through the Nogales port of entry, and they reported being held in the processing center for two days. One agent was verbally abusive to them, cursing at them and using names like “son of a bitch”.

A migrant reported verbal abuse by Border Patrol agents during processing. On two occasions he was called a “pendejo” (“asshole”). They saw that he was hurt but did not provide medical care.

A woman was repatriated alone at 9 pm after seven hours held in the processing center. She was not given food or medical care and heard Border Patrol agents refer to migrants as “pinche madres.”

Saul, age unknown, reported that Border Patrol agents referred to him as “motherfucker,” “fat ass,” and said, “If you move we’ll shoot you”. Three migrants tried to run when they were found in the desert and one, still carrying his backpack, was chased and caught and then kicked to the ground. Another that tried to run was caught and his face was rubbed in the sand. He reported agents yelling at the migrants that they were going to “kick their ass”. One of the agents had a shovel and held it horizontally at shoulder level. He hit one of the men on the right eyebrow causing swelling but not bleeding. Once they arrived at the Nogales processing center, they examined the man’s eye. It is unknown what treatment he received, but he returned looking the same.

Virginia, age unknown, reported that when she and the others in her group were apprehended, a border patrol agent began to make fun of her and to say vulgar words such as “perra mierdo” (“dog shit”) and “putas las mexicanas” (“Mexican whores”).
One person, Omar, who traveled with Virginia, had been injured during the crossing and needed help to walk. Virginia was helping Omar walk as they arrived at the migrant aid center.

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3. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
8. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
10. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
11. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
12. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
49. – see Denial of Food
50. – see Denial of Food
57. – see Denial of Food
68. – see Denial of Food
69. – see Denial of Food
140. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
147. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
150. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
157. – see Processing Center Conditions
155. – see Processing Center Conditions
161. – see Processing Center Conditions
163. – see Processing Center Conditions
199. – see Physical Abuse
202. – see Physical Abuse
200. – see Physical Abuse
201. – see Physical Abuse
203. – see Physical Abuse
204. – see Physical Abuse
206. – see Physical Abuse
218. – see Physical Abuse
219. – see Physical Abuse
221. – see Physical Abuse
222. – see Physical Abuse
224. – see Physical Abuse
226. – see Physical Abuse
227. – see Physical Abuse
234. – see Physical Abuse
237. – see Physical Abuse
243. – see Physical Abuse
246. – see Physical Abuse
247. – see Physical Abuse
252. – see Dangerous Transportation Practices
259. – see Separation of Family
260. – see Separation of Family
268. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
271. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
273. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
307. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
310. – see Failure to Return Belongings
313. – see Failure to Return Belongings
344. – see Failure to Inform Migrants of their Rights

Physical Abuse

196. Agua Prieta.

Upon asking for food, Oscar was shackled by his hands and feet and placed in a tiny cell without food until they took him out to get information from him. Two times he was abused just for asking for food.


Adrian, age 22, from Veracruz, Mexico, reported being kicked and pushed onto the ground by Border Patrol. He had abrasions on his hand and arm from falling and being beaten. He said that Border Patrol agents taunted and laughed at him. He was separated from his friend who was taken to a different processing center.


Francisco reported being physically and verbally abused by Border Patrol agents. The agents pulled Francisco out of a car and yelled at him, calling him names like “dirty Mexican” and “stupid pieces of shit.” The agents said, “Get out of here, get out of here and go back to Mexico.” An agent hit Francisco in the nose with a pistol and knocked him to the ground. The agent put his foot on Francisco’s face. The agent hit him and removed his belt with a razor blade and almost cut his foot. The agent took Francisco’s wallet containing $60 and his identification.

When Francisco asked what would happen to the car, the agent said, “This isn’t your stupid car. It’s from here.”


A man, age 22, reported spending eight days in the desert, including four without food or water, before being picked up by Border Patrol. His feet had very bad blisters, and by the eighth day, he went to a house and asked for help. Two men told him to leave, and one had a gun. Because he couldn’t walk, they called an ambulance. The medics gave him oxygen and released him to Border Patrol. He was taken to a processing center this same day, and although he couldn’t walk and told them as much, they continued to force him to walk farther into different rooms. While in the processing center, he witnessed agents commanding people to stand, stop, and sit repeatedly, as if it were a game, and swearing at migrants.


A young woman, age 17, reported being touched inappropriately while in Border Patrol custody. She was searched by male agents who touched her chest and thighs and reached into her pockets. She was additionally given insufficient water and food and separated from her family at the processing center. Border Patrol agents found them after they had been walking for a week. They were told that if they ran, the agents would order Border Patrol dogs to attack them. The woman witnessed a dog attack a young boy.


A group of six people reported being physically abused by Border Patrol agents. Four agents used rifles to apprehend them and get them to the ground. The agents hit them in their chests. An agent reportedly said that if they moved, they would be hurt more severely. They were then loaded into the Border Patrol vehicle, and drove at exceptionally fast speeds to the processing center. They reported that they were given insufficient supplies.
of food and water in custody. They said that medical care was needed but not provided for blisters and sprains.


A group of repatriated migrants described how agents had grabbed two young men by the backs of their necks and threw them to the ground and against the fence. They reported that two of the agents were frustrated that people did not understand English when they ordered them to throw their food in the trash. Before this, the group had been in the processing center for four hours, during which time they received only one pack of crackers and a glass of water to share. They said that an agent had told them that anyone who fell asleep would be held for two days. They were forced to sit with their arms behind their heads.


A group of four men reported witnessing a case of abuse while in Border Patrol custody. They reported seeing four Border Patrol agents single out a young man who was believed not to be Mexican. The agents hit him in the neck, hands, and back while pressuring him to tell the truth about his citizenship. Several agents also pushed him against the wall. The four men also reported being given insufficient food and water while in Border Patrol custody.


A woman, age 34, reported witnessing two agents abuse a man and a boy who were accused by Border Patrol of lying about their citizenship; The man and boy were forced to lie on the floor and the agents hit them in the stomach with their fists. The woman also reported traveling with a group of 17 migrants who were held in custody for over 15 hours before being given food or juice (though no water). They had been carrying food and water when apprehended by Border Patrol, but it was taken from them and thrown away.


A man requested medical care for bruises on his face but was denied care. The bruises were caused by physical abuse by Border Patrol. When he was apprehended, Border Patrol agents slammed him against the side of his vehicle and smashed his face.


A woman, age 32, reported verbal abuse and sexual harassment from an officer who touched her inappropriately.

207. Nogales: 2/14/2008

Two men, age 25 and 28, reported attempting to run from the Border Patrol to avoid apprehension and being chased by agents on horseback. They were hit forcefully with batons on the tops of their heads and faces, and were red and bloody when they were taken to the processing center. They did not receive any medical attention.

208. 8/2/2006, 8:40 am.

Edit, age 23, reported that a Border patrol agent grabbed her and pulled her by the hair while interrogating her about how many people were in her group and where they were.

209. 8/3/2006, 10:20 am.

Jose, age 36, reported being pulled from a car by a Border Patrol agent and thrown face down on the ground. Jose said they treated him “like a dog.” Jose had walked 36 hours in the desert close to Tucson until being picked up in a car. He was in the car when Border Patrol stopped it. Jose was going to the state of Washington where his brothers live. He had been there before but said it had become harder to cross the border.


Aurelio, age 36, from Guerrero, Mexico, reported being pulled out of a car and kicked in the back by Border Patrol agents. An agent grabbed Aurelio again and threw him on the ground and punched him in the right upper chest. The agent kicked him three more times and then hand-cuffed him. Aurelio was given water while in custody. Before being deported, Aurelio had walked for 36 hours in the desert. He was going to Chicago to join his family. He had crossed the desert in the past. The Border Patrol apprehended him 14 miles before Tucson.

211. 8/4/2006, 8 pm.

A man, approximately 26 years of age, from Michoacán, Mexico reportedly fell while being chased by Border Patrol agents brandishing guns and rifles in the desert. He was part of a group of 17 or 18 people. They all fell while being chased but this man fell harder than the others. The man was scared of the guns and kept running. The man fell down a hill of rocks that was very high and kept running. The group was apprehended and kept in the processing center, but the man from Michoacán never showed up.

212. 6/14/2006, 2 pm.

Jonathan, age 17, from Honduras and Los Angeles, California, reported being beaten by Border Patrol agents. A group crossing in front of him was carrying drugs but his group was unaware of this. When the Border Patrol caught Jonathan’s group, the agents assumed they were also carrying drugs and demanded to know where they were hiding them. When he confessed he had no idea what they were talking about, they began to beat him with their fists and kick him on the ground, causing him to bleed from the nose and mouth. Jonathan was born in Honduras and lived in Los Angeles, California for five years.


A woman reported being hit by a Border Patrol agent. She was part of a group of 19 people, consisting of eight men, 10 women, and one young girl. They were detained for five hours. The group had crossed through Sasabe. Members of the group were from the Mexican states of Veracruz, Puebla and Guerrero.

214. 7/17/2006, 8:35 pm.

Alejandro, age 22, reported being physically abused by Border Patrol agents. Alejandro tried running away. The agents caught him, stepped on his head and tore his shirt.

215. 7/16/2006, 2:00 am.

Armando, from Michoacán, Mexico, reported being physically abused by Border Patrol. Armando had been apprehended by Border Patrol. Police officers arrived and frightened him. He
started to run away but soon became tired and threw up his hands and said to the Border Patrol officer chasing him that he would not run anymore. When the officer caught up to him, the officer pushed him down, pulled his arm behind his back, pulled his head back and hit him in the side of the head twice with his fist. When Armando arrived at the No More Deaths aid station, he appeared beaten and was bleeding from a large cut in his hand. He had scratches on his chest.

216. 7/24/2006, 6 pm.
Israel, age 24, from Mexico City, Mexico, reported receiving no food while in Border Patrol custody for nine hours. Agents threw bottles of water at him. One man in custody asked for cigarettes from another man. A Border Patrol officer grabbed the cigarettes and tore them apart and began to swear at the men in English. He grabbed Israel by the shirt and pulled him aggressively. Israel had spent three days and three nights in the desert. He and 10 other people crossed through Cananea and walked through hills. The group began to slow down and the guide continued and left Israel.

Paulino, age 29, from Cancún, Mexico, reported being kicked in the stomach two days prior by Border Patrol agents. There were three agents with him and he was otherwise alone. They told him that they did not speak Spanish and denied him medical attention. When Paulino arrived at the No More Deaths aid station, he was crying and reported feeling strong pain. He had swelling in the genital area and blood in his urine and could barely walk, indicating abdominal/testicular injury. Paulino was seen by the Mexican Red Cross after being deported but they said that he would have to go to his home to have surgery. He was not seen by medical professionals in the U.S. Paulino spoke Spanish well, but also Mayan. He had been traveling alone after crossing through Nogales. He was found by the Border Patrol after three days while he was walking through the mountains. Paulino lost his backpack containing contact information and did not know how he was going to pay for a bus ticket home or for the necessary surgery.

218. 8/1/2006, 8:40 am.
Jein, age 27, from Chiapas, Mexico, reported experiencing physical abuse by the Border Patrol. He received no food and shared one gallon of water among five or six people. He saw his friend being taunted and pushed by a Border Patrol agent. Border Patrol told Jein’s friend he would be detained for 15 days if he kept asking if he would be arrested. Jein spent two nights walking in the desert before being taken into custody.

219. 8/10/2006, 10 am.
A woman reported seeing a man in custody of Border Patrol being mistreated without provocation by an officer with “A. Gill” written on his uniform. Agent Gill pulled the man’s hair, hit him in the face with a door and taunted him. One woman fainted when she saw these abuses occur. Agent Gill took three peoples’ cell phones and did not return them.

220. 8/6/2006, 6 pm.
Francisco, age 23, a citizen of the United States from Modesto, California, was removed from the U.S. to Mexico after being apprehended for a traffic violation. Francisco reported being hit in the side of the face by a government agent. He was denied food and water while in custody for half a day and one night. Francisco was arrested in Modesto for driving through a red light and having beer in the car. He did not have documents or a license with him, but was deported because the government officials said they did not believe he was a citizen. He does not speak English. Francisco was born in Modesto but left at age eight to live in Michoacán, Mexico. He returned to the U.S. at age 18 and was working in Sacramento, California until he was deported. Francisco had to wait in Mexico for his family in California to send his birth certificate and license.

221. 8/7/2006, 8:30 am.
Belen, age 22, from Veracruz, Mexico, reported physical and verbal abuse by Border Patrol officers. Belen and some others were held at gunpoint by a Border Patrol officer and told to exit a car. The officer made Belen and the others walk barefoot for 15 meters to a Border Patrol truck and confiscated their shoes. The officer called Belen’s brother “asshole” and “son-of-a-bitch.” Belen and the others were taken into custody. She was told to sit down. When she did not, she was kicked in the shin.

222. 7/19/2006, 9:44 am.
Victor, age 22, reported being physically and verbally abused by Border Patrol agents. The agents hit Victor and others and denied them food. The agents threw away the food and water that Victor had with him. It was very cold in custody and the agents did not permit Victor and the others to put on jackets. Victor said his feet were in pain.

223. 7/15/2006.
María, age 24, reported being physically abused by Border Patrol agents while in custody. An agent smacked her and hurt her arm. Border Patrol gave her beans, crackers and soup but did not give her enough water.

224. Nogales: 8/2/2006, 6:00 am.
Miguelito, age 48, reported being physically and verbally abused by Border Patrol agents. While in custody, Miguelito told Border Patrol officers that his left knee hurt. An agent proceeded to kick him in this same knee. When Miguelito told the officer that he would take the officer to court, the officer said, “I’m going to put you in jail for saying that.” When Miguelito arrived at the No More Deaths aid station, his knee was very swollen and a bit bruised.

225. 8/15/2006, 9 am.
Gilberto, age 22, reported being physically abused and robbed by Border Patrol agents. While Gilberto and two others were locked in custody, agents hit them; one man was hit in the face. One man had 100 pesos taken from him and not returned. Another had a USB drive stolen along with $20 (US) and 100 pesos.

226. 7/19/2006, 12:15 pm.
Isadoro, age 20, reported being verbally and physically abused
by Border Patrol officials. Isadoro was driving with friends when the police stopped them and called the Border Patrol. A Border Patrol agent hit Isadoro in the stomach. Another agent said, “Stupid asshole. Where are you from, assholes?” Isadoro and his friends were in custody for one day. Isadoro and others in custody repeatedly asked for food and water but did not receive any. They were not hit in the processing center but were insulted frequently. Isadoro witnessed that women and children also did not receive food or water. Before being deported, Isadoro had been working with three or four others in Phoenix for one year.


Seven people reported being physically and verbally abused by Border Patrol officers. Border Patrol kicked them and insulted them. They received little water and crackers. They said 80 people, men and women, were held in custody for two days. They reported that an agent they described as “Hispanic” was especially abusive. They were apprehended while walking in the desert and had been walking for one day and one night.

228. 8/3/2006, 8:20 pm.

One man reported being forced to lie down in standing water when he was apprehended by Border Patrol. He was part of a group of 13 men who were held in custody for 24 hours. Before being apprehended, they had walked in the desert for two days.

229. 8/2/2006, 12:50 am.

One man, age 22, reported being hit by a Border Patrol agent. Agents yelled at him and called him and others in custody “rats”. He was repatriated with twenty-eight other men, seven women, and eight children, ages three to twelve. They had been held in custody for 12 hours. They were given water but no food after spending four days in the desert.

230. 8/13/2006

One man reported being struck by the Border Patrol in the head. Two men and three women were held by the Border Patrol for 16 hours. Another man complained of stomach pains from his hunger.


Jovita, from San Juan Saulta, Oaxaca, was physically and verbally abused by Border Patrol officers. Officers repeatedly told him that he was an “idiot” and an “asshole.” There were no witnesses. Jovita described one of the officers as “African American male, medium complexion, tall, with a tattoo on his forearm.”


Angel, from Guerrero, Mexico, reported being physically abused by Border Patrol agents. Agents told Angel and other members of his group to lie on the ground. An agent hit Angel in the head and he fell to the ground.


Jorge, from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, reported being hit in the stomach and shoved into a car by four Border Patrol agents.

234. Agua Prieta: 3/7/2006, 10 pm.

Jesus, from Mexico, reported being physically abused by Border Patrol agents. While he was put into custody, Jesus pro-

tested. An agent struck him in the knee and tackled him. The agent told him that he was being “a problem” and that they were “solving it.”


Ten men reported being beaten by Border Patrol agents.


A man reported being hit by a Border Patrol officer while in custody. He was repatriated with 18 other men, five women, and one child, age two. They were given only water while held in custody for 24 hours. They had spent three days in the desert. They reported that their belongings were not returned to them.


A group of 46 men reported being pushed and having their hair pulled by Border Patrol officers. One man reported being hit in the face and this incident was corroborated by more than 12 other people. All of the men reported verbal abuse and being told to “shut-up.” The men reported spending 26 hours in custody without food.


One man in a group of 32 people reported being handled roughly because he did not understand the instructions of the Border Patrol to put his hands on his head.

239. Nogales: 7/18/2006, 8:30 pm.

A group of people, 25 men and three women, reported being hit and pushed by Border Patrol agents during their time in custody. They spent one night at a Border Patrol processing center.


Valentin, from Mexico, reported being physically abused by a Border Patrol official. Border Patrol agents encountered Valentin and other migrants in the desert. Valentin was sleeping and did not hear when the agents told him to come closer. A female officer with “O. Gutierrez” written on her badge threatened him, grabbed him by his throat and threatened him with her baton. There were two witnesses.


Jesus, from Hermosillo, reported being hit several times by Border Patrol officers. He was repatriated with 11 other people. They were not given food or water in custody.


Alejandro reported being hit by a Border Patrol car. He was taken to the Border Patrol processing center and put in a dirty cell for punishment and denied medical treatment. Alejandro arrived at the aid station with a deep wound in his knee and a possibly broken kneecap. He wanted to hire a lawyer to press charges but did not have enough money to do so. A group of 3 people reported being denied food, water, and medical care while in custody and being verbally and physically abused.


Gildardo, from Sinaloa, Mexico, reported being assaulted by Border Patrol agents when he was trying to cross from the U.S. into Mexico. He was hit in the head by a flashlight. Two other men, Eduardo and Ricardo, reported witnessing this incident.
No More Deaths

The men were detained for 24 hours before being repatriated at 2 am. They were given no food or medical care and continued to suffer physical and verbal abuse while in custody. Gildardo said, “I hope that justice is made with those racists.”


A woman from Chiapas, Mexico, reported being hit by a male Border Patrol officer. She arrived at the aid station in tears. She was part of a group of 14 people that reported being cold and wet while in Border Patrol custody for eight hours and denied a change of clothes. They were also denied food and medical treatment. When one person asked for food, agents forced the person to change cells.

245. Agua Prieta.

Three men, Florentino, Antonio, and Salvador reported being physically abused by Border Patrol agents. The men encountered the agents in the desert. Florentino was sleeping and an agent came up and kicked him. Salvador was thrown on the ground. The agents then hit Florentino because they thought he was the guide.

246. Agua Prieta.

Marco reported that he and other people were dusted by a Border Patrol helicopter in the desert. The helicopter came down very low, almost on top of them. Marcos and the rest of his group were ordered to lie down with their chests on the ground. When Marco asked for water, he was insulted with vulgar words. Two agents were on motorbikes and one of them called Marco a “whore”. They stopped in front of him and acted like they would beat him and yelled at him and his group. The agent from the helicopter pulled one man by his feet. Marcos and 9 others were not given food for 12 hours in custody.

247. Agua Prieta.

Arturo reported being verbally abused by Border Patrol agents. Arturo and a group of six other people were stopped by the Border Patrol while trying to cross a road. The other six people fled while Arturo stayed. The agents drew guns when the migrants fled; four were caught. An agent tackled one of the migrants, held a gun to his head, and was verbally abusive. One agent was verbally abusive and used racial slurs. Arturo told the agent he would not run and was trying to cooperate. The agent, gun in hand, hit Arturo on the chest. Arturo was repatriated without any medical treatment and bruises were evident when Arturo arrived at the aid station.

248. Agua Prieta.

A young man reported being kicked in the back by a Border Patrol agent when he tried to run away. He was part of a group that did not receive food or water while they were in custody after spending two nights and one day in the desert with only one liter of water each. When the group told Border Patrol agents that there were four people (a woman named Elizabeth, her cousin, and two other men) a day behind the group in the desert with no water or food, the agents shrugged and refused to follow up.

249. 7/13/06, 3:28 pm.

Roy, from Guerrero, Mexico, reported being physically abused by Border Patrol. A Border Patrol agent hit Roy with a collapsed nightstick as he was running away. When Roy arrived at the No More Deaths aid station, he had a large jagged cut behind his left ear where the Border Patrol agent had hit him. Roy was deported from Phoenix where he worked at a car wash.

Dangerous Transportation Practices


A 28-year-old man was repatriated without having had water or food since two days before his apprehension. Conditions on the bus were exceptionally cold, it was too full and there were no safety belts, and it was driven at an unsafe speed.

251. 7/25/2006, 8:49 am.

Juan, age 24, from Mexico City, Mexico, reported that Border Patrol agents turned on the heat in their van so that the high temperature caused Juan and others to get nosebleeds. There were 11 people packed into the back of the van. They could not breathe and were bathed in sweat. The Border Patrol agents did not give them any medical attention.
the agents yelled at them to “shut up.”

A group of migrants, including 15 men, four women, and one child, reported being “treated like animals” by Border Patrol agents. They reported having things thrown at them and being pushed and yelled at. They also reported that the agents drove dangerously fast, causing their heads to hit the sides of the transportation vehicle. They reported not being given food during their detention either.

A group of 31 men and four women were repatriated to the Nogales port of entry. They reported spending several hours in Border Patrol custody, where they did not receive food or water. They also reported being forced to spend hours in a 108-degree Border Patrol vehicle without air-conditioning. Four reported having blisters.

Separation of Family

255. Naco: 2/6/2008, 8 am.
A man, age 48, reported separation from family members and an untreated fracture in his left leg. He also reported a Border Patrol agent holding a gun to his face.

A 24-year-old woman with two young children, ages two and four, was separated from the children’s father by the Border Patrol at the processing center. The children were sick, but did not receive any medical care, and reported a generally bad treatment during custody. Her husband, with whom she reunited at the migrant center, reported that he was denied food and water while in custody. The family was repatriated late in the night, well after dark.

257. Naco: 1/30/2008, 4 pm.
A 30-year-old man reported being separated from the four relatives with whom he was traveling before being deported alone.

A 26-year-old man reported separation from family members and an untreated fracture in his left leg. He also reported a Border Patrol agent holding a gun to his face.

259. Nogales: 8/7/2006, 8:40 am.
Luis Fernando, age 24, from Chihuahua, Mexico, reported physical and verbal abuse by Border Patrol agents. Border Patrol agents chased Luis and his brother; when they dropped to the ground to turn themselves in, a Border Patrol agent grabbed his brother’s head and slammed it into the ground 3 times and then put his foot on his brother’s head. The agent said “fuck you” several times. The brothers were handcuffed and taken to the Border Patrol truck. Luis fell on the way, but the agent did not express concern. Luis and his brother were separated while in custody. He was told that his brother was deported first. The brothers were going to Phoenix.

Norma Galicia, age 21, reported being physically and verbally abused by Border Patrol agents. Agents pointed a pistol at Norma and her children and threw them toward Border Patrol dogs. While in custody, the agents denied them food and one official threatened to take Norma’s children away from her. The agents kicked them and denied them medical attention. Norma had blisters on her feet.

Twelve men and two women were repatriated; after five days of walking they were held for 24 hours and given only water and crackers. The 17-year-old nephew of one man was separated from him; one woman was two months pregnant, nauseated and alone with two children; her husband had been killed in the desert previously.

Jacobo was held by the Border Patrol for 36 hours before being repatriated in the middle of the night. He was not given ‘real’ food, only crackers, and provided no medical care; he also was not released with the rest of his family members, who were only detained for 10 or 12 hours. He also reported that Border Patrol agents “usan nombres malas” [use bad names] when referring to migrants.

263. Agua Prieta.
Efrain was stopped by the Border Patrol with his sister, Rosa, age 16, after having crossed through Altar. In custody, they were separated, even though Efrain and Rosa insisted that they were family. Efrain was deported to Agua Prieta at 2:30 pm on Wednesday—they had been detained at 8:30 am on Monday. Efrain was not told what would happen to Rosa and received no information about what happened to her—whether she was taken to Nogales, was still in custody, would be prosecuted, or was in the care of the consulate. It is likely they were repatriated through different ports, as Efrain was transported by Border Patrol a long distance, causing a minor to be separated from her family.

264. Agua Prieta.
Arturo was transported from his cousin, Jesus, with whom he traveled. The agents did not permit him to get near his cousin to find out any information about him.

265. Naco: 3/14/2008 4 pm.
A male, age 51, reported being separated from his cousin, who was being held for further investigation. He was denied sufficient food while detained.

Two boys, ages 14 and 16, were repatriated after dark. According to Border Patrol Memoranda of Understanding they

Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
should have been handed over to the Mexican Consulate's custody. Additionally, they received inadequate food and water while in detention, which they reported to be exceptionally cold.

A woman named Guadalupe reported being deported without accompaniment after 10:00 pm.

Myra, from Acapulco, Mexico, reported being verbally abused and witnessing physical abuse by Border Patrol agents. When she was apprehended, an agent said, “Here are the stupid dogs.” Myra witnessed her friend being kicked by an agent. She and 13 others were put into one van by the Border Patrol. They were not given any food or water while in custody.

Maria, four other women and two children were repatriated after six hours in Border Patrol custody. They were denied access to food, water, or medical care before being deported at 4:30 am.

Twenty-five men and one woman were repatriated in the middle of the night after being held by Border Patrol for 14 hours. They had spent between two and five days in the desert, and some received crackers or dried beans while others received nothing to eat at all. Several needed treatment for blisters.

Seventeen men, 18 women, and eight children ranging from two to 12 years old were repatriated in the middle of the night. The Border Patrol called one man a “motherfucker” and shouted harshly, demanding they get up quickly; in custody, they were given water and crackers. They had been walking in the desert for between three and seven days. Several had been in the desert a week and drinking water from the cattle tanks; a 12-year-old girl had a fever of 99.9 degrees and had been vomiting. Others had stomachaches, fever and chills.

Four men and five women were repatriated in the middle of the night; after four days in the desert, they received only water and freeze-dried beef food packets and they arrived at the aid station with untreated blisters.

Three men, seven women, five teenagers and three children ages 3-12 were repatriated after dark. They were in custody for six hours, given no water or food, and had personal belongings thrown away and IDs and documents stolen. The processing center was very cold and Border Patrol agent Chavarria screamed at them when they did not understand his directions.

Thirty-five men and three women were repatriated in the middle of the night; after three days in the desert and one day in custody they had only received water once. Their belongings were not returned to them.

Seven men and five women were repatriated in the middle of the night.

Forty men and eight women were repatriated in the middle of the night after being held for 24 hours.

Forty-two men and two women were repatriated in the middle of the night after being held for 30 hours.

278. Nogales: 8/13/2006, 11:00 pm.
Seven men, five women and two young boys, were repatriated in the middle of the night. They had been detained at a hotel in Mesa by the police, who then passed them on to the border patrol.

279. Nogales: 8/13/2006, 11:00 pm.
Three men, five women, four young boys ranging from ages 11 to 17 years old, were repatriated in the middle of the night. They had been spent four days traveling in the desert, and three of the individuals reported having blisters.

280. Nogales: 8/13/2006, 2:00 am.
Two men and two 12-year-old girls were repatriated in the middle of the night.

Sixteen men and two women were repatriated in the middle of the night.

Two men, one woman and two boys, one who was six years old and another teenager, were repatriated in the middle of the night. They received no food while detained, just water.

Nine men and a young boy, age nine, were repatriated in the middle of the night.

284. Nogales: 8/17/2006, 2:00 am.
Seven men, one woman, and one minor, age 17, were repatriated in the middle of the night.

Four men and one woman were repatriated in the middle of the night.

286. Nogales: 8/19/2006, 2:00 am.
Eight men and one woman were repatriated in the middle of the night.

Fifteen men and one woman were repatriated in the middle of the night.

Eight men, two women, a 10-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl were repatriated in the middle of the night after having been in the desert for four days.

Four men and one woman were repatriated in the middle of the night.

290. Nogales: 8/11/08, 9:30 pm.
Twelve women and two children reported being repatriated at night.

291. Nogales: 8/10/06, 2 am.
Two women and a young boy were repatriated in the middle of the night.

292. Nogales: 8/11/06, 8:30 am.
Thirty-five men and sixteen women reported being yelled at and told to keep moving and not to fall behind while in custody.

293. Nogales: 7/25/06, 2:45 am.
Three women and three children, including a two-year-old were repatriated in the middle of the night. They reported that they were not given food while in detention. They also reported that their personal belongings, which were confiscated upon apprehension, were not returned to them upon repatriation.

294. Nogales: 7/25/06, 3 am.
Ten women were repatriated in the middle of the night. They were repatriated along with twenty-two men, one of which reported feeling nauseated upon arrival at the aid station.

295. Nogales: 7/27/06, 2 am.
Twenty-two men and one woman were repatriated in the middle of the night.

296. Nogales: 7/28/06, 1 am.
Eleven men and two women were repatriated late in the night.

297. Nogales: 7/30/06, 11:30 pm.
Two men, three women, one of whom was seven-months pregnant, and two children, a boy and girl ages five and seven were repatriated late at night. A woman reported living in Tucson for five years before being apprehended, along with her children, by the Border Patrol. Her husband was not notified of her apprehension. It was too late to be placed in a shelter when they arrived. One male reported suffering a broken arm. Another reported suffering a stomach infection.

298. Nogales: 7/31/06, 1:34 am.
Seven men and a woman were repatriated in the middle of the night.

299. Nogales: 8/1/06, 12:10 am.
Eleven men and two women were repatriated late in the night.

Four women and five children between the ages of six and twelve were repatriated late at night. They reported immediately being harassed upon getting off the Border Patrol transportation bus.

301. Nogales: 6/25/06, 10:00 pm.
A group of migrants, all women and children, were repatriated in the middle of the night. The group included seven women and seven children between the ages of six and ten. They reported being detained between 12 and 24 hours, and having received no food.

302. Nogales: 6/25/06, 10:00 pm.
A group of six men and two women were repatriated to the Nogales port of entry. They were not given food during their time in detention.

Four women and two small girls were repatriated to Nogales despite the increased danger for women and children alone at night. They were repatriated along with 44 other men. They reported that only some of the migrants were given food and water during detention.

304. Nogales: 6/26/06.
Fifteen women, three small children under the age of six and two infants were deported at night.

305. Nogales: 7/13/06, 4:30 am.
Four women were repatriated to Nogales in spite of the increased dangers to woman, children, and vulnerable populations at night.

306. Nogales: 7/14/06, 11:00 pm.
Eleven men and one minor, age 17, were repatriated to the port of entry in Nogales.

307. Agua Prieta: 7/24/06, 10:30 pm.
Juan and Susana were held eight hours without any food. They crossed at 1:30 pm, 7/24/06, and were caught immediately. The second agent with whom they had contact, spoke Spanish like from the Caribe region, though not well. Neither his badge nor his name were visible but he wore a uniform and was of African descent; he was rough with them; he was also at the processing center in Douglas. They were held from 2-10 pm without receiving any food at all, before being repatriated at 10:19 pm. The agent told a girl who was detained with Susana (in the same cell) to wake up, that she wasn't there to sleep.

308. Agua Prieta.
Three unaccompanied teens, Jesús, José, y Maria, ages 15 and 16, and two young girls (two or three years old) were returned at 12:50 am. All had been given water, but no food. The young girls were with their parents.

309. Agua Prieta.
Maria and Jesus were repatriated at 12:30 am, along with another woman traveling alone with her six-month-old baby. She had requested food and a blanket for the child from the Border Patrol; in spite of the fact that the child was visibly shivering, the agents did not respond.

22. – see Denial of Water 
133. – see Failure to Provide Medical Treatment 
237. – see Physical Abuse 
253. – see Dangerous Transportation Practices 
256. – see Separation of Family 
337. – see Failure to Return Belongings

Failure to Return Belongings 
310. 8/1/2006, 9:40 am.
Nicolas, age 32, from Mexico City, Mexico, reported being taunted by Border Patrol agents. The Border Patrol confiscated his bag and refused to return it. He was taken to Tucson before being deported and arrived at the aid station tired, with blisters on his feet.

311. Naco: 1/30/08, 10 am.
A male, age 20, reported that a Border Patrol agent took one
of his shoes and did not return it.

312. Naco: 2/19/08, 4 pm.
A male, age 37, reported that a Border Patrol agent took his birth certificate and ID and tore them up. No food or water was provided.

313. Naco: 4/29/08, 1:45 pm.
A male, age 27, reported that a Border Patrol agent grabbed the holy metal around his neck and acting like he was going to strangle him. The agent also took all of his possessions except the clothes the migrant was wearing and did not return them. He also was not proved with food or sufficient water.

314. 8/2/2006, 8:40 am.
Sergio reported that Border Patrol confiscated his cell phone and refused to return it.

Monica, age 18, reported having her Mexican identification papers confiscated by Border Patrol and never returned to her.

316. Nogales: 8/4/2006, 8:00 am.
Simón and Feliciano reported that Border Patrol agents confiscated their identification and their important phone numbers. They did not have other identification. The expressed feeling aches and pains.

317. 6/22/2006, 10 am.
Five men from Caborca, Sonora, Mexico, ranging in age from 17 to 27, reported having their personal items confiscated by Border Patrol and never returned to them. One man said, "They threw all our belongings into the trash and gave us back our empty bags." One man had $300 worth of his clothes thrown away. All five men were taken into custody after being dusted by a helicopter.

318. 8/22/2006, 3:30 am.
A man from East Los Angeles, California, reported being deported from the U.S. despite possessing legal papers and a driver's license. The man was vacationing in Phoenix. A friend asked him to give another friend a ride to Tucson from Phoenix. A Border Patrol agent pulled over the man. The man had papers and a license but the other man did not. The Border Patrol agent told him that transporting unauthorized people was a crime and took his papers and license. A drug dog tore up the car after smelling marijuana but there were no drugs in the car. The car was impounded and both men were apprehended. They were detained for 6 hours and only fed a few peanut butter crackers and then deported. The man had no way of getting back to the U.S. except "how everyone else does." He said a Border Patrol agent told him this entailed "finding a coyote."

A girl, age 14, reported being denied sufficient food and water and witnessed physical abuse by Border Patrol. The Border Patrol confiscated her backpack and left her without a coat to wear. She reported that Border Patrol gave her only water, juice and crackers while she was in custody for a long time. She saw Border Patrol agents hitting people in custody.

320. 7/15/2006.

Pedro, age 29, reported being denied food while in custody of Border Patrol for 24 hours. The Border Patrol agents threw away the food that he had with him in the desert. Pedro said his feet were in pain.

Pastor, age 41, reported that Border Patrol agents confiscated his Mexican identification documents, including his driver's license, without returning them. They also took his hat, glasses, clothing and tennis shoes and failed to return them.

Fifteen men, twenty women, and two children reported that some of them were given only water during processing, no food, and some given were given nothing. They had been walking for four days in the desert. The Border Patrol agents threw out their papers and IDs.

Thirty-six men and ten women were repatriated. They reported their belongings not being returned by Border Patrol.

Forty-five men reported being repatriated without Border Patrol returning their belongings.

Ten men and one woman, held for seven hours in a processing center, reported being repatriated without their belongings returned.

Thirty-nine men, ten women, and three children ages ten to 14, reported being held for 23 hours and then repatriated without their belongings.

Nine men were repatriated in the middle of the night after being detained for two days. They had been given hot faucet water with their food. They reported being treated roughly by Border Patrol with the handcuffs. Their ID's were also taken from them and not returned.

Forty men, 19 women and three children, ages five to 12, were repatriated. They had been kept at the processing center for 24 hours and given water and one sandwich. Two migrants complained of nausea. They were repatriated without their belongings.

Eighteen men reported being repatriated without their belongings. Some also had severe blisters on their feet.

Seventeen men and four women were repatriated after being held for 12 hours; some had severe blisters on their feet, and all reported belongings being confiscated that were not returned to them upon repatriation.

Twenty-three men and six women were repatriated and some had severe blisters on their feet, and all reported belongings being confiscated that were not returned to them upon re-
patriation.

Seven men were deported who had been living in the United States, after an ICE raid on a Quinceañera birthday party. Their cell phones were confiscated and not returned.

Nine men were repatriated and one man reported that he had been in a rollover. Several of the men had bad cuts. Their belongings were confiscated and not returned.

Thirty-six men and nine women were repatriated without their belongings, which had been confiscated by Border Patrol.

Fifty men reported at The Border Patrol took and threw out their identification documents.

Fifty men and 14 women reported being given only water after being in the desert for three days. They were held in custody 15 hours and their belongings were taken and not returned.

337. Nogales: 7/19/2006, 8:30 am.
Fifteen men, twelve women, and three children, ages one, four and 14, were repatriated after being kept for 24 hours in the processing center. Agents took away their identification documents and did not return them upon repatriation.

341. Nogales: 1/19/2008, 6 pm.
A group of twelve people--three women and nine men--reported being detained for five hours without receiving any food. One of the men was a minor, although he was repatriated as though he was an adult and not handed over to the Mexican Consulate. Additionally, the processing center was kept exceptionally cold.

A group of three men and nine women were repatriated after being in Border Patrol custody for 16 hours. The agents had thrown away their backpacks and yelled at them; when they told one man to get up and he didn't, a Border Patrol agent kicked him in the eye with his boot. Two women had untreated blisters and another was forced to sign a document in English that she did not understand. When she asked, the agents refused to tell her what she was signing.

A male, age 21, reported being denied water in spite of his repeated requests. He was also forced to sign papers he did not understand as they were not provided in Spanish, and his belongings were taken and not returned.

1. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
2. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
6. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
7. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
9. – see Failure to Respect Basic Dignity
107. – see Failure to Provide Medical Care
126. – see Failure to Provide Medical Care
130. – see Failure to Provide Medical Care
165. – see Processing Center Conditions
173. – see Verbal Abuse
219. – see Physical Abuse
221. – see Physical Abuse
222. – see Physical Abuse
225. – see Physical Abuse
236. – see Physical Abuse
273. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
274. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
293. – see Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations at Night
344. – see Failure to Inform Migrants of their Rights
345. – see Failure to Inform Migrants of their Rights
STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, Beth H. Eastman, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] in Tucson, Arizona; and,
2. That I am graduate student at the University of Arizona; and
3. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and
4. That as part of this work I volunteered at a reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and
5. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this reception center; and
7. That I have volunteered at this reception center from May 2007 through the present time, during the period of May through September I volunteered at the reception center four times per month and since October two to three times per month; and
8. That during this period I assisted hundreds of repatriated migrants; and
9. That during the course of providing assistance to these migrants I observed patterns of various human rights violations; and
10. That I observed repeated cases of migrants who were injured and/or critically ill without being provided any or adequate medical care while in detention in the United States; many of these injuries or illnesses that I observed were quite obvious and I was told by many migrants that they requested medical care and none was given; and
11. That I observed many repatriated migrants who got off the bus at the Port of Entry in a very unstable condition, for example, vomiting, having to be assisted in walking due to blisters, etc., having untreated lacerations, and pregnant women who were quite ill; and
12. That many migrants reported to me an insufficient amount of water was provided to them, especially during the summer months, while they were in detention and also it was provided to them in ways in which it was very difficult for them to drink; and
13. That many migrants reported to me that either they had been denied food or, if given food, it was inadequate for the amount of time they were in detention; and
14. That many migrants reported to me that they were separated from immediate family members by United States law enforcement officials and many said to me that they told the officials that they feared for their safety upon being repatriated alone and that they had no money or means of communication to reconnect with their family members which they felt the officials were indifferent to or did not care about; and
15. That many migrants reported to me that when apprehended in the desert and/or while in detention were physically and verbally abused in order to intimidate or humiliate them or coerce them into agreeing to sign immigration papers that they didn’t understand or weren’t explained to them; and
16. That the physical abuse reported to me consisted of such things as being struck with batons or flash lights as well as the use of excessive force in restraining and controlling migrants; and
16. That I observed many vulnerable individuals such as unaccompanied women and young people left at this remote Port of Entry by United States officials late at night when it is very difficult to safely get to places of shelter for the night.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

2/9/08
Beth H. Eastman

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 9th day of February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public: Christine R. Goff
My commission expires: 10-19-11
STATE OF ARIZONA
SS. AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHT VIOLATIONS
COUNTY OF PINAL .

1. Christopher C. Stenken, being first duly sworn, do depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] in Florence, Arizona; and that,

2. I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and

3. That I have been a volunteer and first-response medic at the reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona-Sonora; and

4. That the purpose of this center, known as the “Nogales Aid Station” is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and,

5. That medical assistance, food, water, and orientation are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this aid station; and

6. That in August of 2007 and September 2007 I volunteered full-time at the aid station, whereas I met buses of migrants, 24 hours a day 7 days a week; and

7. That during the course of providing humanitarian aid to these migrants I observed patterns of human rights violations; and

8. That I observed persons being repatriated and released from U.S. Government custody, whom could not walk without significant help from others, and whom received no medical attention in U.S. custody; and

9. That had infected blisters, open wounds, or otherwise serious injuries and received no medical attention in U.S. custody; and

10. That during the course of volunteering in the aid station, I observed persons who were repatriated without proper clothing or attire, such as shirts, pants, socks, or shoelaces; and

11. That cases were reported to me of migrants in U.S. custody not receiving adequate food or water; and

12. That women and minors were repatriated to Mexico alone at hours after 12.00 A.M.; and

13. That when I volunteered at the aid station numerous cases were reported to me of migrants whom received no explanation in their native language of their rights and legal options while in U.S. custody;
14. That numerous cases were reported to me of physical abuse by Border Patrol in the process of detaining migrants, such as being punched, kicked, beaten and thrown to the ground; and

15. That numerous cases were reported to me of physical abuse in detention facilities by U.S. staff; and

16. That cases were reported to me of many migrants being repatriated without personal belongings such as identification documents, money, and clothing that they had arrived in detention with.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

4/28/08
Christopher C. Stucken

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 28th day of April 2008 in Arizona.

Notary Public

My commission expires: 11-23-2011
STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF MARICOPA

I, Deborah Elise Bergman, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1) That I currently reside at [redacted], Phoenix, AZ; and,
2) That I am fluent in both English and Spanish; and,
3) That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and,
4) That during the period from July 1, 2007 through October 8, 2007, I volunteered full-time with the campaign; and,
5) That I spent approximately three weeks volunteering at the aid station in Agua Prieta, Mexico, and four days in the desert camp at Arivaca, and the rest of the four months volunteering at the aid station at the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales, Mexico; and,
6) That the purpose of the aid stations in Agua Prieta and Nogales, Mexico is to receive people who are repatriated by the U.S. Border Patrol; and,
7) That the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales, Mexico is open from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM each day; and,
8) That on a typical day in Nogales, I began volunteering around 7:30 AM, took a two hour break for lunch from around 12 PM to 2 PM and then volunteered again until 9:45 PM; and,
9) That on a typical day in Nogales, hundreds of migrants were repatriated; and,
10) That I am appalled by what I have seen and heard in the repatriation of migrants to Mexico; and,
11) That during the period when I provided humanitarian aid to repatriated migrants, I observed several steady patterns of human and civil rights abuses perpetrated by the U.S. Border Patrol; and,
12) That I consistently heard reports of violent and dangerous arrests where the Border Patrol beat, kicked, ran over, shot at, choked, and otherwise physically abused migrants during their arrest. I saw physical proof of these beatings in the broken and sprained bones, bruises, cuts, and sores that repatriated migrants suffered from; and,
13) That I heard reports from people who were beaten up once they were already handcuffed and reports from people who were beaten even though they were already visibly hurt and clearly posed no violent risk to the arresting Border Patrol agent; and,
14) That every time I worked at the aid station I met people with medical needs; and,
15) That every time I worked at the aid station, I saw people whose legs, arms, and stomachs were covered in cactus spikes and slivers that were painful to get out; and,
16) That every time I worked at the aid station, I treated people with blisters on their feet that were sometimes so big the entire bottom of their foot was an open, bleeding wound; and,

17) That several times I saw people repatriated to Mexico with deep, bleeding wounds and scabs on their bodies that I learned could be deadly if not treated right away; and,

18) That it was common to see people repatriated to Mexico who had severe and debilitating vomiting, diarrhea, and nausea as a result of dehydration, heat stroke, or the ingestion of contaminated cattle or stream water. I saw several people who could not speak or eat food because of severe throat infections; and,

19) That I saw several people repatriated to Mexico with broken or severely sprained bones, often a result of a violent arrest, who were repatriated without receiving medical attention. These people were sobbing and holding their arms or being carried across the line by someone because they could no longer walk. They were clearly, visibly hurt; and,

20) That I once saw an unaccompanied teenage girl repatriated whose legs would not support her. She had to be carried by two other migrants across the border and when she finally tried to stand up she collapsed and fell over; and,

21) That I routinely met people who had been denied medical attention while in the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol. This includes people who were visibly hurt, like the girl mentioned above, and people who clearly and repeatedly asked to see a doctor or be taken to the hospital and were denied; and,

22) That I once met a family from a Mexican state that borders Texas. The man was severely burned and had large blisters on his feet. He reported that he asked to see a doctor and the Border Patrol agent told him that he would make a deal with him; that he would receive medical attention if he would agree to take a repatriation flight to Mexico City, which is very far from the U.S./Mexico border where this man was from. He said no and was denied medical care; and,

23) That in all of the cases in which I provided first aid to a repatriated person, I never met anyone who had received proper medical attention while in Border Patrol custody; and,

24) That it was common to call a Mexican ambulance to the port of entry because someone was so severely injured they needed to go to the hospital; and,

25) That every time I worked at the aid station I met people who had been separated from their family or travel companions by the Border Patrol. This often included young girls or boys separated from their parents or guardians, young adults and teenagers separated from their husbands or wives, and women with young children who were separated from their father. This also often meant that people were repatriated to Mexico with no money and no contact information for anyone in their family because the other member of their party was responsible for carrying it and they were still detained or had been deported to a different place at a different time; and,

26) That it was common to see unaccompanied minors or women repatriated at night by themselves; and,
27) That I often heard reports of unsafe transportation from the site of arrest to the Border Patrol stations and from the Border Patrol stations to the border where they were repatriated. People often complained that it was either freezing in the back of the van or boiling hot to the point where people complained of being burned by the seats; and,

28) That every time I worked at the aid station, I heard reports of people being handcuffed for long, extended periods of time and of people who reported that the handcuffs were on too tight and cut off the circulation to their hands and arms. It was common to hear reports that people had complained about the handcuffs to the Border Patrol, who did nothing. I often met minors who had been handcuffed; and,

29) That every time I worked at the aid station, I heard reports of people not being given enough water to drink during detention. I often heard reports of many people having to share water from one jug with no cups provided. I often heard reports that the only water came out of a sink that was attached to a toilet and most people believed that this water was contaminated. I often heard reports that, even upon request, migrants were denied more water than they had already been given, or denied water altogether. Most people reported not having drunk much water for one, two, or even three days before their arrest and being very thirsty at the time of their arrest; and,

30) That every time I worked at the aid station, I heard reports of people not being given enough food to eat during detention. Most people reported being given only a small packet of crackers once or twice a day. Sometimes people reported being given a blue bag of beans that was so disgusting many threw it away even though they were famished. Most people reported not having eaten for two or three days before their arrest and being very hungry at the time of their arrest. I often heard reports that people were denied more food if they asked for it. Many people with this complaint told me that the Border Patrol often laughed at them when they requested more food and said things like, “you are not in a restaurant and we do not have to feed you;” and,

31) That in all the time I volunteered at the aid station, I never met anyone who told me they received sufficient food while in Border Patrol custody; and,

32) That every time I worked at the aid station, I heard reports that the holding cells where people were held were crowded, filthy, and freezing. All of the migrants I spoke with were confused about the length of their detention because the holding cells had no or very small windows and the lights were on constantly. Many of the migrants I spoke with complained that they had trouble sleeping because they had to sleep on the cold ground and Border Patrol agents came into the room to call someone out for questioning or to have their fingerprints taken at all hours of the day. About half of the migrants I spoke with reported that they received a blanket while in Border Patrol custody. About seventy-five percent of these people reported that the blanket was filthy; and,

33) That most of the migrants I spoke with signed papers that they did not understand while in the custody of the Border Patrol. Most of these migrants reported that the Border Patrol did not translate the papers that were in
English so that the migrants could understand what they were signing. None of the migrants I met who spoke languages other than Spanish were questioned in their native language. Every person I met told me that they signed the papers either because they were terrified of the Border Patrol agent, because the Border Patrol agent threatened them, or because they did not feel they could refuse. It was common to hear reports that Border Patrol agents threatened migrants that if they did not sign the paper, that the agent himself would see that they were imprisoned for years; and,

34) That I often met people who the Border Patrol had subjected to extremely coercive interrogations regarding their name, their nationality, their age, or the documents they were carrying. Many people complained that they had been grabbed, choked, sworn at, and threatened until they admitted what the Border Patrol wanted to hear. They reported being threatened with years of jail time if they lied to the Border Patrol agent; and,

35) That every time I worked at the aid station, I heard reports that migrants were not provided with a clear explanation of their rights. I never met anyone who was fully advised of his/her right to go before a judge and apply for legal relief from deportation, such as asylum, U and T visas, cancellation of removal, SJIS, etc. People often told me that the Border Patrol told them that they did not have a case to fight and they would spend years in jail before being deported if they checked the box that said they wanted to go before an immigration judge; and,

36) That I often met people who reported that the boxes on the forms they signed were already checked for them before they even looked at the paper; and,

37) That every time I worked at the aid station, I heard reports of mean, rude, and angry Border Patrol agents who beat, laugh at, humiliate, and threaten migrants in their custody; and,

38) That every time I worked at the aid station, I met people whose belongings had been confiscated by the Border Patrol and never returned. This list includes clothes, backpacks, and food, money, phone numbers, identification, and cherished possessions like journals and photographs; and,

39) That I met numerous people who reported that their original and valid legal documents had been confiscated by the Border Patrol because they did not believe they were valid; and,

40) That I met three legal permanent residents who were repatriated to Mexico while I was volunteering. All three of these people had been denied the opportunity to make a phone call or retrieve their identification from their houses at the time of their arrest. Two of them were standing right outside of their front door and were not allowed to open the door to retrieve their identification. They had all been denied phone calls while they were detained and all three had been coerced and intimidated into signing the repatriation forms despite repeated and clear assertions that they were legal permanent residents in good standing with immigration. One of these people was a woman who was 8 ½ months pregnant and who arrived at the port by herself at night with her work uniform still on.
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

4/29/08
Date

Deborah E. Bergman

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO, and acknowledged before me this 29th day of April, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Notary Public: [Signature]

My commission expires: Dec 5, 2011
STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, Ian D. Eastman, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] Tucson, Arizona; and,
2. That I am a solar energy technician; and
3. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and
4. That as part of this work I volunteered at a reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and
5. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this reception center; and
7. That I volunteered at this reception center during the August 2007 through February 2008 period; and
8. That during this period I assisted many repatriated migrants; and
9. That during the course of providing assistance to these migrants I observed patterns of various physical and psychological abuses; and
10. That I observed repeated cases of migrants who were injured without having been provided adequate medical care in the United States; and

11. That many migrants reported to me that they had been deprived of water while in detention in the United States and required re-hydration fluids after spending several days walking in the desert; and
12. That many migrants reported to me that they had been denied food while in detention in the United States after spending several days walking in the desert; and
13. That many migrants reported to me that they had been separated from immediate family members by United States law enforcement officials; and
14. From what I observed and have been told by migrants I have assisted, I feel there is a lack of compassion and concern about the welfare of migrants who have been in the custody of the United States Border Patrol.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

2/9/08

Date

Ian D. Eastman

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 9th day of February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public: [Redacted]
STATE OF ARIZONA

ss: AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, James G. Walsh, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at: [Redacted] Tucson, Arizona; and
2. That I am a Social Worker and a certified Wilderness First Responder; and
3. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and
4. That as part of this work I volunteer at the reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and
5. That the purpose of the reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at these reception centers; and
7. That I have volunteered between eight and twenty hours weekly at the reception center in Nogales, Mexico, since July 2006; and
8. That during this period I have assisted thousands of repatriated migrants and have observed patterns of various human rights violations; and
9. That I have observed repeated cases of migrants who were repatriated injured and/or ill without having been provided any medical care while in detention in the United States, including several who required emergency transportation to a hospital upon their return; and
10. That I have treated hundreds of injuries, including sprained ankles and knees, injured arms, wrists, hands, lacerations, severely blistered feet, sunburns, and dehydration among returned migrants who had received no medical care of any kind while in US custody; and
11. That individuals have reported to me that their prescription medications had been taken from them while in custody and not returned, including medications for diabetes and hypertension and other chronic conditions, placing their health at risk; and
12. That I have met pregnant women at the Mariposa port who have reported being denied food or medical care while in custody; and
13. That hundreds of migrants have reported to me that they have been denied water and/or re-hydration fluids after spending several days walking in the desert; and
14. That many migrants have reported to me that while in custody a large number of people were forced to share a single bottle of water; and
15. That many migrants reported to me that either they had been denied food while in custody or, if given food, it was one small package of crackers three times a day; and
16. That many individuals reported to me that they had been repatriated without any of their belongings, which had been taken from them when they were taken into custody; and
17. That hundreds of migrants reported to me that they were verbally abused by United States Border Patrol agents when apprehended in the desert.
and while in custody, including name calling, insults, obscenities, and threats; and
18. That many migrants have reported to me that they were physically abused while in custody, including being pushed, hit, kicked, tripped, and threatened with violence by US agents; and
19. That migrants have reported being forced to kneel in gravel with their hands on their heads for long periods while in custody; and
20. That I have met individuals with black eyes, bruises, lacerations that they reported were inflicted by US law enforcement officials; and
21. That many migrants reported to me that, while in custody, they were separated from immediate family members by United States law enforcement officials and deported separately without any way of contacting their family members; and
22. That at the Port of Entry I observed many unaccompanied women and children being deported late at night, when no services are available and when conditions can be very dangerous for unaccompanied females; and
23. That individuals have reported to me that the conditions they experienced in custody were extremely uncomfortable, usually too cold; and
24. That many migrants reported to me that they were not allowed to change out of wet clothes and were forced to endure extremely uncomfortable conditions while in custody; and
25. That individuals reported to me that they were provided with only inadequate and/or dirty blankets while in custody; and
26. That I have seen a rash on the legs of a small boy whose mother told me was caused by dirty blankets they were given while in US custody.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Feb. 12, 2008

Date

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 12th day of February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public: 

My commission expires: 11/28/2009

SEBASTIAN S. CHAVEZ
NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA
My Commission Expires: NOVEMBER 28, 2009
STATE OF ARIZONA

ss: AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING
COUNTY OF PIMA

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

I, James D. Wells, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [Redacted] in Tucson, Arizona; and,
2. That I am a substitute teacher; and
3. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and
4. That as part of this work I volunteer at the reception centers at
the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona, and at the
Port of Entry at Douglas, Arizona; and
5. That the purpose of these reception centers is to receive migrants who are
reapatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants
by volunteers at these reception centers; and
7. That I have volunteered at the reception center in Agua Prieta, Mexico,
since June 2006. and at the center in Nogales, Mexico, since August 2006;
and
8. That during this period I have assisted thousands of reapatriated migrants
and have observed patterns of various human rights violations; and
9. That I have observed repeated cases of migrants who were were injured
and/or ill without being provided any or adequate medical care while in
detention in the United States; and
10. That hundreds of migrants have reported to me that they have been
deprived of water and/or required re-hydration fluids after spending
several days walking in the desert; and
11. That many migrants have told me that U.S. Border Patrol agents would
drink water and other liquids in front of them taunting them with it but
not offering them a drink apparently knowing they were dehydrated; and
12. That many migrants reported to me that either they had been denied food
or, if given food, it was one small package of crackers even if they had
been in detention for eight to 24 hours; and
13. That many migrants reported to me that they were separated from
immediate family members by United States law enforcement officials and
many said to me that they told the officials that they feared for their safety
upon being reapatriated alone and that they had no money or means of
communication to reconnect with their family members which they felt
the officials were indifferent to or did not care about; and
14. That hundreds of migrants reported to me about being physically and
verbally abused by United States Border Patrol agents when apprehended
in the desert and during detention; and
15. That at both Ports of Entry I observed many unaccompanied women and
children being left there late at night.
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Date

2/11/08

James B. Wells

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 11th day of
February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public: Rhonda M. Lewman My commission expires: 5/31/2010
STATE OF ARIZONA

ss: AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING
COUNTY OF PIMA

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

I, Joan O. Cooney, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] in Tucson, Arizona; and,
2. That I am retired attorney and retired New York state judge; and
3. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and
4. That as part of this work I volunteered at a reception center at
   the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and
5. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are
   repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants
   by volunteers at this reception center; and
7. That I have volunteered at this reception center from November 2006
   through October 2007 on a weekly basis; and
8. That during this period I assisted thousands of repatriated migrants; and
9. That during the course of providing assistance to these migrants I
   observed patterns of various human rights violations; and
10. That I observed repeated cases of migrants who were were injured
    and/or ill without being provided adequate medical care while in
    detention in the United States; for example, on November 25, 2006, I
    observed an 11 year old boy who was repatriated who had such severe
    blisters that he could not walk and appeared to be in slight shock; and
11. That many migrants reported to me an insufficient amount of water was
    provided to them, especially during the summer months, while they were
    in detention, and I was repeatedly told that water was provided in a
    single, large, dirty bucket with one ladle placed in the middle of a large
    detention room; and
12. That many migrants reported to me that either they had been denied food
    or, if given food, it was one small package of crackers even if they had
    been in detention for eight to 24 hours; and
13. That many migrants reported to me that they were separated from
    immediate family members by United States law enforcement officials and
    many told me that they told the officials that they feared for their safety
    upon being repatriated alone and that they had no money or means of
    communication to reconnect with their family members which they felt
    the officials were indifferent to or did not care about; and
14. That I observed many vulnerable individuals such as unaccompanied
    women and young people left at this remote Port of Entry by United
    States officials late at night when it is very difficult to safely get
    to places of shelter for the night.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Date: 2/9/08

Joan O. Cooney

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 9th day of
February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public: [Redacted]

My commission expires: 10-14-1
STATE OF ARIZONA

ss: AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING

COUNTY OF PIMA

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

I, Joseph Shortall, being first duly sworn, deposite and say:

1. That I reside at: [redacted] Lakewood, CA; and
2. That I am a recent university graduate and certified in Adult CPR/AED
   and Standard First Aid by the American Red Cross; and
3. That I was a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and
4. That as part of this work I volunteered providing food, water and
   medical assistance to migrants in the Arizona desert and at the reception
   center at the Port of Entry at Agua Prieta, Mexico; and
5. That the purpose of No More Deaths' work in the desert and at the
   reception center is to reduce human death and suffering and to receive
   migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants
   by volunteers at these reception centers; and
7. That I had volunteered between forty and sixty hours weekly at the
   reception center in Agua Prieta, Mexico, from October 6-20, 2007; and
8. That during this period I had assisted hundreds of repatriated migrants
   and had observed patterns of various human rights violations; and
9. That I had observed repeated cases of migrants who were repatriated
   injured and/or ill without having been provided any medical care while in
   detention in the United States, including several who required emergency
   medical care upon their return; and
10. That I have witnessed and/or treated dozens of injuries, including
    sprained ankles, injured arms and hands, lacerations, severely blistered
    feet, sunburns, and dehydration among returned migrants who had
    received no medical care of any kind while in U.S. custody; and
11. That scores of migrants have reported to me that they have been denied
    water and/or re-hydration fluids after spending several days walking in
    the desert; and
12. That many migrants reported to me that either they had been denied food
    while in custody or, if given food, it was in amounts insufficient to
    nourish; and
13. That some individuals reported to me that they had been repatriated
    without any of their belongings, which had been taken from them when
    they were taken into custody; and
14. That many migrants reported to me that they were verbally abused by
    United States Border Patrol agents when apprehended in the desert and
    while in custody, including name calling, insults, obscenities, and threats;
    and
15. That many migrants have reported to me that they were threatened with
    violence by US agents; and
16. That a number of migrants reported to me that, while in custody, they
    were separated from immediate family members by United States law
enforcement officials and deported separately without any way of contacting their family members; and
17. That individuals have reported to me that the conditions they experienced in custody were extremely uncomfortable, usually too cold; and
18. That at the Agua Prieta Port of Entry I observed many unaccompanied women and children being deported late at night, when no services are available and when conditions can be very dangerous for unaccompanied women and children.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Feb 26, 2008
Date

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 26th day of February, 2008 at Lakewood, California.

Notary Public: Timi Branson My commission expires: 12/31/10

TIMI BRANSON
Commission #1704015
Notary Public - California
Los Angeles County
My Comm. Expires Dec 2, 2010
STATE OF ARIZONA

ss:

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, Kathryn Babcock, being first duly sworn depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] Green Valley, Arizona 85614; and
2. That I am a retired communications executive and
3. That I am a three year volunteer with the No More Deaths Campaign and Green Valley Samaritans; and
4. That as part of this work I have volunteered at a reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and
5. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by US officials to Mexico; and
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this reception center; and
7. That I have volunteered at this reception center during the period of August of 2006 through February 2008; and
8. That during this time I assisted thousands of repatriated migrants; and,
9. That during the course of providing assistance to these migrants I observed patterns of various human rights violations; and,
10. That I observed repeated cases of migrants who were either critically ill and/or who were in such abysmal condition they were barely able to walk with assistance from the bus to the reception center; and
11. That I received hundreds of migrants who, after walking for several days in the desert, reported having been deprived of adequate water for rehydration; and,
12. That I received hundreds of migrants who after walking in the desert for days reported having been denied food; and
13. That I received dozens of migrants from ages 5 to 50 who had been separated from husbands/wives or other family members and had no knowledge of their whereabouts, and whose only option to locate family members was to wait at the Port for hours or days.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

[Signature]

Date 2/12/08

Kathryn Babcock

SUBSCRIBE AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 12th day of February, 2008, at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public: [Signature]

My commission expires: 6/12/11

ROBERT L. HALL
NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA
PIIMA COUNTY
STATE OF ARIZONA

ss:

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, Mary Margaret Cowan, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] in Tucson, Arizona; and,
2. That I am a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of Arizona; and,
3. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and,
4. That as part of this work I volunteered at a reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and,
5. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and,
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this reception center; and,
7. That I volunteered at this reception center during the June 2006 through February 2008 period; and,
8. That during this period I assisted hundreds of repatriated migrants; and,
9. That during the course of providing assistance to these migrants I observed patterns of various human rights violations; and,
10. That I observed repeated cases of migrants who were either critically ill and/or injured who were repatriated without having been provided adequate medical care in the United States; and,
11. That I received hundreds of migrants who reported having been deprived of water and/or required re-hydration fluids after spending several days walking in the desert; and,
12. That I received hundreds of migrants who reported having been denied food after spending several days walking in the desert; and,
13. That I received hundreds of migrants who reported being separated from immediate family members by United States law enforcement officials.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

2/9/08

Mary Margaret Cowan

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 7th day of February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public:

My commission expires: 10-17-11
STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF PIMA

AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

I, Maryada E. Vallet, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] in Tucson, Arizona; and,
2. That at this residence I am a soup-kitchen volunteer of the Casa Maria Catholic Worker; and,
3. That I am an Emergency Medical Technician certified in the National Registry and a certified Wilderness First Responder; and,
4. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths campaign; and,
5. That I have been a volunteer, coordinator, and medic at the reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona-Sonora; and,
6. That the purpose of this reception center, known as the “Nogales Aid Station” is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and,
7. That medical assistance, food, water, and orientation are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this aid station; and,
8. That from June 2006 to August 2006 I lived and volunteered full-time at the aid station meeting and coordinating shifts to meet busses of migrants 24 hours/day and 7 days/week; and,
9. That I am shocked by what I have encountered in the reception of migrants; and,
10. That during the course of providing humanitarian assistance to these migrants I observed patterns of numerous human rights violations; and,
11. That this shock first included witnessing women and children repatriated at all hours of the night to the De Concini Port of Entry; and,
12. That I continue to volunteer regularly at the aid station at Mariposa from August 2006 through the present period with regular weekly shifts; and,
13. That during this period I have assisted tens of thousands of repatriated migrants; and,
14. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of minors, young children, infants and pregnant women given no extra care or medical attention while in U.S. custody; and,
15. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of the lack of sufficient and appropriate food provided for migrants in U.S. custody, even refusal to provide more food upon request, averaging one packet of crackers for every 8 hours in custody; and,
16. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of the lack of sufficient water provided for migrants in U.S. custody, even refusal to provide more water upon request, with repeated cases of one gallon of water shared among a dozen or more migrants with no access to cups or refills; and,
17. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of migrants who have not had their personal belongings returned to them, including: identification, important paperwork, medication, jackets, unopened bottles of water and food, backpacks; and,
18. That every time I work at the aid station I observe cases of migrants who have been repatriated out of U.S. custody without belts to hold up pants, without shoelaces in order to walk, even without basic clothing; and,

19. That repatriation in this regard, including my own witnessing of those returned in hospital gowns, is unacceptable and an intended degradation of human dignity; and,

20. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of migrants who have been transported and detained in unsafe and unhealthy conditions; and,

21. That these conditions in U.S. custody include transportation from place of arrest to buses, from buses to processing centers, from processing centers to ports of entry; and,

22. That repeated cases have been reported to me of reckless, over-full, and unsafe transportation leading to the following: to the miscarriage of a pregnant woman, to the breaking of bones, large contusions, to cerebral concussions; and,

23. That I have heard repeated cases of processing centers with unhealthy conditions, including being kept too cold with all available blankets extremely dirty and used, over-filled, and with no access to gender-specific bathrooms with soap; and,

24. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of family members and relatives separated in U.S. custody and repatriated at different times and to different ports of entry, including minors separated from immediate relatives; and,

25. That every time I work at the aid station I observe numerous cases of migrants returned with medical need; and,

26. That in all of these cases in which I have had to provide medical care at the port of entry to repatriated persons, I have never had a case reported to me of migrants receiving medical attention while in U.S. custody, even repeated refusals to provide care upon request; and,

27. That if migrants did receive care in a clinical or hospital setting prior to being transferred to U.S. custody for repatriation, I have never had a case reported to me of these patients being repatriated with prescriptions filled and with written acknowledgement from the physician that this patient would not be receiving prescribed follow-up care; and,

28. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of verbal abuse by U.S. officials directed toward migrants while in U.S. custody, including: threats, cursing and foul language in Spanish and English, repeated cases of migrants being told that they are “animals” and “have no rights”; and,

29. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me of physical abuse by U.S. officials directed toward migrants while in U.S. custody, including: repeated cases of migrants hit in the head, shoulders and back with batons and fists as well as repeated cases of being kicked, stepped on while laying prostrate, and pushed; and,

30. That this physical abuse reported to me includes repeated cases of male U.S. officials touching and violating migrant women in unwarranted “searches;” and,

31. That I have witnessed numerous cases of migrants who report being beaten by U.S. officials and who are then needing care at the aid station while still wincing and crying from the very recent abuse as well as hurled over in pain so as to protect the bruised or broken flesh and bones from being further aggravated; and,

32. That every time I work at the aid station numerous cases are reported to me by migrants who admit to signing official documents of which are neither translated into their language, of which they have no understanding, nor duplication for their personal possession; and,
33. That every time I work at the aid station many cases are reported to me by migrants who receive no explanation in U.S. custody of their rights and options, including the ability to go before a judge and file a claim for asylum; and,

34. That the culmination of all of these violations is sometimes irreversible physical and emotional damage and sometimes death; and,

35. That during the summer months, an ambulance in Mexico has had to report daily to the aid station and take migrants the hospital in Nogales, Sonora-Mx, who need serious attention immediately after release from U.S. custody; and,

36. That many cases have been reported to me from officials in Sonora in which migrants who end up in a Mexican hospital after release from U.S. custody have had to undergo amputations from severely infected blisters/wounds or untreated diabetic symptoms; and,

37. That other migrants evacuated to Mexican hospitals in deteriorating physical condition, untreated while in U.S. custody, have even died.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

3-10-08
Date
Maryada E. Vailet

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 10th day of March, 2008 in Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public: M. Carrizosa
STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, Dr. Norma Price, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [REDACTED], Tucson, Arizona; and,
2. That I am a licensed and practicing physician; and,
3. That I volunteer with the Samaritans organization; and,
4. That as part of this work I provide medical assistance to migrants in the Arizona desert; and,
5. That on April 16, 2007 I stopped at a bus owned and operated by the U.S. subcontractor Wackenhut Company; and
6. That I encountered this bus at milepost 16 on Arizona State Route 88; and,
7. That I observed several U.S. Border Patrol agents transferring numerous migrants to the custody of Wackenhut officials; and,
8. That both the U.S. Border Patrol agents and the Wackenhut officials refused to allow me to provide medical assistance and/or to provide food and/or water to these migrants; and,
9. That I observed one young woman who appeared to be seven (7) to eight (8) months pregnant in the group of migrants; and,
10. That the U.S. Border Patrol agents would not permit me to examine this young pregnant migrant; and,
11. That the U.S. Border Patrol agents would not permit me to talk to this young pregnant migrant; and,
12. That based on my training and experience, I know that anyone who is pregnant is at additional risk for dehydration and related illnesses; and,
13. That based on my training and experience, this young migrant should have had her blood pressure monitored, her blood glucose, electrolytes and a urinalysis examination conducted; and,
14. That the U.S. Border Patrol agents would not permit me to attend to this young woman even after I identified myself as a physician; and,
15. That as part of my work I also volunteer at a reception center at the Port of Entry known as "Mariposa" at Nogales, Arizona; and,
16. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and,
17. That in July of 2007 I received a repatriated family consisting of a mother and two daughters ages twelve (12) and sixteen (16) years; and,
18. That I checked the eye of the twelve-year old and the girl reported she had been scratched by a cactus thorn and I observed her eye to be red, watery and extremely light-sensitive; and,
19. That this 12-year old girl had been in the custody of U.S. officials for more than twelve hours and she was repatriated without any medical care and/or treatment having been provided; and,
20. That I had occasion to interview the 16-year old daughter and she reported that a U.S. Border Patrol agent told her line up and put her hands behind her back and when she did as she was told but continued to hold her water bottle the U.S. Border Patrol agent pulled her hair, jerked her arm behind
her and shoved her over into a line and declared "now do you see how to put your hands behind you?"; and,
21. That the mother of these two girls was outraged by the fact that her 12-year-old daughter did not receive any medical care or treatment; and,
22. That I received hundreds of migrants who reported having been deprived of food and/or water during the time they were in the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol and who were repatriated without adequate food and/or water.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

2/11/08

Date

Dr. Norma Price

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this ______________ day of February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public:

My commission expires: 1-27-2010

LUCAS WESLEY STIDHAM
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ARIZONA
PIMA COUNTY
State of New Mexico

Affidavit documenting human rights violations

ss

Dona Ana County

I, Sally Meisenhelder, being first duly sworn, depose and say;

1. That I reside at [redacted], Las Cruces, NM 88011; and

2. That I am a registered nurse; and

3. That I have volunteered with No More Deaths at a reception center at the port of entry know as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Sonora since March, 2007; and

4. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U.S. officials to Mexico; and

5. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this reception center; and

6. That I volunteer at least three days a month, each month since March, 2007; and

7. That on each occasion, untold numbers of migrants have been held in detention for at least 20 hours without being given a meal; and

8. That the only food provided for most is a package of crackers; and

9. That these migrants are provided with several gallons of water per cell to share among up to 100 people; and

10. That cups are not provided for drinking, instead, those in detention must drink from the same bottle; and

11. That in a routine manner, migrants are verbally abused and called names including “pendejo”, “puta”, “chingado” and including curse words in English; and

12. That every day I have been at the port, I have met someone who was physically abused by border patrol sometimes in a sadistic manner; and

13. I personally documented one incident in which a group was being transported in the back of a vehicle with the air conditioning turned up all the way. When people asked to have it turned off, as it was cold, the heat was turned all the way up and people being transported feared for their life, they begged the two agents to turn
off the heat but were ignored. They used their clothing in an attempt to block the vent, being in fear of suffocating, while the agents laughed; and

14. The injuries that I personally have seen have been, fractures of feet after being run over by vehicles, pulmonary contusions caused by beating to the chest wall, lacerations caused by being pushed down on the ground, bruises and sprains and strains of joints after falling while in custody; and

15. That I have personally been told by many migrants that racist comments were made about the migrants in detention when the officers believed that none of those detained understood English; and

16. That on March 23, 2008, I documented a complaint by 26 men, all being from the state of Chiapas, all in possession of Mexican identity cards who were, after being detained and having their possessions searched, were charged by two officers on horses causing one of the men to fall and sustain a deep laceration on his lip; and

17. That this laceration was never treated while the man was in custody; and

18. That these same 26 men were held for three days and three nights in the detention center in Nogales without ever receiving food and arrived in a weakened condition; and

19. That in the course of interviews with returned migrants, not one has told me that their legal rights have been explained to them; and

20. That all of them have signed documents before being returned, these documents being in English when very few of them speak or read English; and

21. That these documents were not explained to them nor did any of them receive of copy of what they had signed; and

22. That many times they are told if they do not sign they will be sent to jail for various periods of time; and

23. That recognizing that the U.S. policies of forcing people into more remote and dangerous routes have led to increasing criminal participation in human smuggling and increased danger to officers; and

24. That on April 15, 2008, an adult Zapotec Indian from Oaxaca who spoke minimal Spanish was separated from his father, who was severely dehydrated and near death and that the agents in control of this person refused to tell him where his father was taken, leading to much unnecessary psychological distress and;

25. That the great majority of those crossing are forced to do so by economic circumstances beyond their control and are not criminals; that
26. There appears to be a systemic brutality to the process of arresting and detaining those who are not criminals that is unnecessary and cruel.

Further Affiant Sayeth Not

\[ \text{9/8/08} \quad \text{Sally Mounde} \_

\text{Name}

\text{Suscribed and Sworn to and acknowledged before me this 8\textsuperscript{th} day of September 7, 2008 at Dona Ana County, New Mexico.}

\text{Notary Public: Christopher \_} \quad \text{My commision expires: 3/8/2011}
STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, Sarah M. Roberts, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] Tucson, Arizona, 85745; and,
2. That I am a Registered Nurse; and,
3. That I am a volunteer with the No More Deaths Campaign and Tucson Samaritans organization; and,
4. That as part of this work I volunteer at a reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and,
5. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U. S. officials to Mexico; and,
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this reception center; and,
7. That I volunteered at this reception center during the period of June 2006 through February 2008; and,
8. That on Nov. 21, 2007 at 8:30 pm a woman from Guanajuato arrived at the center walking with the aid of 2 other people, one on each side of her. She had a severely swollen left ankle (severely sprained or possibly fractured) on which she could barely bear weight. No medically trained person examined her while in custody; she was only offered an ice pack and a baby wipe by the BP officer. She was not offered medical attention at a hospital or clinic although she asked for this; and
9. That on Wed., Oct. 31, at 8:00 pm, a man arrived at the port who had been in custody from 9 am to 6:30 pm with a pounding headache and feeling poorly. The man had a history of hypertension (high blood pressure) and the BP took away his blood pressure medication (enalapril) and did not return them at all. His blood pressure was elevated to 168/110 upon arrival at the first aid station; the BP had not offered him medical attention, although he had requested this and he was certainly at risk for having a stroke with a sustained high blood pressure; and
10. That in late September, 2007 around 9pm, 2 men got off the ICE bus and arrived at the first aid station severely dehydrated and throwing up. One was throwing up blood. Neither received medical attention while in custody. Volunteers called an ambulance for them; and
11. That I have received reports on each occasion volunteering at the port of lack of food while in custody. Most people held in custody report only being offered a package of crackers and water. On only one occasion in 1 ½ years of volunteering, 3 individuals reported being given Burger King hamburgers. On one occasion a group of returned migrants reported verbal abuse when they asked for food. The BP agent said, “We’ll go out and catch a dog and cook it for you!”; and
12. That on Feb. 4, 2008, I spoke with a pregnant woman (8 months pregnant) and her 6 year old son who were held in detention for over 12 hours and received...
only a package of crackers and a juice box for the boy. The holding cell was very
cold and in order to sleep, the boy had to cover himself with the filthy blankets that
were provided. He presented with an itchy rash all over his legs, belly, back, and
abdomen that looked like scabies. The beds in the cells are made of concrete
without mattresses. The woman reported being hit and pushed by an agent, causing
her to double over and to have pain in her left flank and abdomen; and
13. That Feb. 9, 2008, I spoke with a woman 8 months pregnant who was held
in custody for 3 days and given only crackers (and only at night) and water. She
was experiencing abdominal pain while at the detention facility and was offered no
medical evaluation; and
14. That I have received many reports of verbal abuse by Immigration agents.
Two men reported their group was awakened by BP agents while sleeping in the
desert. When they started to run, the BP agents yelled “You guys come here to f____
us, so we are going the f____ with you!”; and
15. That while on Wackenhut busses, people are regularly made to take off
their jackets, in fact are not allowed to wear them and the busses are very cold.
People are held for many hours on the cold busses, without food or water, while
waiting for the busses to fill up. I have heard regular reports that Wackenhut staff
also verbally abuse migrants, including making racist comments; and
16. That BP agents in Douglas, Feb. 2006, kicked a male in the back of the
head after he asked for food for a child while in custody and when a woman asked
for food for her child, the agent tried to kick her, missing her only because another
migrant in custody parried the kick away with his arm. The blow was strong
enough to break the man’s watch; and
17. That in most instances, repatriated people at the aid station state that while
they were given some water while in custody, large groups (from 8 to 25 persons)
had to drink out of the same gallon container, thus exposing them all to illness; and
18. That I have spoken with hundreds of migrants who were separated from
their family members and repatriated at different times, including many women
and children being repatriated late at night or in the early hours of the morning (3
am) with nowhere to go and no information, in an unfamiliar and unsafe
environment; and
19. That I have witnessed hundreds of migrants being repatriated with
severely blistered feet, having received no medical attention while in custody; and
20. That I have witnessed scores of migrants being repatriated suffering with
symptoms of serious upper respiratory illness (cough, high fever), having received
no medical attention while in custody; and
21. That I have witnessed several migrants with a history of diabetes
repatriated with severely elevated blood sugars (400+), having received no medical
attention while in custody.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.
3-31-08

Date

Jared M. Roberts

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 25th day of
February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

March

Notary Public: Jennifer Dreisbach

My commission expires: Dec 14, 2010

JENNIFER DREISBACH
NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA
PIMA COUNTY
My Commission Expires
December 14, 2010
STATE OF ARIZONA

SS: AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

COUNTY OF PIMA

I, Shura Wallin, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] Green, Valley, Arizona; and,
2. That I am a retired teacher; and,
3. That I am a volunteer with the Green Valley Samaritans organization; and,
4. That as part of this work I volunteer at a reception center at the Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and,
5. That the purpose of this reception center is to receive migrants who are repatriated by U. S. officials to Mexico; and,
6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by volunteers at this reception center; and,
7. That I volunteered at this reception center during the June 2006 through February 2008; and,
8. That on December 7, 2006 I was volunteering at the reception center and had occasion to assist a 42-year old man named Ramon who reported falling down an incline in the desert and severely injuring his left hand; and,
9. That Ramon was repatriated by U. S. officials without any medical care; and,
10. That when I encountered Ramon his hand was swollen and he was in excruciating pain; and,
11. That I transported Ramon to a medical doctor in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico who provided medical care to Ramon; and,
12. That I observed the treatment provided to Ramon which included cleansing of the wounds which I observed to be a very painful procedure and the administration of antibiotics; and,
13. That at the time of treatment the doctor advised that Ramon might lose his finger due to the severe untreated infection; and,
14. That on December 8, 2006 I was volunteering at the reception center and had occasion to encounter a young 22-year old man named Pedro who reported he had fallen and injured his left arm; and,
15. That he was repatriated by U. S. officials without any medical care or treatment; and,
16. That a nurse at the reception center examined his arm and believed it was broken at the elbow; and,
17. That I went with Pedro in an ambulance to a hospital in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; and,
18. That doctors at the hospital determined Pedro’s arm was broken at the elbow and his arm was set in a cast; and,
19. That I observed Pedro in serious pain; and,
20. That in late February, 2007 I was volunteering at the reception center and had occasion to assist a young man who presented with third degree burns on his left hand; and,

21. That this young man reported he had burned himself in a campfire days earlier in the desert; and,

22. That this young man was repatriated by U. S. officials without any medical care or treatment having been provided; and,

23. That I observed this young man to be in excruciating pain; and,

24. That I observed this young man’s hand to be swollen at least two times its normal size; and,

25. That in late March, 2007 I was volunteering at the reception center and had occasion to assist a young man who presented with acute dehydration and severe kidney pain and dysfunction; and,

26. That this young man was repatriated by U. S. officials without any medical care or treatment having been provided; and,

27. That this young man presented with obvious serious stomach and kidney pain; and,

28. That I caused an ambulance to be called and this young man was examined by emergency medical technicians who determined he required emergency medical care and transported this young man to a hospital in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; and,

29. That in late March, 2007 I was volunteering at the reception center and had occasion to assist a young man who presented in a catatonic condition; and,

30. That this young man identified himself as Luis and reported having been assaulted in the desert by unknown persons, having been repeatedly hit and kicked and having his clothing and personal items stolen; and,

31. That this young man was repatriated by U. S. officials without any medical care or treatment having been provided; and,

32. That when I encountered this young man he was in a catatonic state, staring forward with hands elevated, essentially unable to communicate; and,

33. That I requested assistance from a Mexican Customs official who called an ambulance and this young man was transported to the hospital in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; and,

34. That in April, 2007 I was volunteering at the reception center and had occasion to assist a young man who was carried into the reception center by other repatriated migrants because he could not walk; and,

35. That I examined his feet and observed that he had lost several layers of skin on both of the soles of his feet; and,

36. That I observed that both of his feet were bloody and oozing fluids; and,

37. That I observed that both of his feet were swollen and obviously in severe medical distress; and,

38. That this young man was repatriated by U. S. officials without any medical care or treatment having been provided; and,

39. That on January 29, 2008 I was volunteering at the reception center and had
occasion to assist a young man who presented with bloody, matted hair, blood on his face, an obvious staple in his scalp with infection, stitches over his left eye, a swollen face; and,

40. That this young man was apparently treated in the field by unknown persons and then repatriated without medical care or treatment by U.S. officials; and
41. That on February 5, 2008 I was volunteering at the reception center and had occasion to assist Jorge Chavez, a repatriated migrant; and,
42. That I observed other migrants carrying Mr. Chavez to the reception center since he was unable to walk; and,
43. That I examined Mr. Chavez and observed that one of his knees was swollen four times the normal size; and,
44. That I observed his other leg in the frontal shin portion to be infected and inflammed; and,
45. That I observed Mr. Chavez to be in excruiating pain; and,
46. That Mr. Chavez was repatriated by U.S. officials without medical care or treatment; and,
47. That Mr. Chavez was transported to the Port by U.S. officials directly from the field and was not processed through a U.S. Immigration Center; and,
48. That Mr. Chavez was transported by ambulance to the hospital in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; and,
49. That during the time I have volunteered at the reception center I have received hundreds of migrants who report being given only a cookie and/or cracker to eat while in the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol; and,
50. That during the time I have volunteered at the reception center I have received hundreds of migrants who report being provided only communal water in one jug to share among many persons; and,
51. That during the time I have volunteered at the reception center I have witnessed in excess of one hundred repatriated unaccompanied minors; and,
52. That during the time I have volunteered at the reception center I have received hundreds of migrants who reported being separated from immediate family members by U.S. Border Patrol officials.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Feb. 9, 2008

Date

Shura Wallin

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 9th day of February, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona.

Notary Public:  

My commission expires: 10-19-11
STATE OF ARIZONA

SS:

COUNTY OF PIMA

AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTING
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

1. STEPHEN R. JOHNSTON, being first duly sworn deposes and says:

   1. That I reside at [redacted], Tucson, Arizona 85745; and
   2. That I am retired and
   3. That I am a four year volunteer with the No More Deaths Campaign; and
   4. That as part of this work I have volunteered at a reception center at the
      Port of Entry known as “Mariposa” at Nogales, Arizona; and
   5. That the purpose of this reception center is receive migrants who are
      repatriated by US officials to Mexico; and
   6. That medical assistance, food and water are provided to these migrants by
      volunteers at this reception center; and
   7. That I have volunteered weekly at this reception center during the period
      of October of 2006 through February 2008 (excluding June through
      September of 2007); and
   8. That during this time I assisted thousands of repatriated migrants; and,
   9. That during the course of providing assistance to these migrants I
      observed patterns of various human rights violations; and,
   10. That I observed repeated cases of migrants who were either critically ill
       and/or injured who were repatriated without having been provided
       adequate medical care in the United States (see attached photographs
       numbered 1 through 19); and,
   11. That I received hundreds of migrants who reported having been deprived
       of water and/or re-hydration fluids after having spent several days walking
       in the desert; and,
   12. That I received hundreds of migrants who reported having been denied
       food after spending several days walking in the desert; and,
   13. That I received dozens of migrants who reported being separated from
       immediate family members by United States law enforcement officials.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Date

Stephen R. Johnston

SUBSCRIBE AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this ___ day of

Notary Public: [Signature]

My commission expires: 10/21/2010
State of Oregon

Ss: Affidavit Documenting

Human Rights Abuses

County of Multnomah

I, Aaron A. Boeke, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside at [redacted] Portland, Oregon; and,
2. That I was formerly employed by Frontera de Cristo, a bi-national border ministry of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and the Presbyterian Church of Mexico; and,
3. That Frontera de Cristo has offices at 826 E. 11th Street in Douglas, Arizona; and,
4. That this employment took place between August 2006 and December 2007; and,
5. That in this capacity I was a liaison to, and volunteer with, the No More Deaths campaign; and,
6. That in these roles I facilitated a reception station at the Port of Entry between Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora; and,
7. That the purpose of this reception center, known as the “Migrant Resource Center,” is to receive migrants who have been repatriated to Mexico by U.S. immigration officials; and,
8. That volunteers at the center provide food, water, clothing, basic medical care, and orientation to repatriated migrants; and,
9. That during the time period from August 2006 to December 2007 I was consistently present at the Migrant Resource Center, as both a volunteer and as a coordinator; and,
10. That during my time as a coordinator and volunteer I had very close contact with hundreds, possibly thousands of repatriated migrants; and,
11. That during my contact with them I had many lengthy and substantive discussions with them about their experiences during migration; and,
12. That many of these discussions included descriptions of migrants’ experiences while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials; and,
13. That many migrants have described to me events that, while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials, were a violation of their human rights; and,
14. That I witnessed evidence of, or witnessed directly, many of the human rights violations that were described to me by migrants; and,
15. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were detained for extended periods of time (eight or more hours) with insufficient or no access to food or water, and that food or water was denied to them upon request; and,
16. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were exposed to extreme heat
or cold for extended periods of time, often without adequate protection (shade, water, blankets, etc.); and,

17. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were detained in dirty or extremely overcrowded spaces, and/or without access to toilets; and,

18. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were exposed to reckless driving, including, but not limited to: a lack of seatbelts for detainees while being transported; the overcrowding of vehicles in which detainees were being transported; swerving, erratic acceleration/deceleration, and sudden stopping of vehicles in which detainees were being transported, and while those occupants had no access to seatbelts; and,

19. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were verbally and physically assaulted by members of a U.S. immigration agency, and that these assaults included, but were not limited to: epithets and racial or ethnic slurs being shouted at detainees, detainees being told that they were worthless; detainees being kicked, hit, struck, or shoved; detainees with obvious injuries being handled in a rough and inhumane manner; and,

20. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were permanently deprived of their property, including, but not limited to: clothing, shoelaces, belts, bags, wallets, unopened food and water, and legal documentation; and,

21. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were refused the right to communicate with their consulate or a lawyer, and/or were refused legal documents or instructions in a language that was understandable to them, and/or were not told of their legal rights while in the United States, and/or were forced to sign legal documents that they did not understand; and,

22. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were separated from family members, including dependants, minors, spouses, and other blood relatives; and,

23. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were repatriated to Mexico without the blood relatives they had been traveling with, and without knowledge of where those family members were, what was being done with them, or what condition they were in; and,

24. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials women, pregnant women, women with children and/or nursing infants were repatriated to Mexico during the late hours of the night and early (pre-dawn) hours of the morning, and that this repatriation was done regardless of weather conditions or temperature; and,
25. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials unaccompanied minors were repatriated to Mexico; and
26. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were refused medical treatment, or had serious medical problems ignored, by U.S. immigration officials, including, but not limited to: lacerations, skin abrasions, dehydration, heatstroke, exposure to extreme temperatures, sprains, fractures, broken bones, and concussions; and,
27. That, on numerous occasions, migrants described to me that, while in the custody of U.S. immigration officials they were repatriated to Mexico in such poor physical condition that they were unable to walk, had to be carried across the border, and required subsequent treatment in Mexico; and,
28. That during my employment in Douglas, Arizona, I had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Border Patrol station in Douglas; and,
29. That during those visits I witnessed the detention facilities; and,
30. That on numerous occasions I witnessed detainees wearing only t-shirts, with their arms inside their sleeves, and sitting huddled together; and,
31. That there were an inadequate number of blankets for the people being kept in the holding cells; and,
32. That the blankets that were present were all being used by the detainees; and,
33. That the air temperature in the room was very low and the air conditioning was noticeably strong; and,
34. That when asked, on numerous occasions, whether the detainees were cold, U.S. Border Patrol officials stated that they had been asked and did not want any blankets and were not cold.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

9/12/2008

Aaron A. Boeke

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 12th day of September, 2008 in Portland, Oregon.

Notary Public: [Signature] My commission expires: Sept 12, 2010
STATE OF ARIZONA

SS:                     AFFIDAVIT DOCUMENTATING

COUNTY OF COCHISE

I, Cecile Lumer, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I reside in Bisbee, Arizona; and

2. That I am a retired Botanist and faculty member, most recently at the University of Arizona in Tucson; and

3. That I am Director of the Migrant Resource Center in Naco, Sonora, Mexico, and that I have served in this capacity continuously since the Center opened in January of 2008; and

4. That the purpose of our Migrant Resource Center is to provide services to migrants as they are returned to Mexico by the U.S. Border Patrol; and

5. That, since opening in January of 2008, our Center’s volunteers have helped over 6,800 individuals who needed our assistance; and

5. That my work at the Center has brought me into direct and personal contact with hundreds of individuals who have just been returned to Mexico by the US Border Patrol; and

6. That I have observed patterns in the migrants’ reports of various human rights violations suffered at the hands of Border Patrol staff, including, for example:

   a. denial of medical care, for such conditions as severe untreated blisters, broken legs, extensive bruising, and open wounds,

   b. denial of food and water over long periods of time, even involving pregnant women and very young children,

   c. verbal and physical abuse extending even to unprovoked threats with guns,

   d. failure to return personal belongings, including Identification Papers,

   e. separation of family members,

   f. returning people, even young children, under dangerous circumstances, including dropping them off in the middle of the night in unfamiliar places, where all hotels and stores are closed.
• inhumane conditions at processing centers including extremely crowded cells of standing room only, extremely cold or unusually hot cells.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

[Signature]

Date
September 26, 2008

Cecile Lumer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO and acknowledged before me this 26th day of September, 2008, at Bisbee, Arizona.

[Signature]

Notary Public: My commission expires: April 14, 2010
August 25, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and Others Whom This May Concern,

On behalf of the American Friends Service Committee, I respectfully request your complete and timely support of the report, “Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border,” and the recommendations contained therein. The research and recommendations were compiled by the No More Deaths Organization, with the help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is an international non-profit peace and justice organization founded in the Quaker belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice, it seeks in its work to draw on the transforming power of love. AFSC was founded in 1917 by Quakers to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims. The Arizona office of AFSC was established in 1980 and focuses on criminal justice reform and immigrant labor rights.

Arizona AFSC’s immigrant rights program, Voces Inmigrantes en Arizona (VIA), was established in Tucson in 2005, with a focus on the labor rights of immigrant women. AFSC chose this focus because women immigrants are an especially vulnerable portion of the labor force. In working with this population, it is common to hear stories of mistreatment at the hands of American law enforcement such as those contained in this report.

The guidelines listed in this report, such as access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care safe transportation, clean facilities and information regarding the legal rights of detainees, are all clearly basic human rights for which every government entity should take responsibility. It is absolutely inexcusable that any US agency would so blatantly and repeatedly violate the rights of anyone in its care. What is particularly disturbing about the findings in the report is the incontrovertible evidence that these are not isolated mistakes, but a pattern of, at best, a failure of leadership and at worst a deliberate system of institutional abuse.

It is disheartening to think that a citizen group would need to petition its government for such basic measures as providing food and water to those in its custody, but that appears to be the situation in which we find ourselves. Such institutional behavior is completely counter to the standards of justice and decency that Americans hold in such high regard. As our nation’s lawmakers appear poised to continue passing laws further criminalizing migration, it is likely that more and more people will be held in Border Patrol and ICE custody, making the suggested reforms all the more urgent.
September 4, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and Others To Whom This May Concern:

On behalf of Border Action Network, I ask your complete and timely support of the report and recommendations contained in the “Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border,” which has been put together by No More Deaths with the help of other humanitarian aid organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Border Action Network is a human rights community organization that formed in 1999. We work with immigrant and border communities throughout southern Arizona to ensure that our rights are respected, our human dignity upheld and that our communities are healthy places to live. We are a membership-based organization that combines grassroots community organizing, leadership development, litigation and policy advocacy to build the voice and power of those who are most impacted by border and immigration policies, and to build a national movement that calls for full adherence to the human rights that are essential to a democratic society.

Border Action Network releases an annual report documenting and analyzing the human rights crisis on the border. Not surprisingly, we see extensive overlap in No More Deaths’ findings that show the complete disregard of basic human dignities by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol.

The guidelines listed in this report such as access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care, safe transportation, clean facilities, the knowledge of one’s legal rights and options, as well as the respect for personal property and the maintenance of family unity, are all clearly basic human rights. These basic rights, as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as part of the political ethic of Border Action, is what grounds our work in the principle that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights, for which every government entity should take the responsibility in ensuring that these rights are protected and upheld.

We truly hope you are taking action in response to this report that documents the experiences of our communities who suffer the harshest side-effects of border enforcement and immigration policy, by promoting practical reforms in accountability and oversight within the Department of Homeland Security. Your moral and political leadership on this issue is vital both to the dignity of migrants and to rebuilding respect from other countries in our hemisphere and around the world. We look forward to participating in that change.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Allen, Executive Director
5 September 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and To Whom This May Concern:

On behalf of the Coalición de Derechos Humanos, we would like to ask for your support of the report, *Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-term Custody on the Arizona-Sonora Border*, and the recommendations contained therein. This endeavor was put together by the organization No More Deaths with the help of various humanitarian and human rights organizations doing work in the Southwest. We believe it raises serious issues about the treatment of migrants in U.S. custody, and makes important recommendations to ensure the protection and respect for basic human rights.

Members of Derechos Humanos have worked in the Tucson community for more than thirty years. We began sounding the trumpet on the impact of harsh military-type enforcement in 1994, and over the years have brought in many allies and sectors, including the Indigenous, environmental, faith-based, labor, and other community based organizations. We have sought to create a space where attention could be brought to the human rights crisis we are witnessing on the U.S.-México border, specifically the estimated more than 5,000 men, women and children who have lost their lives unnecessarily in their attempt to cross. Derechos Humanos has compiled medical examiner data for the last four years in regards to recovered bodies on the Arizona-Sonora border, as well as undertaken the painful task of working with families, medical examiners, humanitarian organizations, and BORSTAR agents in searching for missing migrants and consoling grieving families.

Our work has centered around attempting to change policies, both immigration and enforcement. We have consistently documented the by abuse by law enforcement officials in our communities, on the border and in detention centers. We work to educate about the effects that militarizing communities has, not only on the migrants who are funneled into desolate, treacherous border terrain, but on the border communities that are also subjected to racial profiling and violations of human and civil rights by agents and others who are ignorant of the cultural histories in the Southwest. We have engaged in continuing education in the immigrant community, who face unprecedented enforcement measures, particularly in Arizona. We have brought public attention to alarming strategies of the U.S. government to criminalize migrant and immigrant communities and the disturbing attack on due process rights.

The findings of this recent report are disturbing, particularly with regard to the denial of basic necessities and medical attention by Department of Homeland Security officials. We hope that you...
will work to ensure that the guidelines and recommendations are implemented into the process, particularly in guaranteeing that individuals are meaningfully advised and granted access to their legal rights. The fundamental rights of detainees to equal protection guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution are being violated, which is not only devastating for victims, but is a continuation of the erosion of the basic rights that are the foundation of the United States.

Derechos Humanos stands with No More Deaths and other community, humanitarian and human rights organizations in demanding the implementation of standards in and oversight of the practice of short-term custody by the Department of Homeland Security. We expect our political and community leaders to speak out when the sacred tenets of human rights are threatened, and work in earnest to seek the changes needed to ensure justice for all. We ask this now of you, and entrust that you will join us in this work.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Isabel Garcia, Co-Chair
Coalición de Derechos Humanos
September 16, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and Others To Whom This May Concern:

The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project writes to endorse the "Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border" report, which has been put together by the No More Deaths Organization with the help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border. The Florence Project urges your support of the report and its recommendations.

The Florence Project provides and coordinates free legal services and related social services to indigent men, women, and unaccompanied children detained in Arizona for immigration removal proceedings. We strive to ensure that detained individuals have access to counsel, understand their rights under immigration law, and are treated fairly and humanely by our judicial system. In 2007, we served 8,433 immigrants detained in Arizona. Many of our clients were first apprehended and detained in Border Patrol custody near the U.S.-Mexico border and many are repatriated through the deportation process after they are denied legal relief by an immigration judge. As a legal services organization serving this population, we are deeply concerned about the human rights abuses contained in the No More Deaths report. Sadly, we regularly hear anecdotal confirmations of many of the practices detailed in the report from our clients.

We hope you take appropriate action in response to this comprehensive and thoughtful report. Your leadership on this issue is vital to the dignity of the undocumented immigrants who cross our borders, the immigrants who live lawfully among us and the United States Citizens who believe in a government that treats people fairly and humanely.

Respectfully,

Lindsay N. Marshall, Esq.
Executive Director
Re: Support of No More Deaths Call for an end to abuse in our Detention Centers

For the past 24 years, Frontera de Cristo has sought to build relationships and understanding across borders. Centered in Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, our ministry has seen and experienced first hand the effects of the increased migration that has been funneled through the valley we live in.

For many years, we met on a regular basis with the local Border Patrol Station Chief in order to reduce the amount of abuse that persons held in detention before, during and after being apprehended by our Border Patrol Agents. We shared the same expectation as the Border Patrol Station Chiefs that the agents serving on our behalf treat all persons professionally and with dignity.

Unfortunately, the same kinds of stories (lack of water and food being provided, separation of families, the occasional physical abuse etc.) we were hearing back then are still stories we are hearing now. We are grateful that No More Deaths have taken the time to document and compile the abuses that continue to occur. We join with them in imploring that action be taken to address the continued abuses and prevent future abuses.

As part of the US/Mexico Border Task Force we encourage the adoption of Alternative Guidelines for Border Enforcement which include: the creation of an independent oversight board to address issues of abuse, the establishment of detention standards, continuing education for all of our agents in human, civil and Constitutional Rights.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions that you may have.

Pesces

Rev. Mark S. Adams
August 14, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and for Others To Whom This May Concern,

On behalf of the Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans volunteers we ask your complete and timely support of the report and recommendations contained in the "Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border," which has been put together by the No More Deaths Organization with the help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Our organization is daily in the desert and our community giving passive humanitarian support to migrants which also gives us the sad opportunity to hear the unfortunate stories of mistreatment and abuse on a regular basis. We know the abuse and mistreatment is rarely reported, essentially swept under the carpet which is unacceptable. This has rallied our efforts to find ways to end the governmental practices that put migrants in dangerous situations. In the meantime we try to mitigate some of the worst of these practices by putting water out in the desert for those caught in the intense heat, and building awareness of the dangers migrants are facing. When migrants are taken into custody we expect our government to do everything possible to protect their health and dignity. Unfortunately, the No More Deaths 2008 Report details numerous practices and abuses that show the Department of Homeland Security, through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol, do not meet even basic standards of respect.

The guidelines listed in this report such as access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care, safe transportation, clean facilities, and the knowledge of one's legal rights and options as well as the respect for personal property and the maintenance of family unity, among others, are all clearly basic human rights. As a nation, once we abandon the moral high ground of respecting and protecting each individual's human

Samaritans
17750 S. La Canada
Sahuarita, Az, 85629
samaritanpatrol@aol.com
520-625-1375
520-399-1454
August 22, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and For Others To Whom This May Concern,

On behalf or our board and volunteers I ask your complete and timely support of the report and recommendations contained in the “Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border,” which has been put together by the No More Deaths Organization with the help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Our organization is committed to finding ways to end the governmental practices that put migrants in dangerous situations. In the meantime we try to mitigate some of the worst of these practices by putting water out in the desert for those caught in the intense heat, and building awareness of the dangers migrants are facing. Naturally, when we do find migrants in trouble we expect our government to do everything possible to protect their health and dignity. Unfortunately, the No More Deaths 2008 Report details numerous practices that show the Department of Homeland Security, through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol, do not meet even basic standards of respect.

The guidelines listed in this report such as access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care, safe transportation, clean facilities, and the knowledge of one’s legal rights and options as well as the respect for personal property and the maintenance of family unity are all clearly basic human rights for which every government entity should take responsibility.

We hope you are taking action in response to the need for immediate standards in and oversight of the practices of short-term custody by the Department of Homeland Security. Your moral and political leadership on this issue is vital both to the dignity of migrants and to rebuilding respect from other countries in our hemisphere and around the world. We look forward to participating in that change.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Robin Hoover
President
August 27, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and Others To Whom This May Concern,

Our Migrant Resource Center is a project organized by Citizens for Border Solutions, based in Bisbee, Arizona. On behalf of the Migrant Resource Center, I ask your complete and timely support of the report and recommendations contained in the "Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border," which has been put together by the No More Deaths Organization with the help of other humanitarian organizations on the United States - Mexico border.

Our Resource Center is committed to finding ways to end the practices that put migrants in dangerous situations. In the meantime we try to mitigate some of the worst of these practices by feeding migrants returned to Mexico by the U.S. Border Patrol, helping them with medical problems, informing them of their legal rights, helping them find family members separated during their time in custody and, when they desire, helping them return to their home towns.

When migrants are in trouble, we expect our government to do everything possible to protect their health and dignity. Unfortunately, our experience has shown that the opposite often occurs. The No More Deaths 2008 Report documents what we see on a regular basis here in the field -- DHS, ICE, and Border Patrol practices that do not meet even the most basic standards of human dignity.

The guidelines listed in this report, such as access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care, safe transportation, clean facilities, respect for personal property, maintenance of family unity, and access to information about one's legal rights and options are all basic human rights. If the United States considers itself a democracy, then it is incumbent upon its citizens and government agencies to defend the rights of all people and provide basic human rights services to all people.

We at the Migrant Resource Center hope you are taking action in response to the need for immediate standards for, and practical oversight of, DHS's short-term custody of migrants. Your moral and political leadership on this issue is vital both to the dignity of migrants and to rebuilding respect from other countries in our hemisphere and around the world. We look forward to your participation in that change.

We would certainly welcome your ideas and comments in a reply to this letter.

Sincerely,

Cecile Lumer, Ph.D., Director
Migrant Resource Center
(Centro de Recursos para Migrantes)
Naco, Sonora, Mexico
520-432-4294 (U.S. Phone)
September 3, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, and for Others To Whom This May Concern,

On behalf of No More Deaths-Phoenix, our partner organizations in Phoenix, and our volunteers, we ask your complete and timely support of the report and recommendations contained in the "Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border," which has been put together by the No More Deaths Organization with the help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Phoenix chapter of No More Deaths is committed to end the suffering and deaths along the US/Mexico border by supporting the work in Tucson, as well as providing outreach and support to the immigrant community in Phoenix. We work in solidarity with the Hispanic community as we see the negative impacts these systemic abuses reach far beyond our borders. We witness daily raids of homes and businesses, racial profiling by local sheriff and police departments, and the terror caused by cruel and degrading treatment by ICE officials in our city. We witness firsthand how the separation of families impacts our community, and the climate of fear that is produced as a result of these policies. We encourage the end of governmental practices that destroy families and communities across our state.

The No More Deaths 2008 Report also details numerous practices and abuses that show the Department of Homeland Security, through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol, do not meet even basic standards of respect.

The United States needs to uphold its international obligations to protect the human rights of migrants. In failing to do so, it subjects many to prolonged detention in substandard facilities, an increase in government raids, family separations and other issues. As a result, racism toward migrants has worsened, with a particularly devastating effect on children. Currently, there are no national legislative and policy actions in place to protect the human rights of migrants.

We hope you will take action in response to the need for immediate standards in and oversight of the practices of short-term custody by the Department of Homeland Security. Your moral and political leadership on this issue is vital both to the dignity of migrants and to rebuilding respect from other countries around the world.

Sincerely,

Laura J. Ilardo, LCSW
Organizer, No More Deaths-Phoenix

No More Deaths
C/O St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church
3809 E. Third Street
Tucson, AZ 85716

Phone: 520.495.5583
Fax: 520.495.5563
www.nomoredeaths.org
action@nomoredeaths.org
August 25, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders, Officials of the Department of Homeland Security,

On behalf of Tucson Samaritans organization we ask for your vital support of the report and recommendations in “Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border.” It has been compiled by No More Deaths Organization with help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Although the report has been prepared by No More Deaths, most of us in Samaritans, including the undersigned, have experienced migrant testimonies to these offenses. All of the humanitarian organizations along the border are committed to finding ways to end governmental practices which put migrants in dangerous situations. In the interim, we as Samaritans work to aid migrants in the desert by providing life-saving water, medical aid, and food. When migrants are found in distress we expect our government to protect their health and dignity.

Unfortunately, the No More Deaths 2008 Report details numerous practices and abuses that show the Department of Homeland Security, through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol, do not meet basic standards of respect.

Guidelines in this report are basic human rights: access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care, safe transportation, clean facilities, knowledge of legal rights, respect for personal property, and maintenance of family unity, among others, for which every government entity should take responsibility.

We appeal to you to take immediate action on this matter. Standards must be established as well as oversight of conduct occurring in short-term custody. This should apply to both the Department of Homeland Security and private security companies contracted by the government. Your moral and political leadership on this issue is vital both to the dignity of migrants and to rebuilding respect from other countries in our hemisphere and around the world. We look forward to participating in that change.

Sincerely,

On behalf of Tucson Samaritans

Norma Price, M.D.
Norma Price, M.D.

Helen Lundgren, R.N.
Helen Lundgren, R.N.

Rev. John Fife, D.D.
Rev. John Fife, D.D.

Deborah McCullough, PhD
Deborah McCullough, PhD

Michael Craig, M.D.
Michael Craig, M.D.

Sarah Roberts, R.N.
Sarah Roberts, R.N.
September 18, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders and Department of Homeland Security Officials,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona today joins with No More Deaths and other immigrants’ rights and civil liberties organizations across the nation in urging Congress to support the recommendations contained in a recently-released report entitled “Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border,” which was written and distributed by No More Deaths with the help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border. The report highlights the daily violations of human and civil rights that result from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol practices during short-term (up to 72 hours) apprehension, processing and repatriation.

While ICE has issued 38 detention standards for detainees being held for more than 72 hours, there are currently no uniform regulations outlining appropriate treatment of those detained in short-term custody. Furthermore, there is no agency responsible for the independent oversight of the treatment of those in short-term detentions and, unfortunately, abuse is common and goes unchecked.

The ACLU is committed to finding ways to end the governmental practices that put migrants in dangerous situations and violate their basic civil and human rights. Our organization has challenged deplorable detention conditions for more than twenty years and we are extremely concerned that the welfare of immigration detainees held in both long-term and short-term ICE detention facilities is too often ignored because, unlike other prisoners in this country, this population does not have the right to free counsel, often faces language barriers, and generally fears deportation.

The No More Deaths report mentioned above details numerous practices and abuses by the Department of Homeland Security, through ICE and Border Patrol, that amount to punishment without due process of law and fail to comply with human rights principles requiring humane treatment of all persons in custody, regardless of alienage or the reason for their detention.1

1 The United States government has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (“CEDP”) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (“CAT”), which contain provisions applicable to the treatment of immigration detainees. Article 10 of the ICCPR acknowledges that “all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.”
The guidelines listed in this report including access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care, safe transportation, clean facilities, and the knowledge of one's legal rights and options as well as the respect for personal property and the maintenance of family unity, among others, are all fundamental rights protected by the United States Constitution and international laws.

We strongly urge Congress to develop enforceable detention standards for short-term detainees and mandate the creation of an independent monitoring body, independent from DHS, which routinely conducts thorough investigations during all three stages of interactions with migrants: in the field during apprehension, in the processing centers, and during the repatriation process. Without codifying improved standards, and increasing transparency of the treatment of migrants in ICE and Border Patrol custody, we can expect abuse and avoidable human suffering to continue. Congress has the responsibility to investigate this issue and implement reforms in order to ensure that dignity and respect for all human beings in this country are preserved.

Sincerely,

Alessandra Soler Meetze
Executive Director
ACLU of Arizona
September 22, 2008

Dear Congressional Leaders and Department of Homeland Security Officials,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas today joins with No More Deaths and other immigrants' rights and civil liberties organizations across the nation in urging Congress to support the recommendations contained in a recently-released report entitled “Human Rights Abuses of Migrants in Short-Term Custody on the Arizona/Sonora Border,” which was written and distributed by No More Deaths with the help of other humanitarian organizations working on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The report highlights the daily violations of human and civil rights that result from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol practices during short-term (up to 72 hours) apprehension, processing and repatriation. While ICE has issued 38 detention standards for detainees being held for more than 72 hours, there are currently no uniform regulations outlining appropriate treatment of those detained in short-term custody. Furthermore, there is no agency responsible for the independent oversight of the treatment of those in short-term detentions and, unfortunately, abuse is common and goes unchecked.

The ACLU is committed to finding ways to end the governmental practices that put migrants in dangerous situations and violate their basic civil and human rights. Our organization has challenged deplorable detention conditions for more than twenty years and we are extremely concerned that the welfare of immigration detainees held in both long-term and short-term ICE detention facilities is too often ignored because, unlike other prisoners in this country, this population does not have the right to free counsel, often faces language barriers, and generally fears deportation.

The No More Deaths report mentioned above details numerous practices and abuses by the Department of Homeland Security, through ICE and Border Patrol, that amount to punishment without due process of law and fail to comply with human rights principles requiring humane treatment of all persons in custody, regardless of alienage or the reason for their detention.

The guidelines listed in this report, including access to sufficient water, food, emergency medical care, safe transportation, clean facilities and the knowledge of one’s legal rights and
options, as well as the respect for personal property and the maintenance of family unity, among others, are all fundamental rights protected by the U.S. Constitution and international laws.

We strongly urge Congress to develop enforceable detention standards for short-term detainees and mandate the creation of an independent monitoring body, independent from DHS, which routinely conducts thorough investigations during all three stages of interactions with migrants: in the field during apprehension, in the processing centers, and during the repatriation process. Without codifying improved standards, and increasing transparency of the treatment of migrants in ICE and Border Patrol custody, we can expect abuse and avoidable human suffering to continue. Congress has the responsibility to investigate this issue and implement reforms in order to ensure that dignity and respect for all human beings in this country are preserved.

Sincerely,

Terri Burke
Executive Director
ACLU of Texas, Inc.
Agua Prieta Documentation Form

Documentation Form Used at Agua Prieta Migrant Resource Center 2006-Present

INFORMACION DE LA ORGANIZACION/ORGANIZATION INFORMATION
A: Entrevistado Por/Staff name
B: Fecha de la entrevista/Interview Date

INFORMACION SOBRE LA PERSONA/ CONTACT INFORMATION
C: Nombre/Name
D: Sexo/Sex
E: Dirección/Address
F: Número de teléfono/Phone number
G: Nacionalidad/National Origin
H: El número en el grupo/number in the group
I: El número de las horas detenidas/number of hours detained
J: La hora de la repatriación/time of repatriation
K: Tuvieron acceso al agua/did they have access to water?
L: Le ofrecieron comida/Were they offered food?
M: Le ofrecieron atención medico/Were they offered medical attention?
N: Hubo abuso verbal/Was there verbal abuse?
O: Hubo abuso físico/was there physical abuse?

INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL INCIDENTE/INCIDENT INFORMATION
P: Fecha/Date
Q: Hora/Time
R: Localidad (especifico)/Location (give details)
S: Nombre de Oficial/# de Placa/# de Patrulla/ Officer name/Badge #/Car #
T: La Agencia con Responsabilidad/Agency Responsible
U: Hubo testigos?/Were there any witnesses?
## NO MORE DEATHS – ABUSE DOCUMENTATION

**Date/Place:**

**Migrant Info (Name/Age/Sex/Country – approximate):**

**Length of time in detention:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Asked for not given</th>
<th>Shared</th>
<th>Insufficient</th>
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<table>
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<th>Food</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Asked for not given</th>
<th>Crackers only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical</th>
<th>Medication taken</th>
<th>Treatment needed not given</th>
<th>Repatriated from hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<th>Verbal</th>
<th>Sworn at</th>
<th>Ridiculed</th>
<th>Threatened</th>
<th>Sexual harassment</th>
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<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Pushed</th>
<th>Kicked</th>
<th>Struck (hands object)</th>
<th>Positions</th>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Belongings</th>
<th>Not returned</th>
<th>Documents</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repatriation</th>
<th>Vulnerable at night</th>
<th>Family separation</th>
<th>Unaccompanied minors</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detention</th>
<th>Uncomfortable temperature</th>
<th>Unclean</th>
<th>Overcrowded</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Overcrowded</th>
<th>Uncomfortable temperature</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unsafe Driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Details/narrative (use back if needed):**

1. Name of interviewer:

2. Date:

3. Port of entry:
   - Nogales
   - Agua Prieta
   - Naco
   - Other

4. Time of repatriation:
   Note if at night and if the group included women or children; if so, ask if they would have preferred to remain in detention until daylight rather than be repatriated at night.

5. Migrant information (name, age, sex, etc.):

6. Were you given water?
   - In the desert:
     - No information/Not Applicable
     - None
     - Some but not sufficient
     - Sufficient
   - On the bus to the center:
     - No information/Not Applicable
     - None
     - Some but not sufficient
     - Sufficient
   - In the center:
     - No information/Not Applicable
     - None
     - Some but not sufficient
     - Sufficient

7. Were you given food?
   - In the desert:
     - No information/Not Applicable
     - None
     - Some but not sufficient
     - Sufficient
   - On the bus to the center:
8. Were you traveling with friends and family who you wished to remain with?

No
Yes, family
Yes, friends

9. Were you separated from family members during your detention and repatriation?

Not Applicable
No
Yes, in the desert (not detained together)
Yes, at the center (not repatriated together)

10. If separated from family members, explain:

11. Was medical care:

Not needed
Needed but not provided
Provided

12. Explain (medical care provided or denied) if necessary.

13. Note any form of verbal or physical abuse described by the migrant, along with any information that might identify the officer, shift, or area in which it took place. Be sure to include incidents related to transportation.

14. Please add any information regarding this case that you feel is pertinent to documenting the treatment of migrants by U.S. authorities or private citizens.
Preamble:

We come together as communities of faith and people of conscience to express our indignation and sadness over the continued death of hundreds of migrants attempting to cross the US - Mexico border each year. We believe that such death and suffering diminish us all. We share a faith and a moral imperative that transcends borders, celebrates the contributions immigrant peoples bring, and compels us to build relationships that are grounded in justice and love. As religious leaders from numerous and diverse faith traditions, we set forth the following principles by which immigration policy is to be comprehensively reformed. We believe that using these principles – listed from the most imminent threat to life to the deepest systemic policy problems - will significantly reduce, if not eliminate, deaths in the desert borderlands.

1. Recognize that the current Militarized Border Enforcement Strategy is an ill-conceived policy. Since 1998 more than 4000 migrants - men, women, and children - have lost their lives in the deserts of the US-Mexico borderlands trying to make their way into the United States. These tragic and unnecessary deaths must stop. The border blockade strategy has militarized the US-Mexico border, which drives migrants into remote desert regions yet has failed to stem the flow of immigrants into the United States. Further, the fragile desert environment has sustained severe damage as a result of migrants moving through remote desert regions and responding enforcement patrols. Indeed, a militarized border control strategy has never in United States history successfully stemmed the flow of immigrants. We recognize the right of a nation to control its borders, but enforcement measures must be applied proportionately, humanely, and with a conscious effort to protect the people and the land.

2. Address the status of undocumented persons currently living in the US. Workers and their families currently living in the US must have access to a program of legalization that offers equity-building paths to permanent residency and eventual citizenship for workers and their families. Legalizing the undocumented workforce helps stabilize that workforce as well as their families. A stable workforce strengthens the country.
3. Make family unity and reunification the cornerstone of the US immigration system. Migrants enter the United States either to find work or to reunite with family members, yet the arduous and lengthy process forces families to make potentially deadly choices. Families must be allowed to legally and timely re-unify as well as to immigrate together as a unit.

4. Allow workers and their families to enter the US to live and work in a safe, legal, orderly, and humane manner through an Employment-Focused immigration program. International workers’ rights must be recognized and honored in ways that protect: the basic right to organize and collectively bargain, individual workers’ religious freedoms, job portability, easy and safe travel between the US and homelands, achievable and verifiable paths to residency, and a basic human right of mobility.

5. Recognize that root causes of migration lie in environmental, economic, and trade inequities. Experiences of Mexico and countries further south demonstrate that current trade and aid strategies that are based on greed and lack of basic respect deeply and negatively impact workers, their families, and the environments in migrants’ homelands. This is forcing a quest-for-survival based migration of unparalleled proportions. International agreements must be negotiated in ways that build mutual and just relationships. Such agreements must be designed to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations’ abilities to meet their needs. New strategies must include incentives for the public and private sectors to invest in economic and environmental repair and sustainable development in the sending communities.
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Tucson, AZ
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Tucson, AZ
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Douglas, AZ
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Green Valley, AZ
Humane Borders
Tucson, AZ
Citizens for Border Solutions
Bisbee, AZ
No More Deaths-Phoenix
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Tucson Samaritans
Tucson, AZ

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Bisbee, AZ
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Douglas, AZ
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We offer our sincere thanks to all the organizations and individuals who have supported this report in its long journey to this point. A special thank you to the volunteers who have sat with migrants and recorded their stories since 2006; and to the migrants who were willing to share their testimony with us. We apologize to anyone we have forgotten to thank by name, and express our gratitude to all committed to protecting the basic human rights of all—in the borderlands and beyond.

About No More Deaths
No More Deaths is an organization whose mission is to end death and suffering on the U.S./Mexico border through civil initiative: the conviction that people of conscience must work openly and in community to uphold fundamental human rights. Our work embraces the Faith-Based Principles for Immigration Reform and focuses on the following themes:

- Direct aid that extends the right to provide humanitarian assistance
- Witnessing and responding
- Consciousness raising
- Global movement building
- Encouraging humane immigration policy.

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