



No More Deaths • No Más Muertes

DECEMBER 2018

Is this the answer to a humanitarian crisis?

Dear friends of No More Deaths,

US Army troops have been deployed to our southern border region to help stop the exodus of Central American asylum seekers from “invading” the United States! Soldiers have put up razor wire on walls in populated parts of the border, to “harden the points of entry.”

Something about this bizarre scenario looks like David and Goliath. The United States Army versus Central American families — people seeking better lives and opportunities away from poverty and violence. How do we get our minds around such a response by our government? What are we afraid of? What can protect us from our fear?

UNITED IN RESISTANCE

What protects us is *love*. All the great religions and all people of conscience resoundingly agree that love is what dissolves our fears, fills our hearts with compassion, and compels us to create a just and peaceful world. Yet . . .



In the binational community of Nogales, soldiers install concertina wire along the border wall by the Morley Port of Entry in mid-November.

We have a border built on human suffering. What does it mean when our security causes others to suffer? Our government’s military response to the Central American exodus — to what has always been a humanitarian crisis — is only intensifying the suffering and risk of death for these migrating families.

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You can donate by check or online. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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

To donate online, please visit our website at nomoredeaths.org and select “Donate.”

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

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

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

November 8, 2018

UNITY STATEMENT OF ARIZONA BORDER COMMUNITIES

Key points:

We stand here today, united as southern border communities, to condemn the deployment of the US military to our region.

As a coalition of US border residents we are here to say that we will not allow our vibrant communities to be treated as war zones.

Our united demands today are threefold:

- 1. We call for the immediate cancellation of the military deployment to the southern border.*
- 2. We demand full protection for the human rights of asylum seekers presenting themselves at US borders.*
- 3. We call for the full-scale demilitarization of the US-Mexico border.*

We, border community residents and our allies, do not fear refugee populations.

We fear military occupation.

Is this the answer? CONTINUED

No More Deaths and other border-justice groups are unified in our response to our government's actions against the families approaching our border. No More Deaths endorses and amplifies the Unity Statement released by members of Arizona's rural border communities (see sidebar).

It is clear to us that our country, built on the backs of immigrants, can and must do better than this. We resolve to continue to raise our voices against these repressive, militaristic tactics and strategies. We will continue to expand our support for refugees arriving in northern Mexico, continue to assert our right to provide aid in these borderlands, and continue to provide legal assistance to the undocumented in our midst.

YOUR HELP IS VITAL

Thank you for your generosity and your encouragement over the past fourteen years. We ask for **your continued support for our work**. You have made a difference in the lives of so many. And we thank you.

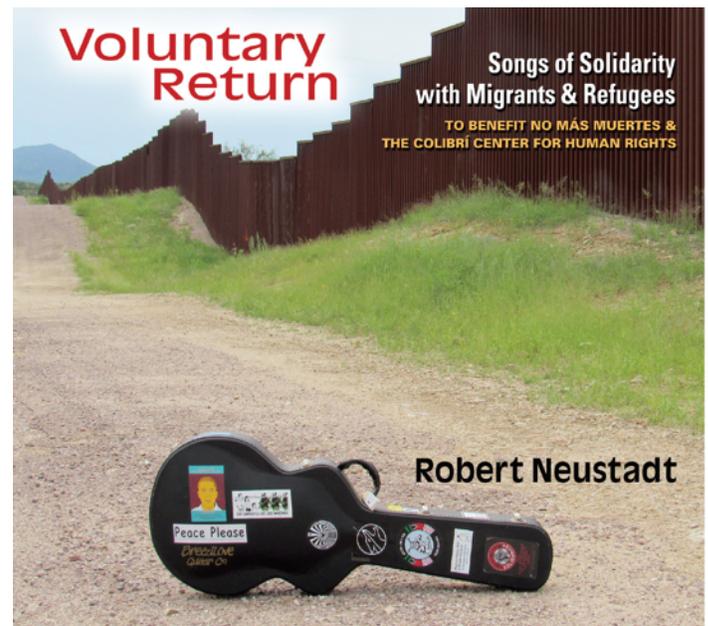
In solidarity,

The No More Deaths community

Robert Neustadt has released a new CD, *Voluntary Return: Songs of Solidarity with Migrants and Refugees*. All of the proceeds from album sales are going to No More Deaths and the **Colibrí Center for Human Rights**. Bob's wry and passionate songs span the genres of folk, Americana, and blues.

"I write these songs," Neustadt writes in the album notes, "to process my frustration, to share my anguish, and to attempt to raise awareness about the injustices affecting refugees around the globe."

The album is available as a CD or digital download at <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/robertneustadt>. Please consider giving *Voluntary Return* to your friends and loved ones this holiday season. You will be helping two organizations provide needed aid.



Our work, by the numbers

As we close out the year, we honor the work done by hundreds of No More Deaths volunteers. Their efforts, **made possible by your donations**, reach many thousands of undocumented people. In the last year, volunteers:

- ▶ Placed **16,500** gallons of water on migrant trails in southern Arizona's desert, covering a **2,500**-square-mile area
- ▶ Trained **230** volunteers
- ▶ Helped more than **300** recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (known as DACA) file their renewal documents
- ▶ Helped **1,266** people recover **\$226,393.68** from their jail accounts after being deported to Mexico with uncashable checks
- ▶ Provided legal representation to over **1,300** residents of southern Arizona and operated a 24-7 response line for those stopped by the Border Patrol or other law enforcement
- ▶ Provided **2,921** phone calls to migrants and recent deportees in northern Mexico, who contacted family members in **11** different countries



- ▶ Helped more than **400** Tucson residents complete the naturalization process to become citizens
- ▶ In collaboration with La Coalición de Derechos Humanos, released the **2nd** installment of the three-part report series entitled *Disappeared* and began work on the **3rd** installment, which deals with the routine failure of the Border Patrol and other law-enforcement agencies to respond adequately to search-and-rescue requests made by missing migrants' families and humanitarian-aid volunteers
- ▶ Significantly expanded aid to migrant-support projects in **4** towns in northern Mexico (backed by a **4**-fold budget increase)
- ▶ **Launched a campaign** to advocate for and raise funds to defend **9** No More Deaths volunteers who are facing federal charges for providing humanitarian aid; distributed thousands of yard signs throughout the community asserting "Humanitarian Aid Is Never a Crime" and demanding "Drop the Charges"
- ▶ **"Flooded the desert" with gallon jugs of water on August 5**, led by **60** faith leaders and people of conscience from around the country, defending humanitarian aid as a moral imperative
- ▶ **Hosted Luis Alberto Urrea**, author of *The Devil's Highway*, at a benefit that raised over **\$14,000**

Migrant deaths and the right to provide humanitarian aid without fear of prosecution

During the twelve-month period from October 2017 through September 2018, the Pima County Forensic Science Center — the morgue for most of southern Arizona — received the remains of 122 undocumented border crossers.

Of those sets of remains, 41 (over 30 percent) were from the west desert, where temperatures are highest and water sources scarcest. The US policy of “prevention by deterrence” has driven people, who in desperation migrate from their homelands, to attempt the journey through these perilous lands in ever-increasing numbers.

We know with certainty that the “recovered human remains” are just a small percentage of the people who have died crossing the Mexico–US borderlands. It is literally impossible to carry enough water to survive in desert terrain where temperatures consistently exceed 100 degrees during the summer months.

CIVIL RESPONSE AND REPRESSION

No More Deaths has made it a priority to respond to

this tragedy by increasing efforts to provide lifesaving water, food, and medical attention along known migrant trails in the west desert.

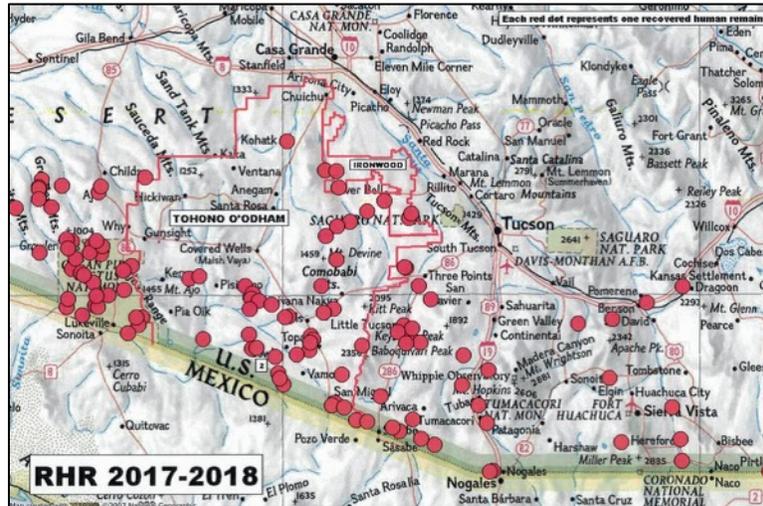
Despite the high number of migrants who disappear in this vast area, federal land managers and the Border Patrol have increasingly targeted No More Deaths’s aid workers for prosecution and have even defiantly destroyed food and water left by our volunteers. By doing so, the govern-

ment only compounds its responsibility for the death and suffering that are occurring.

COMMITTED TO CONTINUE

We stand firm in our belief that the act of giving food, water, or medical assistance should not be criminalized, and we will continue to do what we must to help save lives.

We ask that you join us in demanding that charges be dropped against the nine volunteers who in good conscience and with respect for human dignity and basic human rights took action to care for others, regardless of their status.



Recovered human remains over the last year. The thick cluster of dots at the far left marks the deadly west-desert corridor.

No More Deaths was founded in 2004 in Tucson, Arizona. Our mission is to end the death and suffering of migrants on the US–Mexico border by mobilizing people of conscience to uphold fundamental human rights. Our work includes providing aid in the desert, providing aid in Mexico, documenting and denouncing abuse, searching for the disappeared, helping get belongings back, running a biweekly legal clinic for undocumented community members, and alliances with border communities. We are a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. To contact us, call (520) 333-5699 or visit our website nomoredeaths.org.