

Action Toolkit



Contents:

Introduction..... page 2
 No More Deaths Background.....page 3
 2005 Annual Report..... page 4
 Shanti & Daniel’s Story..... page 8

Campaign Tools (to copy for distribution):

Press Releases..... .page 9
 Statement by Former U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Bates Butler..... page 13
 Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime Flyer.....page 14
 Letter to U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton..... page 15
 Endorsement & Pledge Form..... page 16
 Financial Pledge Form..... page 17

Media Tools:

Letters and Written Communication.....page 18
 How to Give A Successful Interview..... page 19
 How to Hold A Media Event.....page 20
 No More Deaths Talking Points..... page 21
 How To Use This Packet..... page 22

An Introduction: Humanitarian Aid is Never a Crime!

On July 9th, 2005 Daniel Strauss and Shanti Sellz, both volunteers with the No More Deaths movement, were arrested while bringing three Mexican migrants to receive advanced medical care in Tucson.

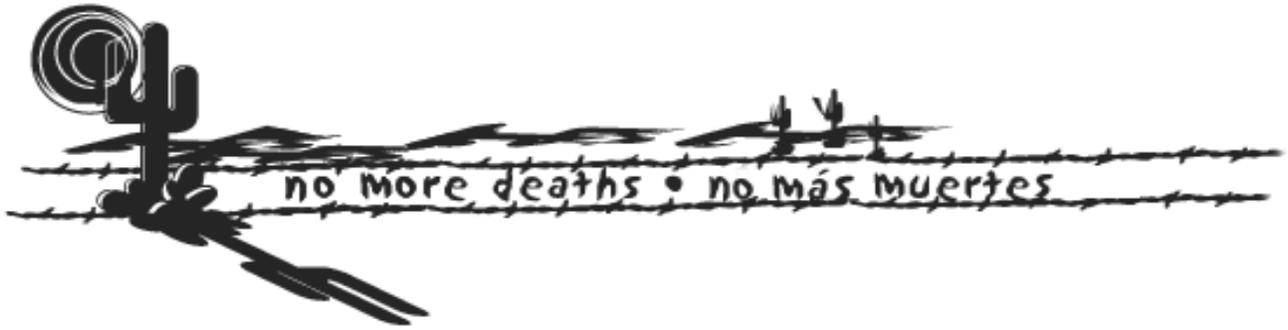
These three men were very sick when they were encountered by No More Deaths volunteers. They had been lost in the desert for several days without food or water, and were suffering from vomiting, dehydration, heat exhaustion and severe blisters - which prevented them from walking. Two doctors and a certified nurse practitioner advised that the men should be taken immediately to Tucson to receive medical care. Shanti and Daniel volunteered to evacuate them. En route, they were stopped by the United States Border Patrol, who then refused to allow the migrants further treatment.

Daniel and Shanti have been charged with two serious felonies: Transportation in Furtherance of an Illegal Presence in the United States and Conspiracy to Transport in Furtherance of an Illegal Presence in the United States. The maximum penalty for these offenses is 15 years in prison.

Daniel and Shanti are not criminals. They were administering life-saving aid. The United States government is attempting to criminalize humanitarian work in our borderlands. Over the course of 2005 at least 279 migrants perished in the Arizona desert. In the month of July alone 68 deaths were recorded. During this same period, No More Deaths administered aid in the form of food, water and medical care to 3,794 men, women, and children. The work of the No More Deaths coalition is needed now more than ever.

In response to the arrests and subsequent prosecution of the two humanitarian workers, No More Deaths has launched a campaign to demand that the United States drop all charges against Daniel and Shanti. We are called to take action to educate our friends, neighbors, and community members about the crisis on our borders and the importance of humanitarian aid.

You hold in your hands an action toolkit that includes flyers, press releases and letters of support. We are asking that you distribute these materials in your community, to support Daniel and Shanti, to raise awareness of our work in the borderlands, and to declare with conviction that HUMANITARIAN AID IS NEVER A CRIME!



History of No More Deaths

A morally intolerable situation inspired a remarkable humanitarian movement in Southern Arizona in the spring of 2004. Driven by economic inequality, thwarted by ill-conceived US border policy, and ignorant of the harsh conditions of the Sonoran Desert, more than 2000 men, women, and children have died trying to cross the Mexican border into the United States since 1998. Most of the deaths occurred in the brutal heat of the summer months. With another summer of inevitable deaths looming, diverse faith-based and social activist groups—along with concerned individuals—felt compelled to act to stem the death tide and attempt to save at least some lives. The result was the converging of hundreds of volunteers—local, regional and national—who came together to work for one common goal: No Más Muertes: No More Deaths.

In October 2003, frustrated that despite the efforts of some well-established and well-organized humanitarian groups, lives were still being lost regularly in the Sonoran Desert, two groups of religious leaders in Tucson began meeting to search for a solution. One group, convened by Bishop Gerald Kicanas of the Roman Catholic Diocese and representatives of the Jewish community, sponsored several catalytic trips to Altar in Sonora, Mexico—a staging area for migrants and ground zero of the border crisis. In March 2004, the Multi-Faith Border Conference was held. At that March conference, the group, No More Deaths, presented its principles for immigration reform and the opportunity for involvement in the campaign for summer, 2004. On April 19, 2004, Arizona Interfaith Network pastors and leaders joined Bishop Kicanas and many multi-faith representatives on the lawn of the Arizona Capitol Building to urge the government to enact these principles for immigration reform.

Action

Guided by the first principle—the failed militarized border enforcement strategy—a coalition of groups established practical means to aid migrants driven away from urban crossing centers into the life-endangering remote areas of the desert. The coalition determined that an around-the-clock, non-violent, humanitarian physical presence in the desert would be the single most effective approach.

The goals of No More Deaths 2004 were to provide water, food, and medical assistance to migrants walking through the Arizona desert. Even more, No More Deaths is committed to monitoring US operations on the border, working for change of US policy to resolve the “war zone” crisis on the border, and to bringing the plight of migrants to public attention. These goals were implemented by recruiting aid programs, supporting already-existing ones, as well as by interfaith, humanitarian, peaceful, solidarity-building events, and by establishing camps for assistance, outreach and border monitoring. Under the No More Deaths umbrella, participating groups—staffed by volunteers—abided by clear medical and legal protocols and worked in concert to save human lives.

Central to No More Deaths are camps, called Arks of the Covenant. Attention was brought to the plight of migrants by local, national and international media coverage, religious and memorial services on the Ark sites, and a 75-mile trek from Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico, to the US Border Patrol headquarters in Tucson.

2005 NO MORE DEATHS YEAR END REPORT

***NO MORE DEATHS c/o Southside Presbyterian Church,
317 W. 23rd Street Tucson, AZ 87519.
tel: 520.882.5466. www.nomoredeaths.org***

NO MORE DEATHS 2005 YEAR END REPORT

3,794	Migrants Encountered by No More Deaths in 2005
300	Volunteers - From 25 States
750	Migrants Encountered Through the Arivaca NMD Camp
68	Migrants Evacuated to Advanced Medical Care in Tucson
220	Migrants U.S. Border Patrol Refused to Allow NMD Volunteers to Assist
78	Migrants Who Died in July in Arizona
279	Migrants Who Died in the Tucson Border Patrol Sector in 2005

In a year with record high temperatures and a relentless death toll, despite a political environment of fear and criminalization of the migrant, hundreds of people have stood up to bear witness to humanity. These volunteers have been drawn to our region of the border for numerous reasons:

Many come being lead by a faith conviction to welcome the stranger in their land and to love their neighbor as themselves.

Others come driven by compassion, with a deep sense of brotherhood and sisterhood that empathizes with families seeking a better livelihood and parents seeking a future for their children.

ALL come saddened by the devaluing of human dignity and increasing suffering that has plagued remote desert regions of Arizona as a result of failed border policy.

Whatever the reasons that propel us into action, we have come together as a people of conscience who believe no one should suffer and die in order to find work.

We are committed to a humanitarian presence along our border until systemic policy problems are addressed and the loss of life is eliminated. Even today, more supporters have come to refute the charges against our humanitarian workers and to lend continual support to the work of No More Deaths.

Indeed, the civil initiative and conviction of humanitarians can and will continue to make a difference on our border. Year-round Samaritan groups from Tucson and Green Valley patrol the desert in search of those in distress, and a partner camp in Agua Prieta, Sonora, operates to assist migrants who are in need before they even reach the border. Furthermore, during the hottest months of June, July, August and September, the No More Deaths camp resides in the border community of Arivaca, Arizona in order to provide an around-the-clock presence for those in need. In combining the work of these humanitarian operations we report a **year-end total of encountering approximately 3,794 migrants on the Arizona borderlands.**

During the four months of summer, **more than 300 new volunteers received Samaritan training in humanitarian aid protocol, which more than doubled the original count of Samaritans.** Their preparation includes border history and immigration law briefing, advice from medical professionals, first aid, and non-violent conflict resolution. The No More Deaths movement includes professors, authors, students, church groups, pastors, peace team delegations, and activists from ages fourteen to seventy-five years old. **These volunteers represent 25 different states** from North Carolina to Washington, Illinois to Connecticut, and even other countries—Canada, Mexico, India, Germany, South Korea, and Nicaragua. In addition to those directly giving aid in the desert, thousands of hours have been donated by Arizona-based volunteers who raise public

awareness by organizing press conferences, memorial services, and events like the annual migrant walk. Others commit to visiting migrants in the hospital or treating their medical problems and indirectly saving lives by making hundreds of migrant packs to send on patrols; the list goes on with tireless contributions to this effort.

Most importantly, our mobilization around the 2005 No More Deaths camp remained strong and effective despite record summer heat and the arrests of our volunteers, Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss. During the four summer months **the camp encountered a total of 750 migrants**, distributing hundreds of food packs, electrolyte drinks, clean socks, and water bottles.

Always engraved on the hearts and minds of these volunteers will be the human faces and heartbreaking stories of those journeying through the desert. Many of these stories have a common denominator: Economic desperation leads them here. Due to being scattered by fear of the Border Patrol or being too slow to keep up with their group, they find themselves alone, lost and vulnerable. Many share other experiences stemming from the harsh desert environment: they are hungry, severely dehydrated, and suffering from crippling blisters that completely inhibit a person from walking - a frequent cause of death in the desert.

One example was Neticia, a twenty-three year old woman we encountered, who had been left behind by her group. In her case, the cruel current of maternal desperation and the promise of the American dollar pulled her from her home in Oaxaca and from her two young boys, ages three and five. She could not bear the thought of turning back empty-handed, because her youngest child needs expensive medical treatment. Yet she fell during the night and hurt her knee, and then found herself alone, immobile, lost, and without food or water. To abandon her would surely have meant inevitable death. After calling for medical advice and legal approval we evacuated her to a safe place to receive care. "I would have died without your help," she told us.

On another occasion we found Sergio while patrolling a wash by foot. He too came from Mexico, to find work and support his family. He was horribly lost, emotionally distressed, and very ill from dehydration, vomiting, and pneumonia exacerbated by the monsoon rains. We were able to get him out of harms way and immediate medical treatment. Amidst his tears, another life was saved.

Through our camp in Arivaca a total of 68 migrants in serious need were evacuated to receive life-saving medical care.

On July 14th alone, our patrols encountered and gave assistance to a **total of 101 migrants—our highest-ranking day of humanitarian outreach**. Alas, on July 18th, just four days later, a record number of migrants died during **the deadliest month on record** of another tragic year in the Arizona desert. Derechos Humanos reports that **78 migrants died in July alone**, and on that fateful day, **seven (known) migrants died** along the Arizona-Mexico border.

The cruel temperature of that cloudless day reached a scorching 116 degrees in the desert Southwest of Tucson, an intensity of heat that forces all life into survival mode, a condition very real to our volunteers. On that same day, volunteers from the No More Deaths camp spent hours with Cesario Dominguez, who came from Zacatecas to search for the body of his daughter, Lucrecia. She had left weeks earlier to make the journey to 'El Norte' with her seven year old daughter and fifteen year old son with the hope to reunite with their father in Texas. Identified by only the rings on her fingers she returned to Mexico by way of casket.

Even the Tucson Medical Examiner's Office does not have the capacity to handle the heightened death toll. This year has set another morally intolerable record with the **total number of deaths at 279 in the Tucson Sector surpassing last year by nearly forty**. At the same time, hundreds more bodies remain under the desert sun, remembered by loved ones hundreds of miles away but never to be given a proper burial. For them, and for those to come, we are here.

We are here to build community in the most severe of places and to sing “This Land is Your Land,” with all willing to join in.

We are here to bring humanity to tired and sunburned faces.

We are even here to pick up trash in the most delicate of desert eco-systems, **gathering more than 213 bags of garbage this summer.**

And what of the feet, the feet that carry these men, women, and children hundreds of miles in the harsh desert terrain? How does one begin to count the blistered and raw feet that our volunteers have washed and bandaged? Even more, how can one calculate the impact of crossing these invisible socio-economic borders with our hands—and hearts? Amazed by the simplicity and significance of this work, one volunteer expressed, “I feel more determined to go back to Michigan and raise awareness and to send people here.”

Compelled by these experiences, this nation-wide mobilization will not be intimidated, nor will it be stifled, despite the Department of Homeland Security deeming it a necessary use of resources to keep **humanitarians under surveillance for more than two-hundred hours** and besides the fact that **Border enforcement denied our offers of assistance to give food and water to more than 220 migrants.** Nonetheless, we are here. We will continue to exist as a compassionate response to a very real humanitarian crisis. We will remain in the desert until there are no more deaths.



Shanti and Daniel's Story

July 9, 2005: A sweltering day on the cruel Arizona border.

Two No More Deaths volunteers found a group of distressed migrants in the desert. Most were hungry, thirsty, and suffering from severe, crippling blisters. Left untreated, these can prevent a person from walking, a frequent cause of death in the desert.

The three seriously ill men were taken to the No More Deaths Camp and examined by a certified nurse practitioner, who then consulted with a volunteer physician and a lawyer. They advised that the men should be medically evacuated to Tucson for treatment.

Daniel Strauss and Shanti Sellz, volunteers at the camp this morning, offered to drive the men to a safe place to be treated by the No More Deaths physician and nurse or taken to a hospital if necessary.

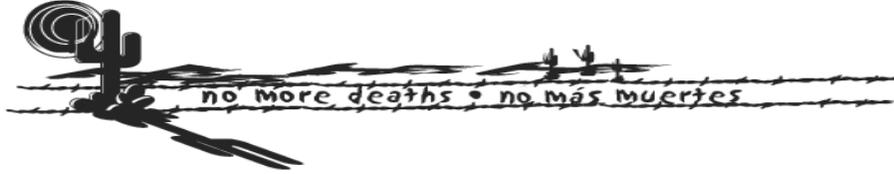
The United States Border Patrol stopped them. The three sick men were taken into custody without receiving medical attention. The No More Deaths doctor and nurse offered to treat them at the Border Patrol detention facility - however, the Border Patrol turned them away.

Daniel and Shanti were arrested and charged with the "crimes" of transporting illegal aliens and conspiring to do so.

The "crime" committed by these two young volunteers on July 9, 2005 was medically evacuating three extremely sick people on the advice of a physician, nurse and lawyer.

Their act was clearly HUMANITARIAN, NOT CRIMINAL.

If Daniel and Shanti had not acted, the lives of a father, son and their companion could have been claimed by the cruel Arizona desert – a fate that claimed the lives of 279 others in Arizona in 2005.



—Versión en español abajo—

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Beth Sanders, 520.909.0636 daytime or evening (Spanish/English)

*Interviews with *No More Deaths* religious and grassroots leaders, medical experts, and volunteers can be made upon request after the press conference.

October 17th, 2005

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***‘Humanitarian Aid is Never A Crime’:
New Campaign Launched to Drop Charges***

What: Press Conference

When: Wednesday, October 19th, 2005, 12:00 Noon (approximately 45 minutes)

Where: Southside Presbyterian Church, 317 West 23rd Street

This *No More Deaths*-sponsored press conference will announce the launching of a new campaign—***Humanitarian Aid is Never a Crime***—to pressure the US government to drop the felony charges that volunteers Daniel Strauss and Shanti Sellz will face at their trial on December 20th. **Bates Butler**, the former US attorney for the District of Arizona, will be the primary speaker. *No More Deaths* will reveal how many migrants they gave life-saving assistance to as well as other facts and figures in their **2005 year report**. They will also introduce the details of this new time-sensitive campaign and call on volunteers to join the effort.

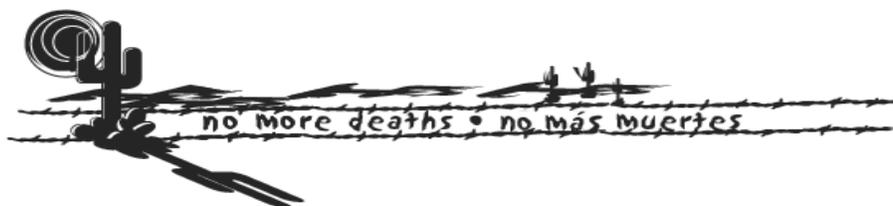
A record-breaking number of migrants—more than 270—died in Arizona’s deserts in the 2005 fiscal year. July alone exceeded all previous months in the Border Patrol’s Tucson sector in 2005, since operation Gatekeeper began in 1994. The number of lives that *No More Deaths* saved this summer (to be announced Wednesday) will reinforce the need for their humanitarian efforts to be interpreted as legal by the government of the United States.

The *No More Deaths* Movement is a diverse coalition of individuals, faith communities, human rights advocates, and grassroots organizers who are engaged in direct and symbolic action to save lives, advocate for immigration policy reform, and raise public awareness about the present-day crisis of migrant deaths in the deserts of the Southwest.

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Interviews with the following people and others are available upon request:

- Shanti Sellz**, one of the volunteers who is facing up to 15 years in prison for her two felony charges.
- Margo Cowan**, spokeswoman, attorney, and campaign leader.
- Stuart Taylor**, Presbyterian pastor and spokesperson for the faith community.
- Norma Price**, M.D., spokeswoman for medical professionals who give medical support to migrants.
- Isabel Garcia**, immigrant rights advocate and attorney.



CAMPAÑA DE NO MÁS MUERTES

CONTACTO: Beth Sanders, 520.909.0636 durante el día o el la noche (en español o inglés)

*Entrevistas son disponibles con líderes religiosos, médicos, y voluntarios de *No Más Muertes*.

17 de octubre, 2005

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‘Asistencia Humanitaria No es un Delito’: Se Lanza Nueva Campaña para que se Retiren los Cargos

Que: Conferencia de prensa

Cuando: miércoles, 19 de octubre, 2005, 12:00 mediodía (aproximadamente 45 minutos)

En donde: Southside Presbyterian Church, 317 West 23rd Street

No Más Muertes ha organizado una conferencia de prensa donde anunciará el lanzamiento de una nueva campaña— ***‘Asistencia Humanitaria No es un Delito’***. La intención de esa campaña es para presionar al gobierno de los Estados Unidos para que retire los cargos de felonía que enfrentan los voluntarios Daniel Strauss y Shanti Sellz en su juicio el día 20 de diciembre. **Bates Butler**, el abogado para el Distrito de Arizona del juicio anterior será el orador principal. *No Más Muertes* revelará el número de migrantes a cuales dió asistencia para salvar vidas al igual que otros datos de su **reporte final del año 2005**. Además introducirá los detalles de esta campaña que cuenta con tan poco tiempo, y pedirá que nuevos voluntarios se unan a su esfuerzo.

En este año fiscal el número de migrantes que falleció en los desiertos de Arizona excede mas de 270. La cantidad de muertes en el mes de julio excedió las muertes en el desierto en comparación con meses pasados de julio desde que empezó la Operación Gatekeeper en 1994. El número de personas que *No Más Muertes* rescató durante este verano (que anunciará en miércoles) reforzará la necesidad de que sus esfuerzos humanitarios sean interpretados como legales por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

El movimiento de *No Más Muertes* es una colación diversa de individuos, comunidades de fe, defensores de derechos humanos, y organizadoras de ‘grassroots’, que están comprometidos en acción directa y simbólica de rescatar vidas, ser defensores para reforma justa de las políticas de inmigración, informar al publico sobre el crisis de muertos migrantes en los desiertos del Sur de los Estado Unidos. Si usted quisiera donar algo o ser voluntario, favor de llamar 882-5466 o mandar un correo a action@nomoredeaths.org; también puede ver el sitio del internet en www.nomoredeaths.org.

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NO MORE DEATHS CAMPAIGN

c/o Southside Presbyterian Church, 317 W 23rd Street, Tucson, AZ 85719. 520.882.5466. www.nomoredeaths.org

CONTACT: Beth Sanders, 520.909.0636 daytime or evening (Español/English)

*Interviews can be made upon request with leaders of *No More Deaths*, *Christian Peacemaker Teams*, *Frontera de Cristo*, and *Healing Our Borders*. Visits to Arivaca camp of *No More Deaths* can be gladly arranged as well.

August 12th, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Faith-Based Delegation Visits Washington DC to Report on Border Crisis

Washington, DC—A delegation of representatives from faith-based groups living and working near the Arizona border with Mexico will arrive on Capital Hill Thursday, September 15th to meet with members of congress and to present a briefing on border issues to Congressional staff and to the public.

Many members of the delegation have extensive experience working in the desert and encountering migrants from Mexico suffering dehydration and other severe medical problems. The group will be in Washington to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform in order to end migrant deaths in the desert.

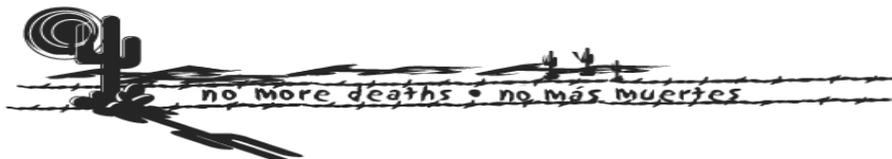
The delegation will describe and document the humanitarian crisis they are seeing daily in the Arizona desert. They will present how the militarization of the border areas has increased death and suffering in the desert, and will share stories of migrants and describe why they are leaving their homeland for the United States. They will discuss innovative solutions from faith-based groups working on the Mexico side, but will insist that part of the solution to this crisis needs to come from Washington. Faith-based principles for immigration reform will be presented as a model for change and the strengths and weaknesses of current legislative proposals will also be weighed.

The organizations participating in this delegation include:

- *No More Deaths*, Tucson, Arizona. A coalition of communities and individuals of faith and conscience that works to end the suffering and deaths of migrants in the Arizona-Sonora borderlands.
- *Christian Peacemaker Teams*, Douglas, Arizona. A violence reduction project designed to protect life and promote humane and sustainable immigration policies.
- *Frontera de Cristo*, Douglas, Arizona. A ministry site of Presbyterian Border Ministry, a cooperative endeavor of the National Presbyterian church of Mexico and the Presbyterian Church USA, established to engage in ministries of compassion (health, education, economic self-help), offer mission education, and develop new worshipping communities.
- *Healing Our Borders*, Douglas, Arizona. Provides humanitarian assistance to migrants making the journey from Mexico to the US and works to remember and draw attention to migrant deaths in Cochise County, AZ.

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The Capital Hill briefing will take place at 9:30 am on Thursday, September 15th at the Longworth House Office Building, Room 1416. The public briefing will take place at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Radcliffe Room, 1313 New York Avenue, near Metro Center, at 7:30 pm on the same day.



LA CAMPAÑA DE NO MÁS MUERTES

Southside Presbyterian Church, 317 W 23rd Street, Tucson, AZ 85719. 520.882.5466. www.nomoredeaths.org.

CONTACTA: Beth Sanders, 520.909.0636 durante el día o el la noche (en español o inglés)

*Entrevistas están disponibles con líderes de No Más Muertes, Equipos Cristianos por la Paz, Frontera de Cristo, y Curando Nuestras Fronteras. Es posible de arreglar un viaje al campamento en Arivaca de No Más Muertes.

12 de Septiembre, 2005

PARA PUBLICAR IMMEDIANTAMENTE

Delegación religiosa visita a Washington DC para reportar sobre la crisis fronteriza

Washington, DC—Una delegación de varios grupos religiosos que viven y trabajan en la frontera con Arizona y México llegarán a Capital Hill en jueves, el 15 de septiembre para reunirse con miembros de congreso y para presentar un sumario de los asuntos fronterizos que han ocurrido.

Muchos miembros de la delegación han tenido experiencias extensivas en trabajar en el desierto y de encontrar a migrantes latinos que sufren de deshidratación y otras problemas médicos. El grupo estará en Washington para interceder por una reforma integral de inmigración para que se acaben las muertes de migrantes en el desierto.

La deligación describirá y enseñará la documentación de la crisis humanitaria en el desierto de Arizona. Presentará como la militarización en las regiones fronterizas ha causado más muertes y sufrimiento en el desierto. Además, contará historias sobre los migrantes y describirá porque están saliendo de su hogar de México para los EE.UU. Platicará sobre soluciones innovadoras de grupos religiosos que trabajan en México, pero van a insistir que la solución de la crisis tiene que venir de Washington. Platicará de la necesidad de usar sus principales de fe como modelo en la reforma de inmigración, y además sobre las fuerzas y debilidades de las propuestas legislativas del presente.

Las organizaciones que son participantes en esta delegación incluyen:

No Mas Muertes, Tucson, Arizona. Una coalición de comunidades e individuales de fe y conciencia que trabajan para que termine el sufrimiento y las muertes de migrantes en la frontera de Arizona y Sonora.

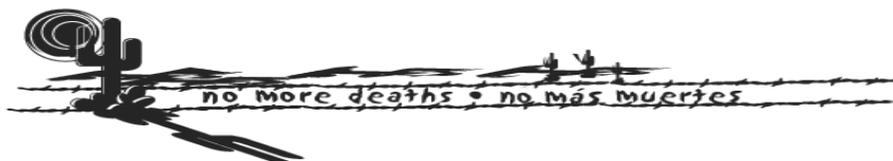
Equipos Cristianos por la Paz, Douglas, Arizona. Un proyecto para reducir violencia, proteger la vida y promover policitas de inmigración que sean humanos y sustentables.

Frontera de Cristo, Douglas, Arizona. Un sitio del Ministerio Presbiteriano Fronterizo, una esfuerza cooperativa de la iglesia presbiteriana nacional de México y de los EE.UU., establecido para engranar con los ministerios de compasión (salud, educación, económica), ofrecer educación misionario, y desarrollar comunidades nuevas de adoración.

Curando Nuestras Fronteras, Douglas, Arizona. Provee asistencia humanitaria a migrantes que están viajando de México hasta los EE.UU. y trabaja para recordar y llamar atención acerca de las muertes de migrantes en el candado de Cochise, Arizona.

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La sesión en Capital Hill va a ocurrir a las 9:00 de las mañana en jueves, el 15 de septiembre en Longworth House Office Building, sala 1416. La sesión para el publico va a ocurrir en la New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Radcliffe Room, 1313 New York Avenue, cerca del centro, en las 7:30 en la noche del mismo día.



STATEMENT BY FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, BATES BUTLER

Today we come together to ask the United States to drop all charges against Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss. Shanti and Daniel are humanitarians not criminals. Humanitarian aid is never a crime.

On July 9th No More Deaths volunteers encountered three very sick men who reported blood in their diarrhea, persistent vomiting and disabling blisters. The men had survived the scorching July heat of the Arizona desert by drinking water from cattle tanks, and it took its toll. At least they survived. More people died in the Tucson sector during July 2005 than any other month since anyone has been keeping track.

For us, not one death is acceptable.

A certified medical technician in the No More Deaths Camp that day examined these men and instructed Daniel Strauss to call the No More Deaths volunteer medical personnel in Tucson for directions as to how to proceed.

Drs. Dalton McClelland and Norma Price and registered nurse Helen Lundgren spoke to Daniel that day and instructed him to medically evacuate the sick men. A volunteer lawyer verified the instruction to medically evacuate the men.

The group never made it to Tucson. The migrants, Shanti, and Daniel were stopped and arrested on their way to see the doctor. Not only did they never make it to the doctor, both of these young people were charged with committing two serious felonies, transporting an “illegal alien” and conspiring to do so. All three migrants were deported; none received medical attention, although the No More Deaths volunteer doctor and nurse went to the Border Patrol to examine and treat them. The Border Patrol turned the nurse and the doctor away.

We believe in the sanctity of all human life and we believe what happened on July 9th was wrong. We call on the United States to drop all charges against Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss. Humanitarian aid is never a crime.

For more information about the No More Deaths and Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime campaigns please call Marie or Jonathan at St. Mark's Church at 325-1001.

No More Deaths

C/o Southside Presbyterian Church

317 W. 23rd St.

Tucson, AZ 85713

Phone: 520-909-0636 www.nomoredeaths.org



The No More Deaths Campaign is a group of persons and organizations of faith and conscience who came together in November of 2003 to stop migrant deaths in the desert. We are not members of Congress and we can do nothing about present immigration and border policy but we do think it is absolutely wrong for people to die uselessly in our desert on their way to a job or to be reunited with family members.

This past summer two young No More Deaths volunteers were stopped and arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol as they medically evacuated three very sick migrants to medical care in Tucson. They were acting on the advice of a nurse, physician and lawyer, all No More Deaths volunteers.

In the name of justice and compassion for the suffering of our fellow migrant sisters and brothers, children, women and men, we call on our United States government to drop all charges against the No More Deaths volunteers, Shanti Sellz, and Daniel Strauss. It is the right thing to do.

We ask you to join us by signing a postcard or sending a letter to Paul Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona.

For more information please call Jonathan at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church (520) 325-1001 or Marie at No More Deaths (520) 882-5466.

www.nomoredeaths.org
action@nomoredeaths.org



Mr. Paul K. Charlton
United States Attorney
District of Arizona
Two Renaissance Square
40 North Central
Suite No. 1200
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4408

Dear Mr. Charlton:

Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss are not criminals; they are humanitarians. In the name of justice, please drop all charges against Ms. Sellz and Mr. Strauss. It is the right thing to do. Do it now.

Printed Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Signature



HUMANITARIAN AID IS NEVER A CRIME PLEDGE

Through my signature below I pledge to provide humanitarian aid whenever I encounter a migrant in distress. I authorize the *No More Deaths* and *Humanitarian Aid Is Never a Crime* campaigns to publicly use my name as an endorser of these efforts. I call on my government to drop all charges against Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss.

Printed Name

Telephone Number

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Signature

Date

Please send signed pledges to No More Deaths at:
 St. Marks Presbyterian Church
 3809 Third Street Tucson, AZ 85716-4611



Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime

**No More Deaths
No Mas Muertes**

NO MORE DEATHS FINANCIAL PLEDGE

Help Defend the Right to Give Humanitarian Aid!

With your contribution we can continue defending principled humanitarian work and support indicted No More Deaths volunteers Daniel Strauss and Shanti Sellz. Your donation will allow us to continue our ministry of compassion and life-saving work in Arizona's deserts.

___ \$25 ___ \$60 ___ \$120 ___ other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

Please send your donation to: St. Marks Presbyterian Church
3809 Third Street Tucson, AZ 85716-4611

Check can be made payable to St. Marks Presbyterian Church
(with No More Deaths in the subject line)

Letters and Other Written Communication

When you are pushing an issue or supporting/trying to defeat a bill, writing to your representative is a very effective way of getting your message across. However, some methods of communication seem to be more effective.

1. Personal Letters or Faxes:

The best thing to do is to write a personal letter. Personal letters show legislators that you are knowledgeable and committed to the issues. Legislators keep track of how many letters they receive on particular issues.

Suggestion for writing personal letters:

- *Be timely* – Write when an issue is current. Now is the best time to write your legislator regarding passing fair immigration reform legislation.
- *Be brief* – Limit yourself to one page and to one topic.
- *Be specific* – Reference specific bill numbers (if any). Include basic information like what the legislation will/will not do and how it would affect you and others in your state.
- *Be legible* – Clearly sign your name and remember to include your address in the letter. Type your letter instead of handwriting.
- *Be supportive* – Write thank you letters when a legislator supports your cause.

2. E-mail Correspondence:

E-mail has become a very useful tool for quickly communicating with elected officials. Personal letters are still preferred because e-mails can be easily deleted without the legislator ever reading it.

Suggestions for e-mail communication:

- Treat it as an electronic personal letter
- Title your submission
- Include a home address

3. Form Letters:

Form letters are okay, but not nearly as effective as a personal letter or e-mail.

If you are beginning a form-letter campaign, keep these things in mind:

- *Include your address* – Many form letters have no space to write an address. Without the address, legislators will not read your letter!
- *Give extra effort* – Include a personal note at the end of the form letter and always re-state your concern.

How to Give a Successful Interview

1. Be conscious of the words you use to describe the issue and the impact they can have on how our work is perceived by the public. If a reporter uses offensive/incorrect wording, correct them with what you would rather hear.
 - “**Medical evacuation**” rather than “transporting”
 - “**Walls**” rather than “fences”
 - “**Migrant**” versus “illegal”/“alien”
 - “**Rescuing**”/“**Saving Lives**” versus “assisting”/“aiding”
2. Stick to the message. Don’t answer the question asked, answer the question you wish they had asked! Find a way to redirect the response back to the main talking points.
3. It is ok to reiterate. A message repeated makes a good sound bite. An interview may have been 10 minutes long, but only 30 seconds will air. This is why it is important to stick to your message: rambling off topic makes a scorching sound bite that could potentially destroy your credibility.
4. **DO NOT LIE OR MAKE STUFF UP!** If you can’t answer a question, just say so. Remember that when you are in the media spotlight, you represent everyone associated with No More Deaths. If the interview gets off track, ask for a break. Don’t go embarrassing yourself and everyone else.
5. Do not repeat a negative point that reporters may ask. For example: A reporter asks, “Doesn’t NMD supply migrants with expensive catered meals?” Do not respond by saying, “NMD absolutely does not give migrants catered meals-what we do give them is migrant packs.” This will appear in the media as, “NMD absolutely gives migrants catered meals.” The correct answer for the question would have been, “NMD uses donated food that is packed in what we call ‘migrant packs’.”
6. Nothing is 100% off the record. Whatever you say anywhere can follow you around endlessly and perhaps disastrously. For example, if traveling with a reporter, know everything you say casually in passing to the reporter or another person could be up for grabs. Even an “off the record” conversation could appear in some publication to burn you some day!
7. Watch your body language. Even in positive interview situations, interviewees sometimes look tense or stiff, which can have a big impact on credibility. Before on-camera interviews, do some relaxing exercises such as stretching or taking a walk. Be sure to stand up during phone interviews. You would be surprised at what a difference it can make.
8. Learn how to “bridge”. This allows you to deflect any attempts to derail your message. “Bridging creates a transition so that you can move from one subject to the message you want to communicate. First answer the direct question, then transition to your message. For example, “What’s important to remember, however...” “What that means is...” “That’s a good point, but I think you’d be interested in knowing...” “Let me put that in perspective...”
9. Try to anticipate questions you may be asked. This is possible when you are familiar with opposing views. A reporter may ask, “Don’t illegal immigrants cost the US billions of dollars every year?” You could probably respond by saying, “Actually, governmental reports suggest that migrants put billions *into* the economy every year.”
10. Practice.
11. If the interview is not live, it may be possible to start over again. Be careful with this, though. See #6.

How to Hold a Media Event

A media event involves attention-grabbing stunts; they are intended to spawn press coverage. If your event is newsworthy, it may include a few of the following:

- Novelty
- Conflict
- New data & trends
- Simplicity
- Humor
- Public Figures
- Action
- Props/Images
- Locality
- Holidays/Anniversaries

Build your event including site, speakers, and visuals around your message/slogan. Remember to make it fun and utilize stunts. Be considerate of timing and other events that may be going on. Try to hold your event in an effective location with lots of traffic (foot, car, whatever).

Remember:

- Have a backup plan if your event is outdoors, just in case Mother Nature decides not to work with you.
- Check with your local police department to make sure you have the proper permits, if necessary.
- Remember your equipment such as podiums and speakers. Make sure they arrive to your event location in a timely fashion.
- Have a large banner handy with your organization's logo on it.
- Have photographers handy.
- Have your organization's literature handy to distribute.
- Make sure your spokespersons are equipped to do interviews, just in case the opportunity presents itself.
- Thank the reporters who showed up to your event, taking note of who did not. Follow up with those who did not attend.

TALKING POINTS

THE PROBLEM

We seek to make known to the greater public how tragically failed this policy is. Before 1994, there were no recorded migrant deaths in the Arizona desert. Since then there have been more than 3,000 deaths along the entire US-Mexico border, the majority occurring in Arizona. Border patrol operations such as Gatekeeper and Hold-The-Line have only moved the flow of people entering the US--from safer urban locations to isolated, more dangerous areas that expose them to extreme elements. As witnesses, we seek to make this tragedy known to the greater public.

WHO WE ARE

As people of faith, we value the dignity and worth of every human life. We feel moved to respond to this humanitarian crisis by seeking to meet the immediate needs of migrants suffering in the desert and advocating for humane solutions. When a policy has proven itself to be so tragically failed as to be directly causing good people to suffer and die, our faith and our consciences compel us to demand that it change. We feel called to help any person who is suffering—whether by offering them a glass of water, giving them proper nourishment, or even rescuing them if they need medical attention.

WHO MIGRANTS ARE

People are literally dying to work in the United States. Although drug, weapon, and human smugglers on the border are a true threat to US security, the majority of crossers are job-seeking, hardworking people who are simply trying to support their families. They are filling jobs in sectors of the US economy that depend on their labor. Due to this misconception of who is actually crossing through our deserts, the people working in these jobs end up suffering and many die as a result of this failed policy.

THE SOLUTION

The increasing deaths on the border illustrate the immediate need for comprehensive immigration reform. The militarization of the border—which directly funnels people into the most dangerous areas of the desert—must be stopped in order to end migrant deaths. Other components of a comprehensive reform include reducing the backlog of waiting lists to reunite families; creating a safe, legal, orderly, and humane manner of entry through an employment program; improving protections for workers rights and civil rights; and legalizing the status of the 11 million+ people that have been working and living in the US.

HUMANITARIAN AID IS NEVER A CRIME

This past summer two young *No More Deaths* volunteers were stopped and arrested by the U.S. Border patrol as they medically evacuated three very sick migrants to medical care in Tucson. They were acting on the advice of a nurse, physician and lawyer, all *No More Deaths* volunteers. In the name of justice and compassion for the suffering of our fellow migrant sisters and brothers, children, women and men, we call on our United States government to drop all charges against the *No More Deaths* volunteers, Shanti Sells and Daniel Strauss. We urge you to join us. It is the right thing to do.

How to Use This Packet

- Print and copy the **Flyer (p.14)**, which includes information about No More Deaths, the trial, and how to get involved in the 'Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime' Campaign. Distribute to neighbors, co-workers, organizations, faith groups, etc.
- Print and sign the '**Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime' Pledge (p.16)**. Copy and distribute to interested individuals and groups. Then, please mail all completed forms to No More Deaths to be added as soon as possible to our campaign endorsement list: Mail to: *St. Mark's Presbyterian Church - 3809 E Third Street, Tucson, AZ 85716-4699*
- Print, sign and mail the **letter to Paul Charlton (p.15)** stating your support for the right to give humanitarian aid and demanding that the government drop the charges against Shanti and Daniel. **HELP US MEET OUR GOAL OF 10,000 SIGNATURES!** Have your friends and neighbors sign letters, and send them to Paul Charlton. If you get more than twenty people to sign on, please tell us the number of letters you have sent at action@nomoredeaths.org.
- If you live within driving distance of Tucson, arrange to come pick up **campaign materials** (postcards, yard signs, endorsement sheets, etc) from *St. Mark's Presbyterian Church*. Call (520) 882-5466 or e-mail action@nomoredeaths.org to make those arrangements.
- We gladly accept **monetary donations** to support the continuing work of No More Deaths. Please send any contribution you are able to give, along with the completed **Financial Pledge Form (p.17)**, to No More Deaths at *St. Mark's Presbyterian Church*.
- Contact No More Deaths if you know **possible outreach events or locations** where we could give a presentation, collect signatures, and distribute information about the campaign.
- If you would like a Word document version of this Campaign Toolkit (not pdf), please send an email with Toolkit in the title to action@nomoredeaths.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND CONTACTS:

- To request a copy of the official affidavit of the material witness for Shanti and Daniel's trial: Contact Margo Cowan (action@nomoredeaths.org)
- Media Coordinator/Press Requests: Contact Beth Sanders at (520) 909-0636

Muchas Gracias Por Su Apoyo...
Thank you for your commitment to this work!