

# Border Patrol Targets Humanitarian-Aid Camp

**Arivaca, Arizona-** On Thursday, June 15, A helicopter, 15 trucks, and 30 armed US Border Patrol agents descended on an aid station to apprehend four people receiving medical care in deadly summer heat from The medical-aid camp of humanitarian organization **NO MORE DEATHS**. Obstruction of humanitarian aid is an egregious abuse by the law-enforcement agency, a clear violation of international humanitarian law, and a violation of the organization's agreement with the Tucson Sector Border Patrol.

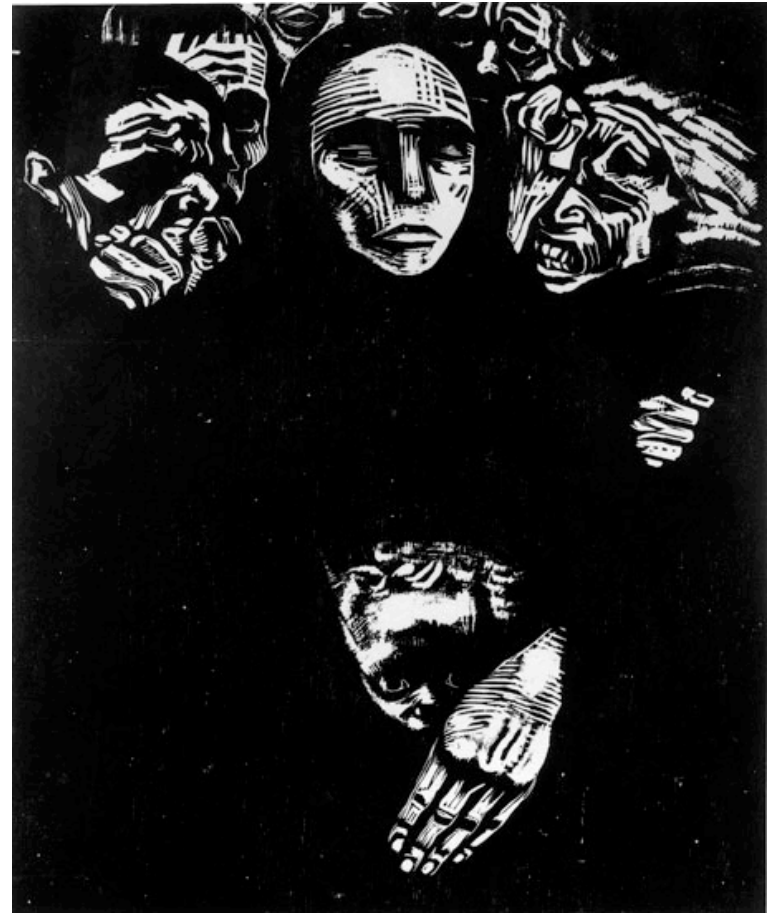
Agents from the Border Patrol began surveilling the **NO MORE DEATHS** camp on Tuesday, June 13 at around 4:30 p.m. Agents in vehicles, on foot, and on ATVs surrounded the aid facility and set up a temporary checkpoint at the property line to search those leaving and interrogate them about their citizenship status. The heavy presence of law enforcement has deterred people from accessing critical humanitarian assistance in this period of hot and deadly weather. These events also follow a pattern of increasing surveillance of humanitarian aid over the past few months under the Trump administration.

For the past 13 years, **NO MORE DEATHS** has provided food, water, and medical care for people crossing the Sonoran Desert on foot. The ongoing humanitarian crisis caused by border-enforcement policy has claimed the lives of over seven thousand people since 1998.

## Human remains are found on average once every three days in the desert of southern Arizona.

Kate Morgan, Abuse Documentation and Advocacy Coordinator for the organization, said, **"No More Deaths has documented the deaths and disappearances of hundreds of migrants in the Arivaca corridor of the border. Today's raid on the medical aid-station is unacceptable and a break in our good-faith agreements with Border Patrol to respect the critical work of No More Deaths."**

John Fife, one of the founders of No More Deaths, commented, **"Since 2013 the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol has had a written agreement with No More Deaths (NMD) that they will respect the NMD camp as a medical facility under the International Red Cross standards, which prohibit government interference with humanitarian-aid centers. That agreement now has been violated by the Border Patrol under the most suspicious circumstances. The Border Patrol acknowledged that they tracked a group for 18 miles, but only after the migrants sought medical treatment did the Border Patrol seek to arrest them. The choice to interdict these people only after they entered the No More Deaths camp is direct evidence that this was a direct attack on**



humanitarian aid. At the same time, the weather forecast is for record-setting deadly temperatures."

People crossing the remote regions of the US-Mexico border often avoid seeking urgent medical care for fear of deportation and incarceration. For this reason, a humanitarian-focused aid station in the desert is an essential tool for preserving life. The targeting of this critical medical aid is a shameful reflection of the current administration's disregard for the lives of migrants and refugees, making an already dangerous journey even more deadly.

**No More Deaths remains committed to their mission to end death and suffering in the desert and will continue to provide humanitarian aid.**

No Más Muerte [nomoredeaths.org](http://nomoredeaths.org)

# EUREKA'S CANCER

Official Eureka is sick. The steel fence on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street declares civic bankruptcy. It illustrates that police state/concentration camp look which the previous 'Container-tration' Camp pioneered. Now we know what we are dealing with instead of the usual blather. The challenge can now be straight-forward. Now you see it- now you're in it. You are going to see more of it. It will be hard to ignore the people fasting on behalf of mercy, patience, kindness. Unless the city acts quickly, the city is asking to be met with nonviolent direct action. **In our face, in your face.**

Official Eureka, in its frenzy to serve its sick agenda, overreached itself, taking over sidewalks that the poorest people congregated on along 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The **Container-tration** Camp solution sat on the property behind but it was never itself sincere. It was a palliative to public opinion on the heels of Palco's evictions, never meant to be sustainable. Directly across the street is a building that could house the homeless from which the Ink People and the Grassroots Anarchists were evicted a while back. The word is out to speculators - this is has always been the next big commercial high-end development.

Plenty idea were available to attack the problem of settling the Palco Community in real time. These rascally homeless advocates had plans likely to succeed which must never be allowed to see the light of day. But curses, remnants of the Palco Community continue to exist on the streets of Eureka. Need a better idea: Let's go to Estelle's old CPR associate, the one who left the Planning Commission under a cloud. Let's get some upfront money quick, apply a little pressure, and the Betty Chinn "organization" can be brought on board to give some "moral" cover.

Poor Betty. I think I understand her. My partner, Kathy Epling, had the some unquenchable instinct to: **"make sandwiches for the hungry."** Betty's



mission, however, was to **"help the helpable."** Fine with me. But to solve the PR problems that Official Eureka had caused for itself, Betty was totally unprepared to serve people with **"unsolvable problems."** The blowback was classic burnout. **"They were a cancer..."** etc. except that the small group of culprits were all arrested already. But the big **"they"** are guilty, those unworthies whose lives cannot be patched up with room and board. Culprits like the one who wanted her kid back and who was five months pregnant and distributed the stolen toys and camping gear. It would make anybody furious.

**What a grand opportunity** says Official Eureka. **Let's rid ourselves of Betty's "cancer"**. Just the right metaphor for Chief Mills or Supervisor Fennell. So enthusiastic is Official Eureka to serve gentrification that they have gone and violated space that cannot be violated. The sidewalks are as dedicated to free egress to all citizens as are the rivers of California. A merchant like Mercer-Fraser doesn't own the sidewalk and has no rights over it. Sidewalks are a liability the merchant assumes to do business publicly in Eureka. Local government, beholden to local merchants and their well-to-do clients, as it passes one illegal loitering law after another, find it hard to believe that its current blockade is violating an otherwise toothless U.S. Constitution.

Cartoonists have suggested that a Wall around Trump might be the best option to solve his problems. Yet- where is the cyclone fence that surrounds the headquarters of Eureka City Hall where the mayor has been implicated in recent fraud and theft; where the Sheriffs' are in deep doo-doo for the same reason; and where the Eureka Police Department is already fending off one felony indictment in Federal Court and may soon see another? And unlike the people around St. Vinnies, these accused criminals and **all** their fellow associates are not having their food cut off or being refused parking places.

Why has the Oligarchy of Gentrification become the norm of the public policy of the city and county? The Planning Commission document of yesteryear makes ample provision for "Nomads," but this is totally ignored. Why? Eureka's "original sin" was the destruction of its poorest neighborhood on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. - just as the freeway made the city a Global Crossroads. Gentrification from there on took over as public policy. Federal housing support for displaced poor people meanwhile shrunk until there is very little left to shrink. Eureka becomes a little Greece where suffering for the poorest is one of the comforts enjoyed by the rich.

If the object is to make sure that this poorest population is maximally irritating to the average citizen, take away all public space, like is happening now and give nothing back. Then what? You start on private places. Like Trailer and Mobile Home Parks, under attack by speculators everywhere in the nation. You resolutely undermine solutions.

**What genius suggested privatizing the sidewalks?**

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