

FACTSHEET: INTERFERENCE WITH HUMANITARIAN AID

From 2012-2015, No More Deaths alone distributed over 31,558 gallon jugs of water to migration trails in the Southern Arizona desert. Over 86% of this water was used. This high level of water use underscores the urgent need for access to water in the borderlands.



What is vandalism of humanitarian aid?

Volunteers regularly find life-saving water gallons and cans of food vandalized. Water gallons have been found:

- Slashed with knives
- Dumped out
- Stomped on
- Dyed or tampered with

In data collected by No More Deaths from 2012 to 2015, volunteers found water gallons vandalized a total of 415 times, or on average at least 2 times a week, during our study period. **Overall, 3,586 gallons of water were vandalized in an approximately 800 square mile desert corridor near Arivaca,**

Arizona. In addition to water gallons, volunteers have repeatedly found other life-saving aid - food and blankets - destroyed in the same manner.

Who is vandalizing humanitarian aid?

Through statistical analysis, video evidence, and personal experience, our team has uncovered a disturbing reality. **In the majority of cases, US Border Patrol agents are responsible for the widespread interference with essential humanitarian efforts.**

“Yes, I remember people smashing and stepping on water bottles, I remember that being imparted onto us in one way or another,” one former Border Patrol agent told us. “I also remember that the logic behind that, the logic that was imparted to us with that action, was that you stomp on their water, and ransack their food cache, in order to expedite their apprehension.”¹ This is the logic of the US Border Patrol’s policy of Prevention Through Deterrence, which in theory prioritizes threats of arrest and physical violence, while in reality kills and disappears people.



How else does the border patrol interfere with humanitarian aid?

Volunteers experience direct harassment from Border Patrol in the field and at camp as they attempt to provide aid. Examples of Border Patrol harassment include:

- Threat of physical violence and arrest
- Aggressive interrogation
- Suggestion that volunteers are smugglers or cartel members
- Detention
- Brandishment of firearms
- Forcing volunteers' vehicles off the road with trucks
- Surveillance with low-flying helicopters
- Following volunteers in the field with helicopters, trucks, on horseback, and on foot

What should we do about it?

Through the findings of this report we conclude that the US Border Patrol's obstruction of humanitarian-aid efforts is widespread and routine, and that the agency as a whole is guilty of significant human rights violations.

We demand that US Customs and Border Protection permanently dismantles the US Border Patrol and establishes a reparations program for the families of all persons disappeared or deceased as a result of the US border policy of Prevention Through Deterrence.

To download the full report: www.thedisappearedreport.org

For more information on No More Deaths: www.nomoredeaths.org

For more information on La Coalición de Derechos Humanos: derechoshumanosaz.net