

INTRODUCTION

TO BORDER

MILITARIZATION



photo by Raquel Mogollon

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PREFACE

With this section we will touch on the major points to be covered in the Border Militarization Study Guide. Isabel Garcia, co-founder of the Tucson-based Derechos Humanos Coalition provides an essential background in the history of free trade and militarization and their impacts on the US/Mexico border. Will Wickham does an excellent job presenting an overview of the subjects covered in this guide. Leilani Clark is a young poet and activist whose poem, *To Honor Lives Stolen*, provides a poignant introduction to the tragic list that follows: a listing of the undocumented persons whose remains were found last year on the Arizona side of the Sonoran Desert.

We also want to call attention to the photographs not only for this lesson, but throughout the Study Guide. We are thankful to be working with some of the best photojournalists-both professional and amateur-who are chronicling the struggles of the undocumented. It is said that “a picture is worth a thousand words”. But maybe it is best not to compare the value of these photographs to words at all.

ISABEL GARCIA

A HISTORY OF FREE TRADE AND BORDER MILITARIZATION



“When you create these trade agreements, it supersedes nation states.”

Interview and video by Chelli Stanley and Will Wickham. Please view this video online at <http://afgj.org/isabel-garcia-history-border>.

WILL WICKHAM

THE QUESTION OF BORDER MILITARIZATION

The line separating the two nations of México and the United States runs nearly two thousand miles. In its most contemporary incarnation, it spans four US states, six Mexican States, and divides several Indian reservations and metropolitan areas. But it is only a line; its single dimension can have no place other than the strictly conceptual in a three dimensional world. The true border is what humans create upon the concept; it is the fence, the policies, the restriction of movements of goods and people. And so, the "border" becomes expansive: it is an entire region in both Mexico and the United States, it is the cities, towns and countryside. The presence of the border is felt wherever border policies and legislation structure our lives.

The borderlands, like most of this continent, is primarily a site of displacement and genocide of indigenous people—a process that continues today. It is also the product of the US nation state taking half of México's land by military force between 1845 and 1848. It is a site of violence, imperialism and at times, of beautiful cultural exchange. More recently it has become a site of militarization, a practice which is spreading throughout the US, México, to Central and South America and beyond. Militarization is the organization or aggregation of military force in a territory. It is a term which encompasses, but is much broader than, a concentration of guns and army personnel on the land. It changes the visual landscape, the language and social norms, and the local and global economy. The physical territory covered in weaponry is inextricable from our individual and collective planes of consciousness. When our land is militarized, our minds as well are subjugated to military order, of checkpoints, policing, prisons and forced displacement.

The immediately visible militarization of the border is the expansion of the border wall, the concentration of armed officers patrolling the desert, and the implementation of drones and surveillance technology. Around the time when the North American Free Trade agreement was going into effect (1994), the first walls were built in Tijuana/San Diego and Ciudad Juarez/El Paso. In sealing these primary points of entry to the US the main routes of migration were forced into the harsh and remote Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, where migrants walk for days in extreme temperatures. In 1994 there were 14 deaths on the border. In 2010 there were 253 human remains found in Arizona alone. Since 1994 there have been over 6,000 remains found in the desert, and many more will never be found. Policy makers claimed the desert would act as a deterrent to immigration, but it has not. They fundamentally failed to understand why people are being forced north.

“Who is it hurting? Who stands to benefit?”

Every one of the thousands of people who will cross the border northwards today has their own reasons for crossing. Many of them have lived many years in the US and are trying to get back to their children and spouses. Others might be escaping from violence in their home countries. Many are crossing to look for work in order to help their family escape the violence of poverty. Such poverty is a direct result of policies like the North American Free Trade Agreement, which displaced millions of poor Mexicans from their land. It is a result of US military intervention that sponsored regimes of terror and genocide in Central America in order to protect the interests of trade and capitalism. Any one of us would migrate under these circumstances.

Many people imagine the US as a beacon of liberty, justice, and democracy, protecting freedom and rights around the world. How then, does such a nation treat its immigrants? Currently, the US is trying to arrest, detain and deport as many as possible. Obama’s

administration deported more people than any other administration. This project of deportation relies on the creation of a public perception that immigrants are freeloaders benefiting from welfare or that they are violent criminals involved in drug trade and gang activity, all of which is mixed up with the specter of terrorism. This production of fear and hate makes it possible to police, incarcerate and deport the people who are otherwise family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, on an unprecedented scale. This activity is sometimes most visible on the border, but in reality, it is playing out across the country, in every city and town where immigrants are living and working. The question is, why are US citizens fearful and hateful of immigrants? Who is actually benefiting from this complex of surveillance, incarceration and deportation?

The concern over international terrorism has also been used to export this new style of border enforcement, incarceration and surveillance around the world. From the Dominican Republic's border with Haiti to the apartheid wall in Israel/Palestine, the US has played a role in supporting and creating militarized borders. The US, and US-based companies are also involved in projects throughout the Americas and the world that spread both neoliberal economic policies and build prisons and create militarized zones. Although each country may have different reasons for these projects, we must look for the connections between them and ask, who is this protecting? Who is it hurting? Who stands to benefit?

The US has overwhelmingly benefited from immigrant labor over the past 150 years. The border has been a useful tool for exploiting labor in various ways. US businesses, especially in agriculture, have a long history of recruiting undocumented laborers from Mexico to work for illegally low wages. The threat of deportation continues to be used to prevent organizing and keep wages illegally low, sometimes to deny wages altogether, as was notoriously the case during the Bracero program, a guest worker program from 1942 to 1964. Today's immigrants are subject to similar exploitation and at times,

enslavement. NAFTA, while displacing so many people from Mexico, also allowed many factories to move just across the border, creating a complex of brutal exploitation in Mexico and leaving many unemployed in the US. When we hear people saying that immigrants are coming to “steal our jobs,” we must ask who is really responsible for unemployment and identify the ways in which immigrant workers and unemployed US citizens are both suffering from the same economic system.

Border militarization has affected communities and families from Honduras to Maine, and has ties to global economics, but has also fundamentally transformed the borderlands. Arizona has been a laboratory for the rest of the country, the testing ground for state legislation like S.B. 1070 which legalized racial profiling and has since been implemented in several other states. If we wish to understand the nature of the US nation-state, we should start by looking at the Tohono O’odham, an indigenous nation bisected by the México/US border. The militarized border is just the most recent violation of their sovereignty, in process that began 500 years ago.

The border has become a war zone in many new ways, even though it always has been in other ways. With the Border Militarization Resource Guide we hope to put the border on your map, to cultivate a consciousness and understanding of migration, labor, racism and militarization. Historically immigration reform, while allowing many people to naturalize, has been a Trojan horse for dramatic increases in enforcement. With another round of immigration reform on the horizon it is critical that we stand together and refuse to compromise. We hope these resources will inspire and assist your community’s resistance to the policies and practices that are currently tearing so many lives, and the earth itself, apart.

LEILANI CLARK

TO HONOR LIVES STOLEN

To do the work we do is to honor those lives.

To educate and inform,
to articulate and paint a picture for you
All that goes on in this state,
In these deserts.

To do the work we do is to honor those lives lost in them.

Josseline Janiletha Hernandez Quintero

Milka Lopez-Herrera

Lourdes Cruz Morales

Desconocido

Desconocida- Unknown name, unknown age

-this woman.

Maybe she, a young twenty-two year old, went through what I am
living through

and she came up north to run away and start all over again.

To break free from the bounds suffocating her body brought by sexual
violence.

But now there she lies.

Her once laughing body

now so cold.

Placed inside a cold metal freezer of the same consistency

of the cold metal barrier you need around your heart to work at the
Pima Medical Examiner's Office.

There she lies,

pieces of her beautiful body providing the vivid sensory of smell to visitors coming from all over the country to get a firsthand glimpse of what goes on in Arizona.

The one state where to learn the scent of a sun-dried corpse is to learn the reality of failed border policies.

This all dawns on me while I write this, dressed in black- about to go to my auntie's funeral.

All the weight of the world in the very fact a funeral is a golden privilege.



Funeral for a Migrant Mother (Tucson, 2005)

THE HUMAN COST OF BORDER MILITARIZATION

The following list is taken from the Arizona OpenGIS Initiative for Deceased Migrants, a partnership between the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office and Humane Borders, Inc. It lists the individual border crossers whose remains were recovered from the Arizona borderlands in 2016. We encourage readers not to rush through these individuals, but consider each one and the conditions under which they died. To see this list and to view a map of migrant deaths, please visit (www.humaneborders.info).

Date	Name	Gender	Age	Corridor	Cause of Death
1/5/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
1/5/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cowlick	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
1/9/16	SALES LUIS, EDUARDO	male	31	Sasabe	HYPOTHERMIA
1/25/16	ROMERO HERNANDEZ, IGNACIO	male	32	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
1/26/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
1/26/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
1/31/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
2/23/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cowlick	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
3/1/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
3/3/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
3/3/16	Perez Soto, Serafin	male	30	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
3/6/16	ORTEGA QUINTERO, MARTIN ENRIQUE	male	23	Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED AND SKELETAL REMAINS

3/7/16	FUENTES RODRIGUEZ, IVAN GAEL	male	22	Cabeza Prieta	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
3/7/16	PADILLA CASTRO, JORGE ENRIQUE	male	32	Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED
3/20/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
3/18/16	(Unidentified)	male		Ajo	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
4/1/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
4/1/16	Luis Velasco, Fidel	male	32	Cowlick	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
4/7/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
4/7/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
4/7/16	(Unidentified)	female		San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
4/8/16	(Unidentified)	male	45	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
5/6/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
5/15/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cowlick	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
5/15/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
5/18/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
5/23/16	(Unidentified)	undetermined		Ajo	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
5/26/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sierra Vista	UNDETERMINED- SKELETAL REMAINS
5/31/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cowlick	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
5/31/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
5/31/16	(Unidentified)	undetermined		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
6/1/16	JIMENEZ GUZMAN, MARTIN	male	30	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
6/2/16	QUIROZ MELCHOR, FERNANDO JOSUE	male	20	Goldwater	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA

6/4/16	SANTOS MENDOZA, ELEUTERIA	female	30	Yuma	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/6/16	LUQUE GASTELUM, CHRISTIAN JESUS	male	33	San Miguel	HYPERTHERMIA
6/7/16	GONZALEZ SANCHEZ, ABDEL SAMUEL	male	21	Sasabe	HYPERTHERMIA
6/7/16	ROMERO BADILLA, JESUS EDUARDO	male	26	San Miguel	HYPERTHERMIA
6/7/16	(Unidentified)	undetermined		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
6/9/16	PEREZ GOMEZ, IGNACIO	male	19	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/9/16	SANCHEZ-SANCHEZ, CRISTOBAL ELIAS	male	27	Sasabe	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED REMAINS
6/9/16	HERNANDEZ, JUAN C	male	33	Yuma	MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS
6/10/16	RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ, SERGIO	male	23	Goldwater	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/10/16	(Unidentified)	male		Goldwater	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/10/16	BARAJAS-LUA, MIGUEL ANGEL	male	36	Goldwater	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/10/16	(Unidentified)	male		Goldwater	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/13/16	ZAMORA MORENO, MARTIN YOVANI	male	34	Ajo	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/16/16	PEREZ VALENZUELA, ANGEL ANTONIO	male	22	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/16/16	GARCIA QUIROZ, YULIANA	female	32	Nogales	BLUNT FORCE HEAD TRAUMA
1/11/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED REMAINS
6/20/16	(Unidentified)	male	45	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED DUE TO MUMMIFIED REMAINS
6/23/16	VASQUEZ TOMAS, ELMA	female	19	San Miguel	HYPERTHERMIA
6/23/16	HERNANDEZ RUIZ, NESTOR	male	25	Patagonia	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA

6/24/16	PEREZ ZUNUN, NORMA ISABEL	female	31	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED AND SKELETAL REMAINS
6/27/16	GUTIERREZ LEAL, JAVIER	male	22	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
6/28/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
6/29/16	SANCHEZ GARCIA, WALTER ANTONIO	male	43	Ajo	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
7/2/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
7/4/16	CRUZ VAZQUEZ, ISRAEL	male	22	Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL AND MUMMIFIED REMAINS
7/4/16	GONZALEZ HERNANDEZ, ABRAHAM	male	24	Cabeza Prieta	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/5/16	Lopez Martinez, Jose A.	male	25	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/6/16	Vazquez Cruz, Zacarias	male	23	Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED AND SKELETAL REMAINS
7/9/16	(Unidentified)	male	35	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - POSTMORTEM DECOMPOSITION
7/9/16	MATIAS SALES, CARLOS MARROQUIN	male	20	Sasabe	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/10/16	VASQUEZ-MATUS, DELFINO	male	42	Patagonia	DEHYDRATION / PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/11/16	Perez Perez, Jose M.	male	34	Sasabe	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/12/16	Estrada Banegas, Josue Misael	male	26	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/13/16	AQUINO BARRIENTOS, SERGIO ALEXANDER	male	30	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/15/16	NORIZ MEZA, SERGIO	male	36	Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
7/16/16	CONTRERAS RAMOS, RAMON	male	36	Undetermined	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA DUE TO EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS

7/19/16	ZUNIGA ELVIR, MANUEL ENRIQUE	male	40	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/19/16	(Unidentified)	male		Patagonia	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED REMAINS
7/20/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cowlick	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
7/21/16	BARRIENTOS ARCHAGA, KELVIN OMAR	male	29	Cabeza Prieta	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/21/16	ERRAEZ MALLAGUARI, BLANCA IRLANDA	female	36	San Miguel	HYPERTHERMIA
7/23/16	MAZARIEGOS BRAVO, ELIAS ROLANDO	male	39	San Miguel	HYPERTHERMIA
7/25/16	ITZEP IXCOY, SANTOS JUBENILO	male	39	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
7/26/16	OLIVER DURAN, RUFINO	male	25	Douglas	MULTIPLE BLUNT FORCE INJURIES
7/26/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
7/31/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cowlick	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
7/31/16	(Unidentified)	male		Ajo	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
8/1/16	BAXCAJAY-FLORES, IRENE	female	34	Cowlick	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
8/1/16	Lopez Medina, Fausto	male	25	Cabeza Prieta	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
8/4/16	(Unidentified)	male	37	Nogales	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
8/6/16	PETRIZ CRUZ, ANTONIO	male	26	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
8/6/16	(Unidentified)	male		Nogales	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
8/6/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
8/7/16	MATEO, AGUSTIN AGUILAR	male	35	San Miguel	HYPERTHERMIA
8/8/16	NUCAMENDI FARRERA, ROGER	male	35	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED DUE TO SKELETAL REMAINS
8/8/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED DUE TO SKELETAL REMAINS

8/9/16	SANCHEZ OTZOY, FRANCISCO	male	55	San Miguel	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
8/21/16	Herrera Lopez, Rudy A.	male	24	Sasabe	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED AND SKELETAL REMAINS
8/23/16	(Unidentified)	male	23	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
8/24/16	(Unidentified)	male	55	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED DUE TO SKELETAL REMAINS
8/26/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
8/27/16	SURIANO CRISANTO, EMILIANO	male	37	Nogales	HYPERTHERMIA
8/30/16	LOPEZ GARCIA, MAYNOR	male	24	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
9/2/16	AYALA AGUIRRE, LUIS GABRIEL	male	38	Ajo	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED AND SKELETAL REMAINS
9/2/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
9/7/16	(Unidentified)	male	99	Sasabe	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/7/16	(Unidentified)	male	40	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/6/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/11/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
9/12/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/12/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/13/16	Monroy Aguilar, Vicente	male	48	Nogales	PROBABLE HYPERTHERMIA
9/13/16	De La Cruz Hernandez, Antonio	male	48	Ajo	UNDETERMINED (MUMMIFIED AND SKELETAL REMAINS)
9/14/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
9/17/16	(Unidentified)	male		Bernadino	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED AND SKELETAL REMAINS

9/19/16	(Unidentified)	male	45	Ajo	UNDETERMINED (MUMMIFIED, SKELETONIZED REMAINS)
9/20/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/20/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/20/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/22/16	Gomez Hernandez, Alfonso	male	22	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED DUE TO POSTMORTEM DECOMPOSITION
9/21/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
9/23/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/27/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
9/30/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
10/6/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
10/12/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
10/14/16	(Unidentified)	female	55	Sasabe	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
10/14/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
10/14/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
10/14/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
10/10/16	(Unidentified)	male		Goldwater	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
10/10/16	(Unidentified)	male		Goldwater	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
10/19/16	Herrera Renoj, Maria	female	23	San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
10/24/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)

10/25/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
10/22/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED -- SKELETAL REMAINS
10/27/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sierra Vista	UNDETERMINED - MUMMIFIED REMAINS
11/4/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
11/9/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
11/16/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
11/16/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
11/17/16	(Unidentified)	male		Ajo	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
11/23/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
11/23/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
11/27/16	Rodriguez Cimarron, Rafael	male	49	San Miguel	HYPOTHERMIA
11/29/16	(Unidentified)	female		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
12/7/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
12/8/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/14/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/14/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/16/16	(Unidentified)	male		Ajo	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/16/16	(Unidentified)	male		San Miguel	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/19/16	Cifuentes Diaz, Eleazar S.	male	40	Patagonia	UNDETERMINED - DECOMPOSED REMAINS
12/19/16	(Unidentified)	male		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)

12/20/16	(Unidentified)	male		Yuma	UNDETERMINED (SKELETAL REMAINS)
12/20/16	(Unidentified)	female		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/20/16	(Unidentified)	male		Ajo	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/21/16	(Unidentified)	undetermined		Cabeza Prieta	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL REMAINS
12/22/16	(Unidentified)	male		Sasabe	UNDETERMINED - SKELETAL AND MUMMIFIED REMAINS
12/25/16	Chavez Agueda, Osman	male	26	Patagonia	HYPOTHERMIA
1/17/16	Unidentified Remains	undetermined		Ajo	Undetermined
4/18/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Ajo	Undetermined
4/23/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Ajo	Undetermined
6/16/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Ajo	Undetermined
6/20/16	Javier Hernandez Estrada	male		Cabeza Prieta	Pending
6/25/16	Santos Alonso Esquivel	male		Undetermined	Homicide Accident, Complications of Environmental Heat Exposure
6/27/16	Juan Gomez Garcia	male		Cowlick	Undetermined
7/21/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Cabeza Prieta	Pending
7/30/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Ajo	Undetermined
7/30/16	Unidentified Remains	undetermined		Ajo	Undetermined Accident, Complications of Environmental Heat Exposure
8/9/16	Saul Rodriguez Armando Gaxiola	male		Undetermined	Undetermined
9/16/16	Garcia	male		Ajo	Pending
9/30/16	Unidentified Remains	female		Undetermined	Undetermined
10/17/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Cowlick	Pending
11/8/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Undetermined	Pending
11/8/16	Unidentified Remains	male		Cowlick	Pending



Photo by David Bacon

JAMES JORDAN

THE WAR IN ARIZONA

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Southern Arizona has become a war zone. The shooting of Representative Gabrielle Giffords and 19 others at a Tucson shopping center in January spotlighted this to the nation. Sad to say, for those of us living in Tucson, it was a shock, but not unexpected. My friend Al Perry, a long-time Tucson musician, summed up what many of us are feeling: "I am so terrified and disgusted right now. First the initial tragedy. Then it's knowing her personally, like almost everyone in this town. And now it's the hate talk that hasn't abated, but been ratcheted up a few notches. All this talk about 'free speech' and the 'Second Amendment' from those who understand neither. I am sickened by what's going on."

The massacre that killed six persons, including a nine-year-old girl, did not take place in a vacuum, but rather within a context of political polarization and violence fueled by vitriolic rhetoric centered around, but not limited to, invectives against undocumented workers.

A "security state" mentality has led state government to prioritize the struggle against alleged threats from the undocumented over funding for basic social services and programs designed to meet human needs. Laws such as SB1070 criminalized undocumented workers, resulting in huge caseloads in courts and jail time for a new and growing population of immigrant prisoners. This, in turn, means handsome returns for private for-profit prisons. No wonder SB1070 was authored by persons closely connected to Arizona's private prison complex and that public health services, which could have diverted Loughner from his destructive path, were not available.

Giffords is not a left-leaning Democrat. She voted for Iraq war funding, opposed an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops, and called for more border militarization. However, she opposed Arizona's anti-immigrant SB1070, supported immigration and health-care reform, and was a proponent of abortion rights. This earned the ire of some, evidenced by the now infamous map on Sarah Palin's website with a gun-sight over Gifford's district.

“According to Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik, ‘We have become the Mecca of prejudice and bigotry. The anger, the hatred, the bigotry that goes on in this country is getting to be outrageous. Unfortunately, Arizona, I think, has become sort of the capital.’”

It is a mistake to try and divorce the actions of the accused shooter, Jared Loughner, from this climate. Most of the publicly available emails, YouTube posts, and notes that Loughner left behind are barely comprehensible. Still, according to a leaked Homeland Security memo, he had affinities with such groups as the anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic American Renaissance Group. Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center writes that, "At this early stage, I think Loughner is probably best described as a mentally ill or unstable person who was influenced by the rhetoric and demonizing propaganda around him.... Ideology may not explain why he allegedly killed, but it could help explain how he selected his target."

Loughner's state of mind was not unknown. He had five run-ins with law enforcement, was banned from the Pima County Community

College until he had clearance from mental health professionals, and one of his classmates had written fearfully about Loughner's potential for violence. But Arizona is near or at the bottom in every area of mental health services, services that are often not available for those most in need of them. Certainly those legislators who have all but dismantled the state's mental health system bear some responsibility for the events of January 8.

POLITICAL DIMENSIONS

If one truly wants to make some sense of what seems so senseless, one needs to know something of the history of violence that has preceded it. Since 2000, more than 2,100 persons have died crossing the Arizona/Mexican border. Along the entire U.S./Mexico border, according to the Mexican Foreign Ministry, 6,607 undocumented workers have perished since 1994—the year the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect. Last year, 256 persons died crossing the Arizona borderlands, up 53 over the previous year. This was the highest number in five years and the second highest since 2000. The dead are victims of free trade and neoliberal economic policies that have destroyed rural communities, causing a virtual forced march to the U.S. and maquiladora sweatshops in a hunt for jobs. They are victims of border militarization that funnels undocumented workers into the harshest areas of the desert where death is a constant risk due to exposure and lack of water. And there are other victims as well.

On January 3, a 14-year-old boy, Ramses Barrón Torres, was killed in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico by a shot fired by a Border Patrol agent in Nogales, Arizona. Forensic evidence indicates he was shot while his back was turned. The bullet entered through the back of his arm and into his chest.

On December 15, 2010, Border Patrol agent Brian Terry became another victim of this "war," killed in a firefight with gangs that prey on border crossers.

On March 27, 2010, Robert Krentz was killed on his ranch near the border. Krentz, known as a man who would give aid to anyone in need, had said about undocumented workers, "You know, if they come in and ask for water, I'll still give them water. That's just my nature."

The main author of Arizona's anti-immigrant SB1070 law, state Senator Russell Pearce, seized on the occasion of Krentz's murder to declare that it was committed by "illegal alien drug smugglers." Pearce is known for his friendship with neo-Nazi leader J.T. Ready and has even circulated emails from the Neo-Nazi National Alliance. These associations apparently haven't hurt his political career as he was recently elected president of the Arizona Senate.

Pearce's refrain about the murder of Krentz was echoed repeatedly by major media outlets. However, two months later, the Arizona Daily Star published a report that the main suspect in the murder was someone from the United States. Now even that statement has been retracted and authorities are saying they simply do not know where the assailant came from.

Nevertheless, anger over Krentz's murder fueled quick passage of SB1070 and prompted President Obama to send 1,200 troops to the U.S.-Mexico Border—although Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) had asked for 6,000.

On April 15, the day the state legislature passed SB1070, Immigration and Customs Enforcement undertook the largest raid in its history in majority Chicano and Mexicano South Tucson, with 800 agents from every level of enforcement, federal to local. The city was assaulted with a military-style raid, with streets shut down by heavily armed officers and support helicopters flying overhead. People were stopped and pulled out of vans simply because they fit the profile of possibly

undocumented immigrants. Passenger vans were confiscated as "evidence" from small businesses which were in full compliance with the law, operating transportation services between Nogales and Tucson.

The timing of that raid seemed almost a federal endorsement of the intent of SB1070, which would require that non-federal immigration law enforcement agencies enforce federal immigration laws. Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act already paves the way for this to happen. SB1070 is just a more extreme version.

A little less than a year before the Krentz murder, on May 30, 2009, Shawna Forde and her companions, Jason Bush and Albert Gaxiola, posed as law enforcement officers, entered the house of Raul Flores to rob him in order to fund the Minutemen organization led by Forde. They then murdered both Flores and his nine-year-old daughter, Brisenia, whose mother was also wounded. That incident, however, led to no outcry for related legislation, no demands for increased protection against paramilitaries, and no subsequent actions from federal, state, and local police agents.

MECCA OF PREJUDICE

According to Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik, "We have become the Mecca of prejudice and bigotry. The anger, the hatred, the bigotry that goes on in this country is getting to be outrageous. Unfortunately, Arizona, I think, has become sort of the capital."

But Arizona has not always been like this, especially not in Tucson. Incidents of violence and anti-immigrant bias rose considerably following the passage of NAFTA. According to the Economic Policy Institute, in the United States, "Between 1993 and 2002, NAFTA resulted in an increase in exports that created 794,194 jobs, but it displaced production that would have supported 1,673,454 jobs. Thus,

the combined effect of changes in imports and exports as a result of NAFTA was a loss of 879,280 U.S. jobs."

Between 1990 and 2004, the number of undocumented Mexicans living in the U.S. tripled. With the passage of NAFTA, by 2002, 1.3 million farming jobs had been lost in Mexico and immigration of all kinds to the U.S. from Mexico rose 60 percent. NAFTA led to a 240 percent increase in exports of corn from the U.S. to Mexico, while the prices paid to Mexican farmers for corn fell by more than 70 percent.

But rather than address the core reason for the loss of jobs on both sides of the border, the rhetoric of hate and the politics of polarization have been used to advance the idea that undocumented workers from Mexico are to blame for economic hard times in the U.S. And this has added fuel to the fire of increased political violence and literal casualties of war along our borders.

However, in U.S. border areas, despite the rhetoric, crime rates are actually down, including for violent crimes. (Of course, the thousands of migrants dying in the desert are not counted as crime victims.) It has also been shown that, throughout the nation, where there are high concentrations of immigrant communities, crime rates are also lower than average. Yet lies and misinformation abound and are given as reasons for more militarization and criminalization. Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, for instance, has made unsubstantiated claims that headless bodies left by "illegals" and drug traffickers have been found on the Arizona side of the border. But when challenged to give documentation, she can produce none.

PROTESTING ANTI-IMMIGRANT ACTIONS

The night before the massacre, I was at the birthday of a local immigrant rights activist and head of the local Veterans for Peace. In the early morning hours, there were a small number of us, people from the Coalición de Derechos Humanos, a woman who works with

Latina victims of domestic violence, people from the Catholic Worker House and soup kitchen, a teacher in one of the few surviving bilingual public schools, staff and volunteers from the organization I work for, the Alliance for Global Justice—some of us musicians, some artists. It was an animated bunch. We talked about how great it was that we were able to beat back well-funded campaigns against Grijalva and Giffords.

We talked about the struggle to defend against attacks on ethnic education—a program that produces a far higher rate of high school graduates than the rate for students who don't take these classes. We talked about an upcoming demonstration against the wars, and how we have to educate the rest of the country about how there is a war going on here, too. We had a wonderful time and went home and went to sleep.

On Saturday morning, we woke up to the news of the attack on Giffords and others attending her "Congress on Your Corner" event. Around the same time, we heard about an incident of vandalism at the César Chávez Building on the University of Arizona campus—supposedly unrelated events.

We were saddened, but not surprised. Some of us, like Derechos Humanos founder Isabel Garcia, had received numerous death threats in the past. In fact, one group of anti-immigrant activists printed T-shirts with Isabel's picture in a gun-sight. Recently, a death threat was sent to the Derechos Humanos office that threatened its members and claimed to have paid \$500,000 for Isabel's murder. Law enforcement, including the FBI, were notified several times, but there has been no follow-up investigation. We've seen anti-immigrant paramilitary members come to our rallies carrying guns. During the electoral campaigns, the offices of both Grijalva and Giffords were vandalized and one man was arrested with a gun at a Giffords campaign rally.

Many of us who were gathered at the party on Friday, January 7 were also at a press conference at the Arizona state building on January 10

to announce our opposition to a new attempt by states to take away the Fourteenth Amendment right of citizenship for babies born in the U.S. to undocumented workers. (Yes, now even babies are in the crosshairs of anti-immigrant sentiment.) However, despite the particular subject of the event, none of us could help but speak about Saturday's shootings. Isabel talked of her own friendship with Giffords and said, "We've never preached hate. Our message has always been a message of love."

We can end this war in Arizona and elsewhere. Let's start by getting rid of NAFTA, by tearing down the border wall, by demilitarizing our border lands and decriminalizing workers, and by offering real immigration reform. Let's start by stopping this racist, violence-breeding hate.

LINKS

RESOURCES

New Release by David Bacon: Displaced, Unequal and Criminalized-Fighting for the Rights of Migrants in the United States: <http://www.rosalux-nyc.org/displaced-unequal-and-criminalized/>

Cruising on Military Drive: 'Good' Latinos and 'Bad' Latinos in the Age of Homeland Security and Global War by Robert Lovato: http://www.publiceye.org/magazine/v20n3/levato_latinos.html

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America's Immigration Organization Resource List: <http://www.crln.org/Immigration-Organization-Resources>

The Undocumented, 2013 film & resources: <http://theundocumented.com/>