

## **No More Deaths Reaffirms Our Commitment to Saving Lives**

**July 11, 2005, Tucson, Arizona. We have gathered here today to publicly reaffirm our commitment to saving lives and to condemn the shameful conduct of the United States.**

**We are absolutely outraged at the arrests of Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss.**

**Let me tell you the story. On Saturday morning, July 9<sup>th</sup>, two No More Deaths volunteers came on a group of nine migrants in varying degrees of distress. They had been walking for several days, lost in the desert. The volunteers provided food and water to these persons and they washed their feet and cared for their blisters. The volunteers treated these friends as you and I would wish to be treated if we fell into such straits; they showed human compassion to those our government degrades as less than human. Three of these persons reported vomiting, diarrhea and one reported blood in his stool, all conditions which are symptomatic of extreme and life-threatening dehydration. After consultation with No More Deaths volunteer medical personnel and legal counsel, the decision was made to medically evacuate these persons to be treated by a doctor in Tucson.**

**Ms. Sellz and Mr. Strauss volunteered to take these persons to be treated by a No More Deaths volunteer doctor and they were arrested in route. Upon learning of the arrests of Ms. Sellz, Mr. Strauss and the three travelers, a No More Deaths volunteer doctor and nurse went to the Border Patrol Station where they were being held and asked to examine them. The Border Patrol turned our medical volunteers away and later Border Patrol spokesperson Gustavo Soto said the travelers “were OK” and did not require treatment. We know they were far from “OK”.**

**We demand that the United States immediately drop all charges against Ms. Sellz and Mr. Strauss and release the migrants being held in custody. In the face of the outrageous and unnecessary number of migrant deaths in our community, deaths which are a direct result of current United States border policy, our government should congratulate Ms. Sellz and Mr. Strauss rather than prosecute them. We, all of us, will not be intimidated by the shameful conduct of the United States and we proudly reaffirm our commitment to provide life-saving assistance to our migrant brothers and sisters and we call on all persons of conscience and faith to join us. We have a right to provide humanitarian assistance. It is our moral obligation. No mas muertes.**