



anarchist news and analysis from arizona



spring 2019



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## INTRODUCING...

The first of what will hopefully be a recurring publication—a compilation of current events and analysis from Arizona coming from an explicitly anarchist perspective.

The aspiration of this periodical is to be a place to spread news of our victories, share lessons from our defeats, strategically reflect on our movements, and inspire **action**.

Of course, this can only be accomplished with participation by you, the reader. If you have news, images, reportbacks from actions or demonstrations, communiques, event information, analyses of local trends or happenings, updates on projects or campaigns, or anything else from an anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist perspective, please get in touch.

In particular, this issue completely lacks writing from Flagstaff and northern Arizona, but we know y'all are up to some trouble. Drop us a line!

## BEFORE WE BEGIN

- This publication features news and analysis exclusively from so-called Arizona, which is stolen, occupied native land. More specifically, this publication, presently based in Tucson, is printed on stolen, occupied Tohono O'odham land.
- All content has been anonymously submitted or shamelessly stolen from previously published online sources. We don't know anything about the identities of the authors and we like it that way.

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# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

*The following timeline is an excerpt from a longer zine, **Radical AZ: A Timeline of Direct Actions 2010-2018**, that seeks to act “as a documentation of what has been shown to be possible here, and as an indication as to what might be possible yet.” The full piece is available at [plananoblogs.org](http://plananoblogs.org).*

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**January 17 2018:** No More Deaths releases part 2 of their “Disappeared” report series, documenting Border Patrol’s systematic destruction of life-saving water and other supplies left by No More Deaths and other groups in the desert along the borderlands. Hours after the report’s release, Border Patrol raids a rural southern Arizona aid location, arresting two migrants and Scott Warren, a No More Deaths volunteer. Warren now faces felony charges for “harboring illegal aliens.” The full report is available at [thedisappearedreport.org](http://thedisappearedreport.org).

**April 23 2018:** After a not guilty verdict for Lonnie Swartz, the Border Patrol agent who shot 16-year old-José Antonio through the border fence in 2012, a crowd of 200 people shuts down busy downtown intersections in Tucson, eventually marching to the I-10 highway on/off ramps on Broadway and blocking all traffic for several hours. The crowd stands its ground when confronted with riot police and no arrests are made.



*Marchers en route to Pima County Jail on August 25th. Upon arrival, they blockade the facilities employee parking lots, disrupting normal operations for several hours.*





*Protesters applying wheatpaste to the intersection outside the Federal Courthouse in downtown Tucson the night of November 21st.*

**August 18 2018:** Patriot Movement AZ, a far-right group using proto-nazi imagery, has their second event in Tucson in just two weeks disrupted by a crowd of anti-fascists that vastly outnumbers them. The PMAZ event was supposed to be a march, but instead they are kept in a small park pavilion and Tucson Police surround them to protect them from the large crowd of counter-protesters. After a small scuffle in the parking lot, people in black bloc assisted by unmasked companions pull back a few anti-fascists from their would-be arresting officers. No arrests are successfully carried out. More information on Patriot Movement AZ is presented in a feature on page 15.

**August 25 2018:** A march of over 100 people calling for the removal of ICE from the Pima County Jail takes over busy thoroughfares in West Tucson before blockading the jail employee parking lots. The blockade is timed to coincide with the corrections officer shift change, so jail employees who are getting off work are trapped inside, and arriving employees have to be redirected multiple times before being

forced to park in a nearby neighborhood. The blockade is maintained for two hours and no arrests are made.

**November 21 2018:** Lonnie Swartz is declared not guilty on lesser charges related to his 2012 killing of José Antonio. In response over 100 people spill into the busy Tucson intersection of Granada and Congress and block traffic in all directions. Later, demonstrators use bottles of wheatpaste and paintrollers that had previously been disguised as protest signs to glue a message firmly to the road: José Antonio Presente!

# Repression of No More Deaths Volunteers

*The following texts focus on the #Cabeza9 defendants—nine No More Deaths volunteers who were recently prosecuted for their humanitarian aid work in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. The first trial group of four of the volunteers were found guilty and convicted on misdemeanor charges while the second trial group of four volunteers had criminal charges dropped in return for an agreement to pay civil infraction fines. The final defendant, Scott Warren, is also facing more serious felony charges for providing humanitarian aid to migrants in Ajo, Arizona. His trial is set to begin in May 2019. Visit [nomoredeaths.org](http://nomoredeaths.org) for up-to-date information about the case.*

## Weaponized Wilderness and State Repression

Last week, on January 18th, 2019, four volunteers with the humanitarian aid organization I work for, No More Deaths, were found guilty for driving onto a wilderness area to leave water for people dying of thirst who crossed the US-Mexico border into the vast Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge. In a little over month, I will also go on trial for operating a motor vehicle in the same wilderness area, where I was helping to search for three people who were reported lost, without water or food, in the middle of the desert. I was responding to a call from a family member who contacted our Search and Rescue hotline, after being turned away from law enforcement. Though I was never able to reach those men, I have since learned that two were detained and one was never found.

Before moving to Arizona to work with No More Deaths, I lived in Montana. I moved out west to do conservation work for AmeriCorps, and fell in love with the mountains there. With its relatively low human population compared to the vast expanses of protected nature, Montana is the perfect place to be if you want to be alone with just you and the snow-peaked mountains, big sky, pristine lakes, and fields of wildflowers. I deeply value solitude in nature—the

feeling when you escape the trappings of social life and get to just exist. In theory, you could find a similar feeling in the Cabeza Prieta wilderness—vast desert wilderness, just you and the towering Saguaro cacti, flat expanses interrupted by jagged mountains, vivid sunsets and little evidence of civilization. But sitting through the trials last week, I kept hearing the values of wilderness invoked by government prosecutors—the importance of protecting the “pristine, untrammeled” land in Cabeza Prieta—and it made me want to laugh and cry at the same time, it was so divorced from reality. In reality, Cabeza Prieta is a place that has been deeply impacted by government-directed human activity, and now, by a catastrophic loss of human life.

Of course, this notion of untrammeled wilderness is problematic to begin with, given the history of native land dispossession and the fact that many wilderness areas romanticized as “uninhabited” were in fact occupied long before a US government existed to create such regulations. As William Cronon writes, this history “reminds us how invented, just how constructed, the American wilderness really is.” It is important to keep this history in mind while contemplating the current injustices being carried out under the banner of “protecting” the wilderness regions along the border, environmentalism serving as a mere cover for colonial violence.

Cabeza Prieta is made up of nearly 803,000 acres of

protected wilderness. It is possibly the most extreme environment in North America—extraordinarily remote, with temperatures reaching up to 120 degrees in the summer and no safe water sources. As an experienced hiker, I find it grueling to trek even a mile or two in this region; I can chug Gatorade all day and still have a raging headache from the heat. It's nearly impossible to stay fully hydrated even as a well-supplied visitor.

While in many senses vast and rugged, the fragmentation of the refuge is extensive. Cabeza Prieta is a former military bombing range and adjacent to the Barry M Goldwater Air Force Range. To get an access permit, you are warned that entering the refuge “presents the danger of permanent, painful, disabling, and disfiguring injury or death due to high explosive detonations from falling objects such as aircraft, aerial targets, live ammunition, missiles, bombs, and other similar dangerous situations.” This vast munitions graveyard is the “untrammeled wilderness” land managers are meant to be protecting. Heavy impact from government activities on Cabeza are not only a thing of the past: at present, Border Patrol agents drive all over this pristine valley, riding on ATVs and driving their trucks off-road, flying helicopters to police the border. This ongoing presence of military-style border enforcement operations is so heavy that Cabeza Prieta itself has published reports about the nearly 8,000 miles of new roads created on the refuge by Border Patrol vehicles.

In truth, human presence on the refuge is rampant: for this reason, officials routinely grant special use permits for people to use the vast system of roadways that transect it. Student archaeology groups, hunters, tourists all may receive such permits. However, Cabeza Prieta Wildlife refuge officials now refuse to grant

permits for civilian humanitarian relief groups.

Why do humanitarian organizations need access to Cabeza Prieta wilderness areas? Because 32 human remains were recovered there in 2017 alone. Because the first week volunteers explored the refuge, four bodies were recovered in the first 5 days. And in this massive and barely penetrable land area where explorations on foot barely scratch the surface, these recovered remains surely reflect only a fraction of the people who have actually lost their lives there. Since the mid-nineties, US border enforcement strategy has been to intentionally funnel migrants into this extremely harsh and dangerous terrain, hoping to use the risk of death as a “deterrent” to unauthorized migration. This strategy has caused a massive crisis of death and disappearance. People walk through Cabeza Prieta's vast and arid Growler Valley, which continues into the active bombing range, to avoid a checkpoint nearly 70 miles north of the border. Many will never make it out. Many of their bodies will never be found. When humanitarian aid workers try to recover the dead and try to prevent their deaths by providing water to all who need it, land managers selectively weaponize the mandate of “wilderness conservation” to keep us out.

Border Patrol agents, federal prosecutors, and Fish & Wildlife employees assert that if someone crossing the border needs help, they should activate one of ten Border Patrol “rescue beacons” placed in the more than 860,000 acre expanse (a little math—that's approximately one beacon for every 130 square miles). These beacons are few and far between, and there is no water at them. When humanitarian volunteers have placed water at them, it is frequently destroyed or removed by the very government officials who are tasked with rescue. In court, federal prosecutors

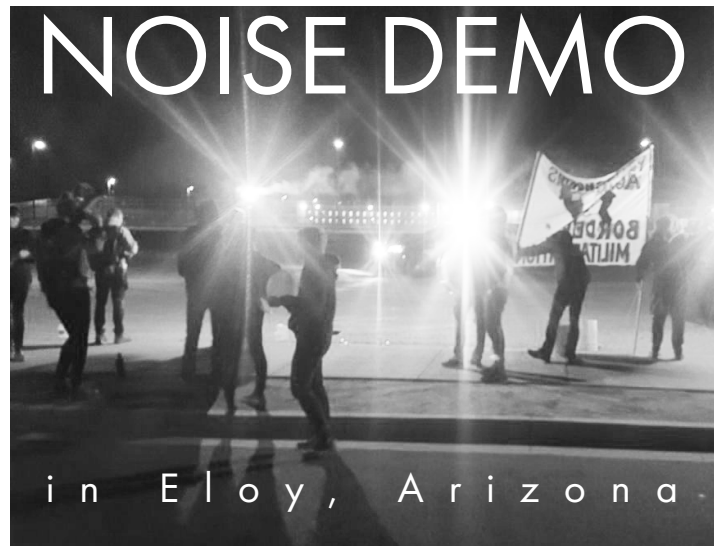
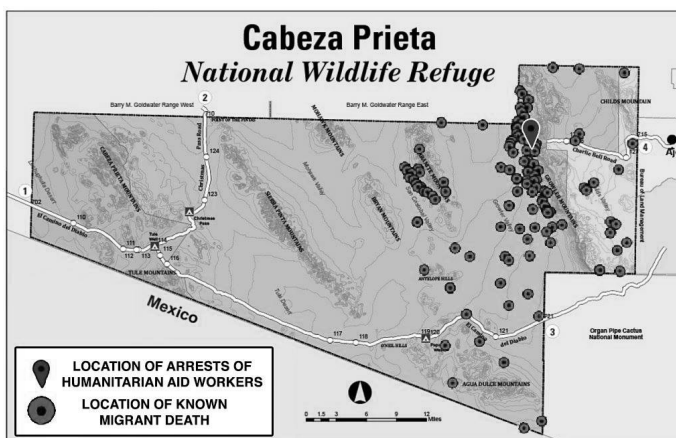
**Why do humanitarian organizations need access to Cabeza Prieta wilderness areas? Because 32 human remains were recovered there in 2017 alone. Because the first week volunteers explored the refuge, four bodies were recovered in the first 5 days.**



constantly suggested that any lost, sick, or injured undocumented person should just “turn themselves in” if they need help, and that the provision of water only “encouraged” unauthorized border crossing. These callous statements imply that the hundreds of people who have died in this particular valley simply chose not to press a button. The reality is that when people are facing a life-threatening emergency in the middle of the desert, they are often far from any road or beacon, without cell phone service, and unable to walk far enough to save their own lives. In my case, we were responding to reports of people in distress—we were contacted after Border Patrol and local sheriffs had declined to respond.

In the trials last week, Juliette Fernandez, a Fish and Wildlife refuge manager and wilderness coordinator for Arizona, testified on the importance of wilderness areas being a place where you can experience the landscape with little chance of encountering another person. What meaning does this hold in a place where you are more likely than not to find the body of someone who has died while out on your hike? Fernandez also testified that it was “not within her job description” to track how many people die and go missing in the wildlife refuge she oversees—nor to do anything about it.

Some day, I hope to walk out into the wilderness in southern Arizona, without the fear that I will encounter someone’s body in the next wash or under the next Palo Verde tree. I hope to walk out without helicopters circling overhead, surveillance cameras hidden in the rocks, armed agents patrolling. I hope to walk out and feel at peace in the beauty of the Sonoran desert. But I know this will only happen when we no longer have a militarized border designed to funnel people into this perilous terrain.



In the early evening of January 19th, a crowd of about 40 people gathered outside of the immigrant detention center in Eloy, AZ and made a fuck ton of noise. The demo was called in response to the recent convictions of 4 humanitarian aid volunteers for leaving water and supplies for migrants on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is one of the harshest environments in North America, and has been the site of countless recovered and unrecovered human remains. There are currently 5 others awaiting trial, including Scott Warren who is facing felony harboring and conspiracy charges for giving aid to some travelers outside of Ajo, AZ.

So in an attempt to affirm a commitment of solidarity with migrants crossing the deadly Sonoran desert, and quite honestly to have a little cathartic fun, we all got to it pretty quickly. It really helps to exercise that nervous system after so much stress. 5 gallon buckets, pots and pans, air horns, drums, megaphones, and voices began to raise a symphony across the desert field between us and the detention center. Banners were unfurled proclaiming “water not walls” and “Pronghorns against border militarization.” Someone also brought sage to burn and allow people to put good intentions into the air, and once night fell, red road flares were lit and a portable sound system blasted revolutionary hip-hop into the night sky.

The area around the detention center is pretty desolate, what many outside the southwestern US might imagine a desert to look like. This stands in stark contrast to the reality of the Sonoran desert where the center resides. The truth is that its an incredibly diverse and delicate bioregion, if admittedly harsh.



# ***“Let us not forget the illegality of the United States of America on indigenous territory”***

There are species of plant and animal life here that exist in no other region of the world, which are constantly under threat from capitalist development. Everything from copper mines, to bombing ranges, to prisons and detention centers, and of course a huge (already existing) border fence and wall that cuts like a scar directly through the traditional territory of the O’odham Nation and the habitat of the Sonoran Pronghorn.

For those who don’t know, the Sonoran Pronghorns are a unique subspecies of pronghorn found only in the Sonoran desert in Arizona, California, and Sonora, Mexico, whose numbers have been pushed to the brink of extinction by human civilization. This is the partial justification for the prosecution of humanitarian aid workers, claiming they are ruining the “pristine and delicate” desert by leaving supplies for migrants who are crossing. A drop in the proverbial bucket while the US military gets to bomb the shit out of areas surrounding the “delicate” area. Trump wants to build an even bigger wall which will further disrupt migration patterns of not just people but non-human animals and Border Patrol gets to drive around anywhere they damn well please in pursuit of “illegal border crossers.” The epitome of a concept of “wilderness” that functions as a colonial, management project to “preserve” areas once interconnected and full of life.

So here we stood, in loud defiance of this entire way of life. Like many other creatures, humans have migrated for our entire existence on this planet. Free movement for people has only become a radical idea in an age so hell bent on separation, control and management of humans and nature. For now, walls will keep things the way they are. But nothing is permanent. Either by flood, drought, fire, or by our hands, these walls will fall.

Statement by Convicted

## **#Cabeza9** **D e f e n d a n t s**

Firstly, we want to acknowledge that we are standing on occupied land of the Tohono O’odham people. Let us not forget the illegality of the United States of America on indigenous territory and the way the US has ravaged Central America, forcing diaspora. Furthermore, this government has considered slavery and genocide as legal for hundreds of years.

We may have been found guilty but the real crime is the government’s deliberate policy to use “death as a deterrent” at the US/Mexico border. The criminalization of those acting in solidarity is a classic example of the ramping up of an authoritarian regime.

The humanitarian work that has ultimately brought us here today will continue to address the border crisis until there are no more deaths.

We refuse to stand by and watch silently as the United States becomes more and more deeply authoritarian. This is something that affects and should concern us all.

The four of us want to thank everyone in our families and communities here and across the world for their unbelievably wonderful support and solidarity. We also want to thank our team of lawyers and those of you here today who are prioritizing telling this story.

# KILLER COPS IN PHX



*Maricopa County is home to the most violent police departments in the country. In 2018, Phoenix area law enforcement agencies broke national records by shooting 82 people over the course of the year. Three people were shot and killed by police in the span of two hours on one particularly deadly day in March. Seemingly intent to outdo themselves, cops in Maricopa County shot four teenagers in the first fifteen days of 2019, culminating on the 15th of January with the murder of 14-year-old Antonio Arce by Tempe Police. While the following texts focus on protests responding to Arce's murder, we are left wondering about the particular difficulties of organizing in such a severe environment. Our era has been defined by inspiring community responses to police violence. From Oakland to Ferguson to Baltimore, uprisings have been sparked by instances of police murder. But how do we develop strong responses to violence at the hands of the cops when there's often another shooting before the previous victim can even be identified? Let's begin some critical conversations about how to build movement momentum in states of perpetual tragedy—these same skills might serve us well with the other crises of our time.*

## TEMPE, AZ: 14-YEAR-OLD ANTONIO ARCE ONLY LATEST VICTIM OF ARIZONA POLICE

On January 15th, 2019, Antonio Arce, a 14-year-old boy, was gunned down in Phoenix by Officer Joseph Jaen of Tempe Police Department. Antonio is the fourth teenager to have been gunned down by the pigs in Maricopa County in 2019 alone, not to mention the fact that Arizona police (and Phoenix PD in particular) were the most violent cops in the U.S. throughout the entirety of 2018.

In response to the shooting of Antonio Arce, a rally was held outside of the Tempe PD headquarters, where roughly 100 people from across the Phoenix/Tempe area gathered. The rally was called for and lead by the local authoritarian racket of the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), and was attended by Antonio's family, several local activist outfits such as the Arizona BLM

chapter and Poder in Action, as well as unaffiliated residents and a sampling of the local anarchist affinity groups.

The rally began around 7pm and kicked off with a prayer dance, candles, some emotional words from Antonio's family members, as well as chants of "justicia" and "no justice, no peace." This continued for some time before the energy began to pick up. Speeches were made by some of the local activist groups and the mother of Dalvin Hollins (a black teenager who was gunned down by Tempe PD in 2016) gave the crowd some incredibly impassioned words.

During this entire time, the snakes at the news media shoved cameras in peoples' faces and the pigs watched us from above in a parking garage across the street. It's around this point that the opportunistic

hack, Reverend Jarrett Maupin, attempted to hijack the rally and exploit it for his own gain. It's here that he, against the family's wishes, brought the rally out into the street and attempted to march it straight into a police barricade down the road in an effort to get protesters arrested, a tactic that he uses so that he can gain media attention.

However, those familiar with Maupin's opportunistic bullshit regained control over the rally shortly after the marching began. Faced with the options of either honoring the family's wishes and not provoking the police, or going nuts and likely getting arrested on Maupin's behalf, the general consensus was that it was better to simply honor the wishes of Antonio's family. Shortly after this, the rally collectively dispersed after the local activist groups gave us the usual self-promotional garbage and reminded us to get involved in local government.

It's here that we ask ourselves where we, as anarchists, fit into all of this. Another person was murdered at the hands of the pigs, this time, a child of only 14. Unfortunately, Antonio wasn't the first, nor will he be the last. The situation is desperate and it seems to only be getting worse, and yet, the faces of "resistance" against this bullshit are currently neoliberal reformist groups made up of paid activists, and authoritarians who wish only to see the police state painted red.

Furthermore, the discussions surrounding the situation is drowned in rhetoric about "justice." We should recognize that asking for "justice" is simply not enough. Firstly, the idea of "justice" implies a static morality that simply doesn't exist. "Justice" means a hundred different things to a hundred different people and, more often than not, relies on the carceral logic of the very system we're seeking to destroy. This is the same "justice" that disproportionately throws black and brown people behind bars and the same "justice" that gets people gunned down in the streets by the pigs.

The state already believes that it is the arbiter of "justice" and to demand "justice" from the state reinforces that notion. We will not be able to achieve any sort of liberation from the current order as long as we appeal to the state's own values. No longer should we make demands on the terms of the state. We must fight on our own terms, not for "justice," but for the

total destruction of the state, capitalism, and the world that they've created. We must fight for our freedom, for our autonomy, and for total liberation from everything that this world has forced upon us.

## STATEMENT BY TEMPE AGAINST POLICE VIOLENCE

*The following statement was written by Tempe Against Police Violence after four protesters were arrested during an attempt to storm a Tempe City Council meeting in one of a series of actions that have happened since Antonio Arce's murder. Follow Tempe Against Police Violence on facebook for up-to-date information on future demonstrations and legal support for the arrestees.*

We condemn the Tempe Police for their repression of tonight's march for Antonio Arce. It is no surprise that the police would act opportunistically with targeted arrests and violence after a third large demonstration in response to the murder of 14 year old Antonio Arce. The police would like us to bow our heads in fear, but we must remember that our greatest weapon is solidarity against the state and all of its repressive mechanisms.

It is unfortunate that the Tempe City Council meeting was not shut down, although it was disrupted from protests inside and out. The Tempe City Council are cowards, the worst among them are the progressives who have no spine when it comes to speaking out against police violence and state sanctioned murder of a child. Even more unsettling was that they passed an anti-texting and driving law that will assuredly impact the poor as a regressive tax through fines, and allow Tempe's notoriously racist police to target people of color who live, work, or are simply traveling through Tempe.

Keep fighting for Dalvin Hollins, for Antonio Arce, for solidarity with everyone who resists the police and their terror.

# TACTIC SPOTLIGHT:

# DE-ARREST

First off, let's define the term a little bit. A de-arrest is, well, more or less what it sounds like: when a person or group of people takes someone away from police who are attempting an arrest. This action can take many forms, but perhaps most commonly a de-arrest looks like a group of protesters at a march or demonstration physically grabbing onto someone who the cops are trying to arrest and forcefully pulling the person away from the would-be arresting officer(s).

The act of de-arresting seems like a worthwhile tactic to spotlight here, in part, because it is a practice that seems to be taking hold locally. On at least two occasions within the past few years, demonstrators in Tucson have thwarted arrest attempts by pulling their companions back from the cops. In both cases (documented in greater detail in the zine *Radical AZ*, available at [plana.noblogs.org](http://plana.noblogs.org))

the police were not only unable to arrest the person they were initially targeting, but they were also incapable or unwilling to retaliate against those that made the de-arrest happen. Everyone got away scot-free.

The spread of de-arresting as a practice holds a lot of promise for expanding what is possible at protests in Arizona. First, it has immediate practical value. If no one had acted to de-arrest their fellow protestors in the instances referenced above, those targeted would have likely spent the night in jail, faced a lengthy legal

process with the possibility of fines and/or criminal convictions, and generally been dissuaded from taking action in the future. Instead, thanks to the brave and decisive actions of other demonstrators, none of these consequences were imposed.

Beyond simply keeping our companions out of the jails and courts, however, de-arresting also opens up space for strategic escalation of other tactics. In our social movements, many of the tools we have for opposing the existing structures of oppression and building collective power are illegal. If we look at recent actions like blockading the jail to oppose ICE collaboration with local cops, using vandalism to memorialize the names of those killed by Border Patrol and other law enforcement in public space, or even just marching through the streets without a permit, all of these



*Protesters in the middle of a de-arrest.*



activities are against the law. If there's a likelihood of arrest every time we try to take one of these actions, it will curtail the participation of those who can't risk arrest, and it will limit our ability to expand our movements—both in terms of numbers and in what we are capable of accomplishing. Instead, by normalizing de-arrests, we've made the cops reluctant to even attempt to stop us as we take these actions. De-arrests allow us to broaden our strategic toolset, and to defend ourselves as we push up against new limits of what the police are willing to allow.

It is worth noting that during each recent de-arrest that has happened locally, some or all of those who pulled someone back from the cops were utilizing the black bloc tactic (wearing all black and covering one's face, a tactic that is used to conceal identities from the police and that ideally empowers people to take risks and defend each other). There are plenty of reasons why using the black bloc tactic at any particular event might not be a good idea—the tactic often increases police attention on a protest, the masks can be off-putting or even scary to passers-by, the black bloc can create a sense of specialized knowledge that makes those who show up in normal clothing less likely to take initiative or engage in strategic risk taking, etc. Nevertheless, one increasingly apparent way that the tactic has proved useful in Arizona has been to give participants enough confidence in their anonymity to act quickly to de-arrest fellow demonstrators. Should

we try to spread the practice of masking at protests to ensure that people feel their identities are protected enough to attempt to de-arrest their companions? Alternately, should we commit to trying to de-arrest the people around us at protests even if we are not masked in hopes of further generalizing de-arrests as a practice?

What might be possible at our political events if we make de-arrest the automatic and assumed response to any intervention by the police? Perhaps instead of wheatpasting José Antonio's name on the street, it could have been spraypainted onto the facade of the federal courthouse itself. Perhaps instead of simply marching through the streets to decry police violence, we could act collectively to disable law enforcement vehicles and undermine their ability to police our neighborhoods. Perhaps instead of only making noise outside of detention centers during solidarity rallies, we could use the strength and determination of the crowd to break people out. This isn't just idle fantasy. Each of these actions has been successfully carried out by social movements in different places throughout the country and the world in the past few decades. But we need to develop the capacity to defend ourselves from arrest as a first step. What would you do at demonstrations if you felt confident that you wouldn't be arrested? How can we make that possible?

**Should we try to spread the practice of masking at protests to ensure that people feel their identities are protected enough to attempt to de-arrest their companions?**

**Alternately, should we commit to trying to de-arrest the people around us at protests even if we are not masked in hopes of further generalizing de-arrests as a practice?**

# REFLECTIONS ON BORDER PATROL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE IN TUCSON

## FAMILY SEPARATED, RAPID RESPONDER ARRESTED AFTER ATTEMPTED INTERVENTION IN BP STOP

In the midst of an ongoing national debate about the jailing of undocumented minors and the separation of immigrant families, a Tucson family was detained and separated by Border Patrol on March 19, 2019.

Glenda de la Vega Fernandez, Jesús Antonio Torres, and Dariana Torres de la Vega, their 12-year-old daughter, were stopped for having “overly tinted windows.” Arizona Highway Patrol called Border Patrol and within minutes the entire family was detained. Multiple law enforcement agencies arrived on the scene, including the Pima County Sheriff’s Office and the Tucson Police Department.

Despite protests from close relatives on the scene who were ready to take guardianship of the child, Border Patrol placed her in the caged back of the vehicle. Border Patrol also refused to allow community members to offer the detained family food and water.

Someone who had arrived on the scene after receiving notification of the stop from the Tucson Community Rapid Response Team crawled under the Border Patrol truck to prevent it from leaving with the family inside. This action temporarily prevented Border Patrol from transporting the family to a holding facility, but before the growing crowd at the traffic stop could take further action, BP agents pulled the rapid responder from under the truck and arrested him. He was held overnight in Border Patrol custody before being released the next day without charges.

After two nights at Tucson Border Patrol Headquarters, the family was transferred to a Tucson ICE field office. Glenda said they were repeatedly assured by Border Patrol agents that they would be released together. Yet ten minutes after arranging for the family to be picked up, Glenda and Dariana watched as ICE agents separated them from Jesús. “They cuffed his hands, his waist, and his feet,” Glenda said. After pleading with the agents, the mother and daughter were allowed a brief moment with Jesús

before he was deported. Glenda, Jesus, and Dariana had been living in Tucson together for over 11 years with their other two children aged 10 and 6.

Despite false claims from Border Patrol that Dariana remained with her parents while in custody, Glenda and Dariana say that Dariana was held in a separate cell with 16 other female minors. The cell was so overcrowded that some of the girls had to sleep in the bathroom attached to the room. This comes as the Tucson Sector Border Patrol currently faces a class action lawsuit from plaintiffs who are charging that the dirty, overcrowded, and freezing conditions at CBP Headquarters in Tucson violate constitutional law and CBP’s own policies.



What lessons can we take from this latest attack on the undocumented community?

This is likely obvious to the point of redundant by now, but this case shows us once again that **the system of deportation is brutal and must be stopped**. A family has been torn apart and pulled from a community that they’ve been part of for over a decade for driving a car with tinted windows. A child has been taken into law enforcement custody, lied to, separated from her mother, and forced to sleep curled up next to a toilet in an overcrowded cell. No pretext is too small for the racially targeted violence of the immigration system, no cruelty too unseemly.

**Collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies is central to the day-to-day functioning of the detention and deportation systems.** The stop was initiated by an Arizona State Trooper who later called Border Patrol. As a crowd gathered to try to prevent the detention of the family, support from the Pima County Sheriff’s Department and the Tucson Police Department arrived. More or less every active law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in Tucson

worked together to ensure that BP be able to detain this family.

In the wake of the incident, Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus wrote an op-ed absolving the Tucson Police Department of guilt for the separation of the family:

“TPD officers will not do BP’s job... however, our officers will respond to urgent requests for assistance, calls for emergency help or calls where it’s necessary for us to enforce state law. This may involve addressing incidents where persons are blocking a law enforcement vehicle, interfering with a lawful arrest or trespassing on private property. This is a basic expectation of police officers in every city across the country, and one we are duty bound to uphold.”

Whenever we effectively intervene in the functioning of BP or ICE, local law enforcement agencies will arrive to back them up. If the rhetoric of Tucson’s top cop doesn’t make it abundantly clear,

we need look no further than the police departments of so-called “sanctuary cities” Portland and San Francisco to prove this point. In each case, despite their progressive talk, the local cops violently evicted the encampments blockading ICE offices last summer. In this sense, Magnus’s op-ed boldly states an important truth: while individual cops—even chiefs of police—may not themselves agree that it is good policy to have families routinely torn from their loved ones by armed federal agents, they understand themselves as “duty bound” to use state violence to ensure that this can continue to happen. ¡La migra, la policía, la misma porquería!

**We need to think strategically about how to intensify and expand our struggles.** On one hand, the actions of the rapid responders who arrived at the scene on the 19th obstructed the work of Border Patrol, transforming an otherwise routine act into a potentially uncontrollable situation—a liability

they had to rely on support from other law enforcement agencies to help them manage. Further, through the extensive media and signal boosting work done in the aftermath, the normally invisible attacks on the undocumented community have been made public, garnering significant attention. Now, there has been a large scale fundraising campaign for the separated family raising over \$10,000, renewed discussion of a “sanctuary city” initiative in local government, and a pro-bono lawyer secured to help Jesús pursue routes to return to his family now that he has been deported.

That said, it’s difficult to view this as any kind of victory. Our goal cannot be to bring attention to deportations, it must be to prevent them from happening at all. When Border Patrol is called in the city, we need numbers and we need them fast. Oftentimes when the rapid response network gets activated, only a few people arrive before BP is already pulling away with undocumented folks in their custody. If you are in Tucson and not already receiving rapid response notifications, get your phone out right now, and text anything at all to (520) 447-2477. This will sign you up to get texts when there’s a situation like the one that happened on the 19th. If you’re in a city without a rapid response network, create one! Feel free to get in touch with folks at [rapidresponsetucson@protonmail.com](mailto:rapidresponsetucson@protonmail.com) who would be happy to explain how they got things off the ground.

In addition to bigger crowds at Border Patrol stops, we also need to arrive mentally and physically



*Border Patrol loads Jesús Antonio Torres into their truck on March 19th. Two days later, after being transferred to ICE custody, he is deported to Nogales, Sonora, separated from his wife and three young children.*

prepared to act decisively. Consider what risks you might be willing to take to intervene, and discuss with people you trust what sort of actions you might want to take together. Had there been more than one person who crawled under the car at the stop on the 19th, it may have bought enough time for the crowd to have grown to a size where they could have surrounded the vehicle. If rapid responders had linked arms early on, it may have been more difficult for the police to force them out of the road. What might have happened if rapid responders had been prepared with implements to lock themselves to BP cars? In the past, local cops have attacked crowds with pepper spray when law enforcement vehicles get surrounded. Should we come ready to rapid response calls with work goggles to protect our eyes? Let's not simply ask these questions, we need to start answering them and arriving prepared.

Finally, **let's think realistically about the risk incurred by taking action** in a situation like the one described above. As always, the level of risk one faces changes drastically with one's position within myriad hierarchies of identity-based oppression. Attempting to intervene in a BP stop is, of course, particularly

risky for those without citizenship status. For those of us who are U.S. citizens, however, perhaps this case shows us that the risks are not so high as those in power would like us to imagine they are. The rapid responder who crawled under the Border Patrol vehicle was threatened with an "impeding a federal agent" charge, but ultimately released with no criminal charges whatsoever. The sole negative consequence for his action was being held in BP custody overnight. It would be simplistic to assume that this will inevitably be the outcome of interventions in BP or ICE stops, but let's be clear: we live in a time when there is broad community support available—including, in many cases, free legal representation—for anti-border actions. Let's use this support while we have it, recognizing that the risks we run by taking action are minimal in comparison to those faced daily by those without documents. Or, as Jessica Rodriguez of the Southside Worker's Center said in a press conference after the family's separation, "everyone who's out there wondering what else they can do, I ask you to use your bodies and your privilege to make sure that these systems don't continue deporting families."

*If you are in Tucson and not already receiving rapid response notifications, get your phone out*

*right now*

*and text anything at all to (520) 447-2477.*

*This will sign you up to get texts when there's a situation like the one that happened on the 19th.*



# REPORTBACK FROM MARCH AGAINST TRUMP'S "STATE OF EMERGENCY"

In response to the nationwide call to action, #BlockTheWall, a march was called for by members of Tucson group ARC, the Autonomous Rebels Collective. The march was set to begin at Catalina Park on 4th Ave. in downtown Tucson. At approximately 6:30 pm a small crowd began to gather on the south eastern part of the park. Soon after, they were joined by Food not Bombs, who greeted the growing crowd with muffins, hot chocolate and a variety of fruit. The Tucson radical marching band assembled together as a few individuals formed a small black bloc.

Around 7:00 pm the crowd took the streets heading south on Fourth Ave., the first chant seemed to set the tone for the march, "Fuck the border, fuck the state, America was never great!" The march was led by masked people holding banners with the marching band following closely behind, the rest of the crowd behind the band. The march started with around 30 people but grew in size to about 50 people, as people from the street joined in. The crowd continued to march and dance down 4th Ave., road flares were lit and the marching band played. When they reached the 4th Ave. underpass and an individual towards the front tried to start a chant yelling "Vote them out!" and was quickly shut down with chants like "No more voting!"

After marching down Congress and passing the Ronstadt bus station, the marchers realized that they

wouldn't make their destination of the Tucson town hall meeting in time to greet the members leaving the meeting, and it was decided that the march would begin making its way back to the park. Once the march was rerouted and arrived back at the Congress and 4th intersection the crowd decided to take over the intersection, holding banners with messaging like: "Borders are the real crisis," and "We are the real emergency," as well as holding a small dance party to the tune of the marching band and yelling powerful chants: "Say it loud! Say it clear! Migrants are welcome here!"

After about 10 minutes of holding this intersection the crowd made its way back to 4th Ave down the underpass. When the police noticed that the crowd was on the move again one officer on a bike attempted to ride ahead of the crowd and found himself in a sticky situation, unable to get past the masked members of the crowd who kept him cornered with banners. The crowd began chanting, "Quit your job!," at the officer who seemed rightly horrified and begged them to let him out.

The officer eventually managed to get through the crowd and stayed as far away as he could for the remainder of the march. The march continued back towards the park with even more energy than it had when they began. Once they reached the end of the

march, at Catalina Park, members of the crowd stayed and talked, comforted each other, and ate fruit provided by Food Not Bombs. The hope is that this march will build momentum for future actions as we continue to show solidarity and support for migrants and their families by actively opposing Trump's racist wall.



*Marchers in Tucson take 4th Ave with banners and flares.*

# PATRIOT MOVEMENT AZ'S TIES TO WHITE SUPREMACIST, FASCIST, AND OTHER HATE GROUPS

*What follows is a modified version of a flyer that was distributed at the August 18 event documented in the 2018 Year in Review (page 1). PMAZ is one of many alt-right groups that are trying to bridge the gap between mainstream conservatism and out-and-out white supremacist organizing. Exposing their links to far-right and fascist politics is key to discrediting them and disrupting their recruitment efforts.*

The introduction of proto-Nazi symbolism like the “kekistan” flag into far-right and “patriot” groups has been an intentional tactic by fascist and white supremacist segments of the alt-right. By slightly modifying existing Nazi symbols, they aim to normalize the aesthetic and rhetoric of fascist regimes. When confronted, however, they can hide behind the slight modifications claiming that the similarities are a “joke” meant to offend overly-PC “social justice warriors.”

Sorry Patriot Movement AZ, Nazism is no joke.

In addition to frequently displaying thinly veiled Nazi imagery, Patriot Movement AZ also collaborates with a number of white supremacist organizations.

PMAZ works alongside the Proud Boys, a group of self-described “Western chauvinists” who are quickly becoming the brawling wing of the alt-right during demonstrations. They are

designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

PMAZ also coordinates with the American Guard, a white supremacist organization also designated as a hate group by the SPLC. The American Guard was present at the deadly “unite the right” rally in Charlottesville last year.

PMAZ has also been working with border militias in rural southern Arizona. This activity is reminiscent of the militia movements of the late 2000s that resulted in the murder of a 9 year old latina girl and her father in Arivaca, AZ by far-right minutemen.

We don’t oppose Patriot Movement AZ simply because they are Trump supporters.

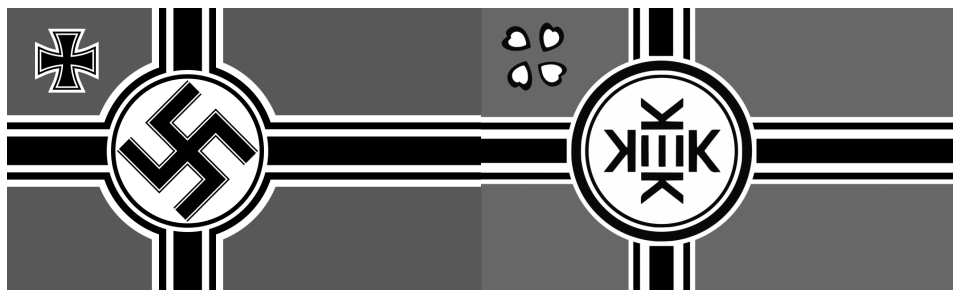
We oppose them because their dangerous blend of hate speech and far-right ideology has already proven deadly.

We oppose them because they are working toward a world that is not safe for black, brown, queer, trans, and undocumented people.

We oppose them because we remember history.



*PMAZ rally 8/4/18 in Tucson. note “kekistan” flag (to the left of American flag).*



*Side-by-side comparison of kekistan flag and Nazi iron cross flag*

# WE WILL **NOT** BE SILENT

## Three University of Arizona students face charges for speaking out against Border Patrol presence on campus

*As we go to press, the University of Arizona is pressing charges against three students who sought to disrupt Border Patrol recruitment on campus. Now, solidarity demonstrations have taken place on the U of A campus in Tucson and spread to ASU in Tempe. As of the beginning of April, there is an ongoing call-in campaign to the U of A President's office to get the charges dropped. Call in at 520-621-5511. What follows is a statement released by DACA students at the U of A.*

Everyday, the presence of law enforcement threatens the existence of Black, brown, indigenous, queer and trans, refugee and undocumented communities. The discomfort and fear we face at the sight of Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) is overwhelming. Pervasive detentions and family separations have been a reality outside of the boundaries of the University of Arizona. Just these last two weeks, we are aware of at least 10 Border Patrol interactions with immigrants in Tucson. One of them occurred on Tuesday March 19th when Customs and Border Patrol detained three members of an immigrant family, including a 12 year old daughter. After this detention, the father was deported. While this family was being separated, Customs and Border Patrol was on the University of Arizona campus recruiting students.

As DACA recipients at the university, the presence of CBP on campus has a traumatic impact on our overall well being and impedes us from fully engaging with our academics. In a space where all students are given the right to pursue an education, their presence was and will always be an infringement on that right.

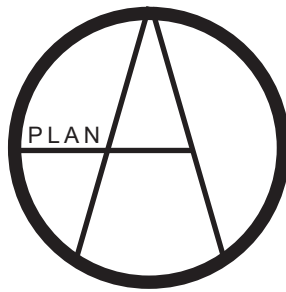
Students at the UA decided to bravely stand up and be vocal about the threat Customs and Border Patrol's presence creates for our community. Their action is to be applauded and admired because they put their community before themselves and acted to protect us. After the video of their interaction with CBP was released, the students were bombarded with threats to their physical and emotional well being; something that has not been acknowledged by media outlets. The students were recently harassed and persecuted by

law enforcement agencies and officers, including the Vice President of the National Border Patrol Council. Agent Art Del Cueto, called on the "university to investigate whether students violated the university's code of conduct or state law regarding disorderly conduct." This agency not only terrorizes our communities on the day to day, but also actively works to silence students who speak out. Soon thereafter, the University's President Robbins announced that two students would be facing criminal charges; proving, again, the swiftness with which institutions criminalize people of color.

As DACA recipients, we are in full support of the students who spoke out on our defense. We do not tolerate any form of harassment and marginalization that comes from Customs and Border Patrol. We appreciate, value, and are here for the allies who our now being persecuted.

Signed in solidarity,

DACA recipients at the University of Arizona



an arizona anarchist media project