

Migrant Walk

By Chris Amoroso

In June, I walked the Migrant Trail, for the fourth time, 75 miles from Sassabe, Mexico to Tucson, with fifty participants from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Central America. We were calling attention to the human rights crisis occurring on the southern border. Since the 1990s, it is estimated that more than 6,000 men, women and children have lost their lives crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, over 2000 in the Tucson sector.

The precarious reality of our borderlands calls us to walk. We are a spiritually diverse, multi-cultural group who walk together on a journey of peace to remember people, friends and family who have died, others who have crossed, and people who continue to come. We bear witness to the tragedy of death and of the inhumanity in our midst.

Lastly, we make this sacred journey as a community, in defiance of the borders that attempt to divide us, committed to working together for the human dignity of all peoples.

The walk is intentionally prayerful and meditative. We carry crosses with the names of the deceased. The walk was extremely well supported by church and private groups, supplying food and water. For me, it was extremely emotional and physically taxing.

My feelings are best expressed in the Haiku poems I wrote daily.

Day 1 My Mind is twirling
The fence is very foreboding
Hope seems far away

Day 2 Bodies in a line
Multiple legs with one heart
Our spirits unite



Photo taken approximately 30 miles from Green Valley at sunrise, walking towards Baboquivari Peak, the most sacred place to the Tohono O'odham people. (We awoke in the dark that day at 4 a.m. and walked 16 miles.)

Day 3 The path I follow
Speaks of sorrow pain, hope, and peace
Hear and remember

Day 4 We move in darkness
Our spirits lighten our way
Waiting for the sun

Day 5 Silently we walk
Listening to their voices of hope
Hearing their song lines

Day 6 Silence fills the air
Our souls in touch with the Earth
She welcomes our feet

Day 7 United we walk
Praying migrants will survive
We are all migrants