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Mr. Michael Bailey
U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona
United States Courthouse
405 W. Congress Street, Suite 4800
Tucson, Arizona 85701

07 November 2019

To the Honorable Mr. Bailey

I am writing to express Amnesty International's grave concerns regarding the charges against Dr. Scott Warren (case 4:18-cr-00223-RCC-BPV). Amnesty International is a global human rights organization representing 7 million members and supporters, and we work to protect the rights of all people around the world. We are writing now to urge you to immediately drop the charges against Dr. Warren, which appear to constitute a politically motivated violation of his rights.

The voluntary activities of Dr. Warren and his associated organization No More Deaths constitute vital humanitarian aid directed at upholding the right to life of migrants, and preventing the further arbitrary deaths of thousands more migrants and asylum seekers in the Sonoran Desert. The arrest and subsequent retaliatory criminal charges against Dr. Warren are an unjust criminalization of direct humanitarian assistance, which run counter to the encouragement of the US Congress to the US Border Patrol to prohibit "any activity by agents that could damage water and food caches and continued support for initiatives focused on increasing migration safety." The right to defend human rights was reaffirmed in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which the United States has adopted and implements globally: "Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels."

Amnesty International is opposed to the criminalization of humanitarian aid and calls on all states to ensure that their criminal, civil and administrative laws are not misused to target and harass human rights defenders working for the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, or others whose lives and other human rights are at risk of violation. States should ensure that human rights defenders and their organizations are able to carry out their work in a safe and enabling environment, free from fear of reprisals. Solidarity and humanitarian aid should be promoted, not punished.

No one should die while attempting to migrate, and no one deserves to be punished for working to prevent those deaths. We call on you to immediately drop all the charges against Dr. Warren.

Yours sincerely,

Kumi Naidoo
Secretary General
cc: US Attorney General William Barr