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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Humane Borders, Inc. and Mexico's National Commission for Human Rights announce a joint migrant safety education project. A press conference hosted by a delegation of 21 Humane Borders volunteers will be held in Mexico City **January 24 at 10a.m.** The media are invited to Hotel Maria Cristina, Rio Lerma 31, Col. Cuauhtemoc. The hotel is just three blocks east of the US Embassy on Paseo de la Reforma.

Using Global Information System technology, Humane Borders produces accurate migrant **death maps** and migrant **warning posters** in an attempt to educate migrants as to the specific dangers of crossing the border in the desert. However, it has been difficult to systematically distribute these maps in critical areas in the interior of Mexico. Mexico's human rights commission (CNDH) has agreed to both print and widely distribute these maps into sending communities in an effort to alter the annual migration patterns and migrant decision-making.

The most basic level of ethics is **informed consent**. By equipping migrants with real information: where migrants die, where roads are, where water stations are and are not, distances to cities and towns, which months are the deadliest, the hope is that migrants will choose not to come in the deadliest months and to take safer routes if they choose to cross the desert anyway. This approach to migrant education is believed to be better than scaring migrants with Public Service Announcements or simply wishing the migrants well on their journey. Specific information will equip migrants to make better decisions.

The need for dependable information is **urgent**. On January 11, more than **1,800 migrants passed through the El Tortugo checkpoint**, approximately 21 miles south of Sasabe, Arizona. This is alarming because it is both early in the annual migration and the numbers are higher than in any previous year. The percentage of migrants who are **women and children** is also increasing.

Humane Borders will release details of its research concerning cell phone towers and migrant self-reported rescues. Positions will be taken on state and national legislative proposals and propose alternatives to the international communities concerned with migration.

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