

Baiting and Waiting on the Border



"Some people are alive simply because it's illegal to kill them." That was my straw on the camel's back. On April 7 the Deseret News ran a picture of minuteman Carl Meloche guarding the Mexican U.S. border wearing a tee shirt with that

sentence. Here was a man in a supposedly peaceful demonstration advocating death.

As a country we have a right, a necessity to protect international borders. Every country has that right and obligation to its citizens and that is why we don't have to re-invent the wheel. Passports, visas and work visas have been invented and proven to be effective. They give history, documentation, time limits, and photo identification. International travelers always have to estimate their time in a country they are visiting. People who want to work in this country should expect to give an address and other information, just like people who come to tour Las Vegas, Disneyland and New York. That is not an impossible or unreasonable request of anyone coming into this country.

It is also not an impossible or unreasonable request that the United States government should expect to protect the rights and lives of people who visit this country for whatever reason. Allowing people to stand at the border in vigilante cowboy style is barbaric and a humiliation of what this country claims to represent in our moral self-righteousness. As perhaps the most protected man in the whole world Bush can afford a 'bring 'em on' to the Iraqis, and a 'who cares' attitude for the Mexican worker.

I don't have his kind of mental and physical fortress around me. In January I visited Nogales. There is an eerie, dirty cruel air within 20 miles of our border that smells of pain, fear, danger. We're the freest people on earth in this country? We're not the most free and we're certainly not the kindest, nor the most efficient in caring for our borders, nor are we the most willing to face a problem and solve it.

George Bush has wantonly disregarded his promise to improve national security, choosing instead to keep nail files out of women's purses and allow me to watch men take their belts off at airports. I'm waiting until men's shirts come off, while my husband watches the women being frisked. All in the name of our country's security you understand.

The straw that broke the camel's back made me write a letter to my representatives that asked for improvements in border policy, visas and work visas. I hope you will, too. We have so much critical mass at the grass roots now that even the people who want to kill the Mexican worker are openly baiting and waiting their time.

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