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19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
20 **DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

21 LEESA JACOBSON, PETER RAGAN,

22 *Plaintiffs,*

23 v.

24 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY, UNITED  
25 STATES CUSTOMS & BORDER  
PROTECTION, UNITED STATES  
26 OFFICE OF BORDER PATROL, ET.  
AL.,

27 *Defendants.*  
28

**Case No.:** 4:14-cv-02485-BGM

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR  
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION  
AND MEMORANDUM OF  
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN  
SUPPORT**

**(ORAL ARGUMENT  
REQUESTED)**

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**EXPLANATION OF CITATION FORMS**

- “Ragan Decl.” refers to the Declaration of Plaintiff Peter Ragan, dated December 23, 2014.
- “McLain Decl.” refers to the Declaration of Steve McLain, dated December 23, 2014.
- “Ebanks Decl.” refers to the Declaration of Tracy Ebanks, counsel for Plaintiffs dated December 23, 2014.

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**MOTION**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65, Plaintiffs move for a preliminary injunction:

1. Prohibiting Defendants from barring Plaintiffs from any portion of the public right-of-way more than twenty feet outside of the primary and secondary inspection areas of the Border Patrol checkpoint on Arivaca Road, including the public right-of-way on the side of the road opposite the checkpoint shelter, such prohibition remaining in effect in the event that the checkpoint is relocated nearby.

2. Prohibiting Defendants from deliberately infringing or interfering with Plaintiffs’ First Amendment rights to observe or record the operation of the Border Patrol checkpoint on Arivaca Road from the adjacent public right-of-way, including by deliberately parking cars between the observers and checkpoint operations and by running Border Patrol vehicles so that the exhaust reaches Plaintiffs, and by verbally harassing Plaintiffs and gratuitously threatening arrest, such prohibition remaining in effect in the event that the checkpoint is relocated nearby.

This motion is supported by the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and declarations and exhibits attached thereto; on all papers, pleadings, records and files in this case; on all matters of which judicial notice may be taken; and on such other argument and/or evidence as may be presented to this Court at a hearing on this motion.

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiffs Peter Ragan and Leesa Jacobsen seek to exercise their First Amendment rights to observe, photograph, and record from a public area the actions of law

1 enforcement officials at an interior checkpoint on Arivaca Road in Amado, Arizona.

2 Plaintiffs' right to engage in these expressive activities is clearly established. *Fordyce v.*  
3 *City of Seattle*, 55 F.3d 436, 439 (9th Cir. 1995).

4  
5 Defendants have imposed arbitrary restrictions on Plaintiffs' ability to observe and  
6 record checkpoint operations, restrictions that are untethered to any demonstrable law  
7 enforcement purpose. In direct response to Plaintiffs' activities, Defendants installed  
8 barriers in the public right-of-way which impede pedestrian traffic and confine Plaintiffs  
9 to an area nearly 200 feet from the Arivaca Road checkpoint. Defendants have parked  
10 Border Patrol vehicles immediately adjacent to those barriers to obscure Plaintiffs' view,  
11 and have left those vehicles running with their exhaust directed into the observation areas.  
12 Plaintiffs have been threatened with arrest each time they have attempted to observe from  
13 a shorter and more reasonable distance. Meanwhile, Defendants have allowed others—  
14 including members of the public more sympathetic to Defendants' checkpoint  
15 operations—access to the same area from which Plaintiffs are excluded.

16  
17  
18 A preliminary injunction is necessary to vindicate Plaintiffs' rights, and is  
19 warranted under the circumstances presented in this case. First, Plaintiffs are likely to  
20 succeed on the merits of their First Amendment claims, given the well-established  
21 constitutional right to view and photograph public activities of law enforcement  
22 personnel. The restrictions imposed by Defendants have also chilled Plaintiffs and  
23 persons working with them from exercising those rights by significantly reducing the  
24 usefulness of their observation, and by deterring Plaintiffs and other monitors from  
25 engaging in constitutionally protected activity. Second, Plaintiffs are irreparably harmed  
26 by Defendants' actions. The loss of Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights constitutes  
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1 irreparable harm as a matter of law; this loss is continuing and Plaintiffs have to choose on  
2 a daily basis whether to forego exercise of their fundamental rights or be threatened with  
3 arrest and retaliation. Here, that harm is especially concrete, as Plaintiffs are unable to  
4 observe the activities of the checkpoint in any significant detail from their distant position.  
5 Third, the lawful exercise of constitutional rights presumptively serves the public interest,  
6 and the equities favor the party exercising those rights. Here, in addition, the monitoring  
7 that Plaintiffs seek to accomplish serves the public interest by holding Border Patrol  
8 agents accountable.  
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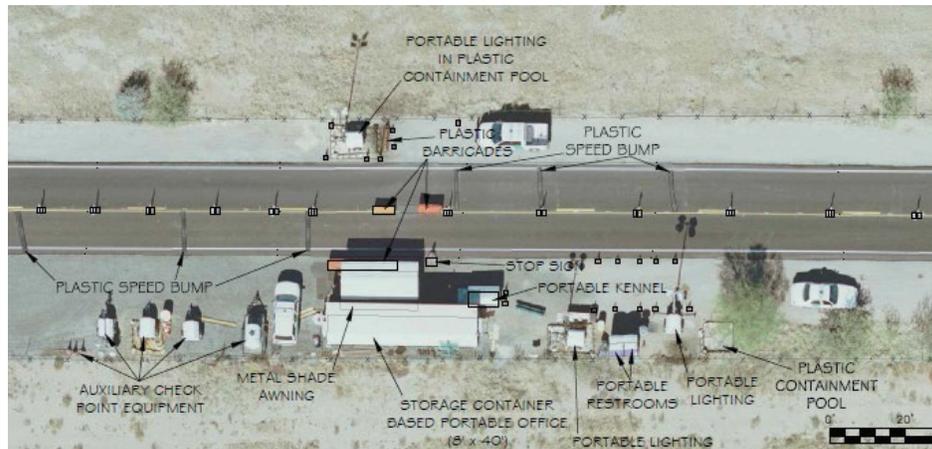
10  
11 Absent a Preliminary Injunction, Plaintiffs and others will continue to suffer  
12 irreparable injury resulting from the ongoing loss of their First Amendment rights.

## 13 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

14 For more than seven years, residents of the towns of Arivaca and Amado in  
15 Arizona have lived with a continuous and pervasive Border Patrol presence in their  
16 community. Border Patrol checkpoints are present on virtually every route out of  
17 Arivaca, and many local residents must pass through a checkpoint regularly to go to  
18 school or work, or to perform routine errands. Ragan Decl. ¶ 5. In the past year, residents  
19 have sought to monitor one of these checkpoints, on Arivaca Road in Amado (“Arivaca  
20 Road checkpoint”), to document and deter suspected abuses by Border Patrol agents and  
21 to measure the efficacy of the checkpoint and its impact on the local community.  
22

23 The Arivaca Road checkpoint is located on a two-lane road in a rural area where  
24 traffic is minimal. Ragan Decl. ¶ 7. The checkpoint consists of a small “temporary”  
25 shelter on the south side of the road, from which agents conduct checkpoint inspections of  
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1 eastbound traffic, as well as a dirt area to the east of the checkpoint shelter on the south  
 2 side of the road, which is used for secondary inspections. *See* Ragan Decl. ¶ 9.



11 (McLain Decl. Ex. 2 (*excerpt*))

12 The Arivaca Road checkpoint is located between Arivaca and Amado, rural towns with a  
 13 combined population of 1,000 and few local businesses. Ragan Decl. ¶ 6. As indicated  
 14 by data collected by Plaintiffs and other monitors, Arivaca Road is not heavily trafficked,  
 15 and checkpoint arrests are extremely rare. In approximately 100 hours of monitoring from  
 16 February to March 2014, Plaintiffs and other monitors observed 2,379 vehicles pass  
 17 eastbound through the Arivaca Road checkpoint, an average of approximately one vehicle  
 18 every two and half minutes during the busiest times in the day. *See* Ragan Decl. Ex. 1.  
 19 Over the same period, monitors did not observe a single driver or passenger detained by  
 20 agents at the checkpoint. Ragan Decl. ¶ 7. Indeed, Defendants have acknowledged that  
 21 arrests at the Arivaca Road checkpoint are extremely rare, and that the primary purpose of  
 22 the checkpoint is “deterrence.” *Id.*

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After being questioned by the Border Patrol agent or agents on duty, eastbound motorists may be directed to the secondary inspection area for further questioning. Ragan Decl. ¶ 9. Only a small fraction of vehicles arriving at the checkpoint are referred for

1 secondary inspections. *Id.* Border Patrol’s activities are largely confined to the south side  
2 of the road, east of the checkpoint shelter; the north side of the road, across from the  
3 checkpoint shelter, and the area west of the checkpoint shelter are not used for  
4 inspections. *Id.*

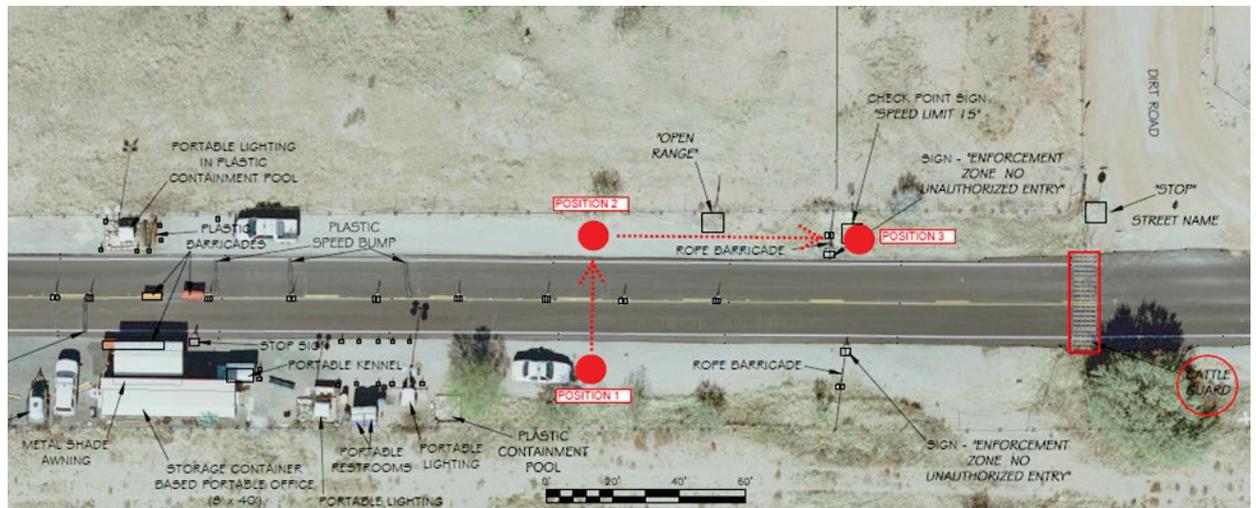
5  
6 In July 2013, the Arivaca, Arizona-based organization People Helping People  
7 (“PHP”), of which Plaintiffs are members, sponsored a forum for local residents to discuss  
8 the Border Patrol presence in their community. Ragan Decl. ¶ 10. At this forum,  
9 residents described harassment and abuse by Border Patrol agents at the Arivaca Road  
10 checkpoint, which, despite being designated a temporary or “tactical” checkpoint, has  
11 been in continuous operation for over seven years. Ragan Decl. ¶¶ 5, 10. Following the  
12 community forum, PHP began a campaign to protest the checkpoint and inform the public  
13 about its impact on the community. Ragan Decl. ¶ 11. PHP launched an “Abuse  
14 Documentation Clinic” and circulated a petition calling for removal of the checkpoint.  
15 Ragan Decl. ¶¶ 11, 12. Complaints documented by PHP described Border Patrol agents  
16 engaging in civil rights violations at the checkpoint including racial profiling, false canine  
17 alerts, unlawful searches, and excessive use of force by agents. Ragan Decl. ¶ 11. In  
18 support of this campaign, and to hold agents at the checkpoint accountable, PHP  
19 announced that it would be starting a community effort to monitor the Arivaca Road  
20 checkpoint. Ragan Decl. ¶ 12.

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25 **A. Plaintiffs Have Attempted to Observe and Record Arivaca Road**  
26 **Checkpoint; Border Patrol Agents Have Unlawfully Erected Barriers**  
27 **in Response**

28 Since the initiation of PHP’s monitoring campaign in February 2014, Border Patrol  
agents at the Arivaca Road checkpoint have routinely and deliberately interfered with

1 Plaintiffs’ ability to observe and record checkpoint activities. On February 26, 2014, the  
 2 first day of monitoring, Plaintiffs, as part of a group of approximately thirty PHP  
 3 checkpoint monitors and protestors, approached the secondary inspection area from the  
 4 east, walking on the south side of Arivaca Road. Ragan Decl. ¶ 13. The monitors carried  
 5 signs that read “Monitoring to Deter Abuses + Collect Data.” The protestors carried signs  
 6 and banners protesting the checkpoint with slogans such as, “Checkpoints Can’t Divide  
 7 Us!,” and “Revitalize Not Militarize Border Communities.” *Id.*

10 When Plaintiff Ragan and the other monitors were approximately 100 feet east of  
 11 the checkpoint shelter (*See* Ragan Decl. *Diagram A* “Position 1”), the group was  
 12 confronted by Defendants Joyner and Riden and told to move back past a cattle guard  
 13 the road, approximately 160 feet from where they were standing, and approximately 260  
 14 feet away from the eastern end of the checkpoint shelter. Ragan Decl. ¶ 15.



(Ragan Decl., *Diagram A*)

24 The monitors refused, remained in place, and began to observe and record  
 25 interactions between agents and motorists. Ragan Decl. ¶ 15. Defendants returned and  
 26 again insisted that Plaintiff Ragan and the other monitors move further away. Ragan  
 27 Decl. ¶ 16. Defendants Joyner and Riden stated that they had a permit granting exclusive  
 28

1 use of the area.<sup>1</sup> *Id.* Later, after also being directed by local Sheriff’s Deputies, the  
2 monitors moved to an area on the north side of the road directly across from where they  
3 had been stationed, and approximately 100 feet east of the checkpoint shelter. Ragan  
4 Decl. ¶ 17, *Diagram A* “Position 2.” Once relocated to the north side of the road, some of  
5 the monitors attempted to move closer to the checkpoint, but were turned back by several  
6 Border Patrol agents. *Id.* At all times, Plaintiffs were outside of the areas in which  
7 Border Patrol was conducting its inspections.  
8

9  
10 Later that day, to restrict the monitors’ activities and reduce their ability to observe  
11 the checkpoint, Border Patrol agents erected barriers demarcating an arbitrarily  
12 determined “enforcement zone,” approximately 80 feet further east of where the Plaintiffs  
13 and monitors were standing on the north shoulder, a total of approximately 180 feet east  
14 of the checkpoint shelter. Ragan Decl. ¶ 19. The barriers were erected across the public-  
15 right-of-way on both the north and south shoulders of the road, even though Border  
16 Patrol’s checkpoint activities are limited to the south shoulder of the road. *See* Ragan  
17  
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19  
20 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs later discovered that Border Patrol apparently obtained a “Permit to Use  
21 County Right of Way”, Permit No. P04RW00558, for the Arivaca Road checkpoint on  
22 February 26, 2004. The description of the “proposed work” for the permit is “to establish  
23 checkpoints on Arivaca Rd to help US Border Patrol.” That permit does not, however,  
24 demarcate the boundaries of the checkpoint or limit public access to the public right-of-  
25 way. *See* Ebanks Decl. Ex. 1. Indeed, the permit provides that: “The applicant [here,  
26 Border Patrol] will not allow any condition to exist which would be a hazard or a source  
27 of danger to the traveling public.” Further, Pima County Code of Ordinances Title X,  
28 Chapter 10.50.050, “Nonexclusive Use,” which governs public right-of-ways, provides,  
“Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to grant any user an exclusive right to use the  
public right-of-way. Any user’s facilities shall be erected, adjusted, installed, replaced,  
removed, relocated and maintained in a manner that will not interfere with the reasonable  
use of the public right-of-way, drainage ways, alleys, or easements by the public, by  
country, or by any other user, or the rights and conveniences of adjacent property  
owners.”

1 Decl. ¶¶ 9, 19. Prior to the initiation of PHP’s campaign, Defendants had never before  
2 demarcated an “enforcement zone” or installed similar barriers at the Arivaca Road  
3 checkpoint. Ragan Decl. ¶ 21. Border Patrol agents then insisted that Plaintiffs and the  
4 monitors move behind the barrier, and threatened them with arrest if they did not comply.  
5 Ragan Decl. ¶ 19. Under threat of arrest, Plaintiffs and others in their group relocated to  
6 an area behind the barrier. Ragan Decl. ¶ 19, *Diagram A* “Position 3”.

8           Since that time, Border Patrol has maintained barriers<sup>2</sup> on the public-right-of-way,  
9 keeping Plaintiffs and the monitors at an unreasonable distance from the checkpoint.  
10 Ragan Decl. ¶ 22. As a result, Plaintiffs and others have not been able to observe and  
11 record basic checkpoint activities. From behind the barriers, persons seeking to monitor  
12 the checkpoint activities are unable to observe agents’ interactions with motorists, and are  
13 thus unable to record information about the checkpoint activity, including the identity of  
14 agents conducting the stops, the characteristics of the vehicle occupants, the behavior of  
15 any service canines, and the nature of communications between agents and motorists.  
16 Ragan Decl. ¶ 20. Because Defendants’ restrictions frustrate the purpose of Plaintiffs’  
17 campaign and severely limit observation of Border Patrol’s public activities, Plaintiffs and  
18 other monitors have curtailed monitoring activities and participation in the monitoring  
19 campaign has diminished. *See* Ragan Decl. ¶¶ 31–34.

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25 <sup>2</sup> Following the first day of monitoring, Border Patrol erected new rope barriers on both  
26 sides of the road, and posted a sign that read “Border Patrol Enforcement Zone - No  
27 Pedestrians Beyond this Point.” Border Patrol later replaced this sign with new signs that  
28 read, “No Unauthorized Entry Beyond This Point.” The barriers and signs have remained  
in the same location, 180 feet east of the checkpoint, since Border Patrol’s initial  
encounter with the monitors. Ragan Decl. ¶ 22.

1 Border Patrol agents have continued to threaten monitors with arrest whenever they  
2 attempt to stand closer to the checkpoint. Ragan Decl. ¶ 25. In March 2014, monitors  
3 again attempted to move to an area inside the barriers— an empty space across the road  
4 from the checkpoint shelter on the north shoulder and approximately 100 feet east of the  
5 shelter. *See* Ragan Decl. ¶ 23. Border Patrol agents again forced the monitors to relocate  
6 behind the Border Patrol barriers under threat of arrest. *Id.* As a result, monitors were  
7 again unable to observe and record much of the checkpoint-related information they  
8 sought. Ragan Decl. ¶ 24.

11 **B. Border Patrol Has Specifically Targeted Plaintiffs for Exclusion**  
12 **Because of Their Monitoring Activities and Their Views on the**  
13 **Checkpoint**

14 Defendants' actions since the erection of the barriers are inconsistent with the  
15 assertion that the roped-off area is needed for "enforcement," and evince a pattern of  
16 selective targeting of Plaintiffs.

17 For example, on April 3, 2014, PHP monitors, including Plaintiff Ragan, observed  
18 a local resident arrive and park his vehicle next to the barrier, directly inside Border  
19 Patrol's newly-designated "enforcement zone." Ragan Decl. ¶ 27. That resident began to  
20 heckle the monitors stationed on the other side of the barrier. He remained inside the  
21 barrier for approximately forty minutes, at one point parking his truck with one end  
22 protruding into the roadway. *Id.* The man's wife also arrived and parked her car inside  
23 the barrier. *Id.* At no point did Border Patrol agents ask either of them to leave the  
24 "enforcement zone." *Id.* As Plaintiff Ragan was departing, he asked the agents at the  
25 checkpoint if they had given the man permission to remain inside the "enforcement zone;"  
26 an agent replied, "It's a free country." Ragan Decl. ¶ 28.

1 On November 23, 2014, Steve McLain, a professional surveyor, conducted a  
2 survey of the checkpoint. McLain Decl. ¶ 8. When he asked whether he could conduct  
3 the survey in the area surrounding the checkpoint, including within the “enforcement  
4 zone,” the Border Patrol agents on duty informed him that the barriers were only in place  
5 to exclude protesters or others the Border Patrol agents believe to be disruptive to the  
6 checkpoint, and not the public in general. McLain Decl. ¶ 15.

8 No “enforcement zone” was ever established prior to Plaintiffs’ monitoring  
9 campaign, and no analogous area is known to exist at any other checkpoint in the area.  
10 Ragan Decl. ¶ 21. Rather, Border Patrol hastily installed the barriers on Arivaca Road  
11 specifically in response to Plaintiffs’ efforts to observe and monitor public law  
12 enforcement activities at the checkpoint.

15 Defendants have acknowledged that the agents at the checkpoint are given  
16 discretion to choose which members of the public are allowed near the checkpoint. In a  
17 March 7, 2014 email sent from Defendant San-Martin to PHP, he stated that “agents have  
18 the authority and are within their right to determine who can enter into the perimeter  
19 where they are conducting law enforcement actions....The decision on where monitors  
20 can stand/sit without interfering with agents and traffic is that of the agents and not the  
21 monitors.” *See* Ebanks Decl. Ex. 2 (emphasis added). At a March 11, 2014 presentation  
22 at the Arivaca Community Center, Assistant Agent in Charge Easterling stated that “the  
23 people who are going to dictate where [the monitors] can and can’t be are the agents on  
24 the scene,” even though he noted that Border Patrol was “well aware that we have some  
25 agents out there that lose their minds. . . and when we get the reports on that . . . we take  
26 care of it.” Ragan Decl. ¶ 26.

1 Agents at the checkpoint have used this discretion to interfere with Plaintiffs'  
2 observations, for example, by parking vehicles in Plaintiffs' line of sight. For example, at  
3 a July 2014 checkpoint rally, agents parked Border Patrol vehicles immediately adjacent  
4 to the barriers on both sides of the road, impeding Plaintiff Jacobson and other monitors'  
5 view of the checkpoint for over an hour. Ragan Decl. ¶ 29.

7 On more than one occasion, agents have parked a Border Patrol vehicle next to the  
8 barrier and left the engine running, with exhaust fumes directed at the monitors. In one  
9 instance, in an attempt to avoid the exhaust fumes blowing in their direction, the monitors  
10 moved to the opposite side of the road. Ragan Decl. ¶ 30. An agent responded by parking  
11 a vehicle next to the barrier on that side of the road, again leaving the engine running. *Id.*  
12 Both vehicles were left idling for approximately three hours while the monitors were  
13 present. *Id.*

16 **C. Border Patrol's Restrictions on Monitoring Have Prevented Adequate**  
17 **Documentation of Border Patrol Agents' Public Activities, and Are Not**  
18 **Justified By Defendants' Preferred Rationales**

19 Due to Border Patrol's restrictions, all observations have been made from a  
20 distance that has severely limited Plaintiffs' ability to monitor the Checkpoint. As a result  
21 of the great distance from which monitors are forced to observe checkpoint interactions,  
22 monitors have been unable to collect accurate data on the identity of agents conducting the  
23 stops; descriptions of the vehicle occupants beyond what can be determined from distant  
24 observation; or the nature of agents' interactions with motorists—whether conversational  
25 or inquisitional in nature—including whether agents' conduct is abusive, or vehicle  
26 occupants express objections to an agent's line of questioning. Plaintiffs have also been  
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1 unable to observe and record the full range of actions taken by agents and by Border  
2 Patrol service canines, including canine “alerts” and agent vehicle inspections.

3  
4 But even the limited observations that monitors have made suggest that the  
5 restrictions on their ability to observe checkpoint activity may conceal inappropriate agent  
6 conduct. Specifically, PHP’s initial findings, based on monitoring from March to February  
7 2014, suggested that Latino motorists are subjected to discriminatory practices. Ragan  
8 Decl. Ex. 1. Based on its limited stop data, PHP concluded that Latinos are approximately  
9 twenty times more likely than Caucasians to be referred for secondary inspection, and  
10 twenty-six times more likely to be asked to show identification. *Id.* But as noted in their  
11 findings, Plaintiffs and PHP are severely limited in their ability to confirm, describe, or  
12 elaborate upon this apparent discrimination, or other checkpoint activity, from the distant  
13 vantage point to which they are confined. *Id.*

14  
15  
16 Actual or alleged civil rights violations aside, law enforcement activity at the  
17 Arivaca Road checkpoint is minimal. As noted above, the checkpoint is located in a rural  
18 area where vehicle traffic is very light. PHP has not observed a single arrest or seizure of  
19 contraband. Defendants themselves acknowledge that apprehensions at the checkpoint are  
20 rare. Ragan Decl. ¶ 7.

### 22 **III. ARGUMENT**

23 A preliminary injunction is warranted if Plaintiffs show their likelihood of success  
24 on the merits and their suffering of irreparable harm, and the balance of equities and  
25 public interest favor an injunction. *Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*,  
26 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008). The Ninth Circuit has adopted a “sliding scale” approach under  
27 which if a plaintiff can show that there are at least serious questions going to the merits,  
28

1 then a preliminary injunction may issue if the balance of the hardships tips sharply in the  
2 plaintiff's favor, and the other two *Winter* factors are satisfied. *Alliance for the Wild*  
3 *Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1134-35 (9th Cir. 2011).

4  
5 Plaintiffs are entitled to a preliminary injunction, because Border Patrol agents  
6 continue to infringe their First Amendment rights to observe and record government  
7 officials in the performance of their duties, causing irreparable harm as a matter of law  
8 and on the specific facts of this case. The balance of equities and public interest always  
9 favor protecting freedom of speech, and the public interest also favors maintaining  
10 accountability in the operation of law enforcement operations at the Arivaca Road  
11 checkpoint.  
12

13 **A. Plaintiffs Will Likely Succeed on the Merits of their First Amendment**  
14 **Argument**

15 Plaintiffs will likely succeed on the merits of their First Amendment claim that  
16 Border Patrol is unlawfully restricting their well-established First Amendment right to  
17 observe, photograph, and record Border Patrol agents performing their official duties in a  
18 public forum.  
19

20 **1. Plaintiffs Have a First Amendment Right to Observe,**  
21 **Photograph, and Record Border Patrol Agents Performing Their**  
22 **Official Duties in Public View**

23 The First Amendment protects the right to observe, photograph and video record  
24 law enforcement officers in public fora. *Fordyce*, 55 F.3d at 439 (recognizing First  
25 Amendment right to film matters of public interest). Courts have long recognized this  
26 right, which the Ninth Circuit has described as "clearly established." *Adkins v. Limtiaco*,  
27 537 F. App'x 721, 722 (9th Cir. 2013) (noting that the right to photograph law  
28

1 enforcement activities is “clearly established.”); *ACLU of Ill. v. Alvarez*, 679 F.3d 583,  
2 595, 601 (7th Cir. 2012) (making audiovisual recording “is necessarily included within the  
3 First Amendment’s guarantee of speech and press rights”); *Smith v. City of Cumming*, 212  
4 F.3d 1332, 1333 (11th Cir. 2000) (upholding First Amendment rights of third parties  
5 filming traffic stops “to gather information about what public officials do on public  
6 property, and specifically, a right to record matters of public interest”). More specifically,  
7 the First Circuit has held it to be “clearly established” that a bystander has the right to  
8 record an officer conducting a traffic stop from a distance of “at least thirty feet,”  
9 provided that the filming itself does not interfere with the officer’s duties. *Gericke v.*  
10 *Begin*, 753 F.3d 1, 3–8 (1st Cir. 2014).

13           Just last month, a district court judge in the Eastern District of Missouri issued  
14 three court orders prohibiting law enforcement in St. Louis, Missouri and Ferguson,  
15 Missouri from arresting, threatening to arrest, or interfering with individuals who are  
16 photographing or recording violent demonstrations and police response in public places  
17 but who are “not threatening the safety of others or physically interfering with the ability  
18 of law enforcement to perform their duties.” *Hussein v. County of St. Louis, Missouri et*  
19 *al.*, 4:14-cv-01410-JAR (E.D. Mo. November 21, 2014) Ebanks Decl. Exs. 3-5. The First  
20 Amendment right to observe thus applies even in areas of intense conflict and substantial  
21 police activity, where there is genuine risk of public harm, so long as the observers are not  
22 themselves creating that risk. By implication, it applies even more strongly here, where  
23 there has been no observed violence or safety threats of any kind, and there is no  
24 suggestion that the demonstrators are creating or amplifying risks to public safety.  
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1 Plaintiffs therefore have a First Amendment right to observe, record, and  
2 photograph the Border Patrol's checkpoint operations from a reasonable distance,  
3 provided they do not interfere with those operations.  
4

5 **2. *Defendants Have Unlawfully Restricted Plaintiffs'***  
6 ***Constitutionally-Protected Activities***

7 Border Patrol agents at the Arivaca Road checkpoint have engaged in persistent  
8 efforts to interfere with Plaintiffs' well-established First Amendment rights to observe and  
9 record Border Patrol's activities. Border Patrol agents continue to force Plaintiffs and  
10 monitors to remain at an unreasonable distance—approximately 180 feet—from the  
11 checkpoint shelter where inspections are conducted. This distance is much greater than  
12 required to eliminate the possibility of interference, and much greater than the distances  
13 endorsed by federal courts in similar contexts. *See, e.g., Gericke*, 753 F.3d at 3–8 (finding  
14 “thirty feet” to be a reasonable distance from which to record an officer conducting a  
15 traffic stop). Border Patrol agents have also taken deliberate steps, including threats of  
16 arrest, to prevent Plaintiffs from remaining near the checkpoint. These actions have  
17 impeded Plaintiffs' ability to observe and record the Border Patrol agents' interactions  
18 with motorists. As discussed below, Border Patrol has singled out Plaintiffs for this  
19 treatment based on Plaintiffs' viewpoint. As a content based infringement of free speech,  
20 the actions of Defendants must meet the high standard of “strict scrutiny.” But even under  
21 a more deferential standard, there is no adequate justification for the restrictions; they are  
22 not “narrowly drawn” and prohibit more protected speech than required for any legitimate  
23 law enforcement purpose.  
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28 **a) *Defendants' Restrictions Are Content-Based and***  
***Unconstitutionally Infringe on Plaintiffs' Rights***

1           The Border Patrol agents’ restriction on Plaintiffs’ and the other monitors’ speech  
2 is content-based. A content-based restriction on speech in a public forum is impermissible  
3 absent a showing that the restriction is (1) necessary (2) to serve a compelling  
4 governmental interest, and (3) narrowly tailored to achieve that end. *Boos v. Barry*, 485  
5 U.S. 312, 321–22 (1988 ) (citing *Perry Educ. Assoc. v. Perry Local Educators’ Assoc.*,  
6 460 U.S. 37, 45 (1983)). As a threshold issue, public streets like Arivaca Road are public  
7 fora, places historically held open for the public’s expressive activities. *United States v.*  
8 *Grace*, 461 U.S. 171, 177–80 (1983); *ACLU of Nev. v. City of Las Vegas*, 333 F.3d 1092,  
9 1099 (9th Cir. 2003). Accordingly, the government’s ability to restrict Plaintiffs’ speech  
10 on and near Arivaca Road is “very limited.” *Grace*, 461 U.S. at 177.

11           On more than one occasion, the Border Patrol has excluded Plaintiffs from the  
12 enforcement area while allowing access by others. Border Patrol agents allowed a  
13 member of the community known to be supportive of Border Patrol and hostile to PHP  
14 monitors to park in the so-called “enforcement zone” where he remained for nearly an  
15 hour, harassing PHP monitors. A professional surveyor conducting a survey of the  
16 checkpoint was also allowed to enter the “enforcement zone,” and was told by Border  
17 Patrol agents that the barriers were only in place to exclude protesters and the like, not the  
18 public in general. McLain Decl. ¶ 15.

19           Border Patrol’s selective exclusion of Plaintiffs is apparent for a wholly separate  
20 reason: no similar “enforcement zone” existed at the Arivaca Road checkpoint prior to  
21 Plaintiffs’ monitoring activities, nor at any other Border Patrol checkpoint in the  
22 surrounding area. *See* Ragan Decl. ¶ 21. The roped-off area at the Arivaca Road  
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1 checkpoint was created in direct response to PHP's campaign, and is maintained in order  
2 to deter Plaintiffs' legitimate monitoring activity.

3 Defendants' selective enforcement is not coincidental; Border Patrol is familiar  
4 with Plaintiffs' viewpoints as a result of the long history of interaction between Border  
5 Patrol and PHP. Border Patrol's decision to exclude PHP checkpoint monitors, including  
6 Plaintiffs, while not enforcing the same restrictions against supportive or neutral  
7 individuals, constitutes viewpoint discrimination, "an egregious form of content  
8 discrimination" prohibited by the First Amendment. *Rosenberger v. Rector & Visitors of*  
9 *Univ. of Va.*, 515 U.S. 819, 829 (1995).

12 Defendants can point to no compelling interest that justifies such expansive  
13 restrictions on Plaintiffs' monitoring activities. Border Patrol has argued that the  
14 restrictions are necessary to serve the government's interest in ensuring operational safety  
15 at the checkpoint. Ebanks Decl. Ex. 2. But Defendants could not point to any actual  
16 interference by Plaintiffs or the other monitors resulting from their attempts to observe  
17 and record the checkpoint. The specious nature of this claim is further evidenced by the  
18 occasions when the Border Patrol has allowed other members of the public into the  
19 alleged "enforcement" area while simultaneously excluding checkpoint monitors.

22 As previously explained, the Arivaca Road checkpoint is located on a rural county  
23 road where traffic is minimal. As Border Patrol has acknowledged, apprehensions at the  
24 checkpoint are extremely rare, and the checkpoint's primary role is to serve as a  
25 "deterrent." Defendants have not shown that reducing the distances for observation would  
26 create safety concerns in the instant context, and Defendants' vague and speculative safety  
27 concerns cannot support the restrictions imposed on Plaintiffs' protected speech. *Cf. Bay*  
28

1 *Area Peace Navy v. United States*, 914 F.2d 1224, 1232 (9th Cir. 1990) (finding that  
2 speculative safety threats are insufficient to justify eroding constitutional freedoms).

3       Even assuming that the alleged “security” justification is valid, the Border Patrol’s  
4 restrictions are not narrowly tailored to serve the interest in ensuring public safety while  
5 reducing the unnecessary impacts on protected rights. To the contrary, by forcing  
6 pedestrian traffic into the roadway, the barriers make the area substantially less safe.  
7 Plaintiffs have not engaged in any conduct that has created a traffic or safety hazard, and  
8 have never interfered with Border Patrol’s checkpoint activities. Plaintiffs have never  
9 attempted to enter or block the street, and they have confined their activities to the public  
10 right-of-way adjacent to the street. Plaintiffs have even offered to stand on the side of the  
11 road opposite the checkpoint—where no enforcement activity takes place at all—but  
12 Border Patrol agents have still forced them to stand so far away that Plaintiffs cannot  
13 observe checkpoint interactions in any detail. The Border Patrol’s arbitrary and overbroad  
14 restrictions on Plaintiffs’ constitutional rights are unnecessary to serve any compelling  
15 governmental interest. *See R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, 505 U.S. 377, 395–96 (1992); *see*  
16 *also Gericke*, 753 F.3d at 8 (restricting the public’s right to record police officers is  
17 impermissible if the recording does not interfere and is not about to interfere with the  
18 conduct of an officer’s duties).

19       The restrictions have been effective in deterring monitoring. Since the time the  
20 PHP issued its preliminary report on the checkpoint, monitoring activity and participation  
21 has dropped off significantly, in large part because there is little else that can be  
22 determined from a distance. PHP has revised its data collection procedures because much  
23 basic information, including agents’ identities, cannot be ascertained from so far away.  
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1 Ragan Decl. ¶¶ 33–34. This chilling effect on Plaintiffs and PHP members more  
2 generally is a further breach of their First Amendment rights. *See United States v.*  
3 *Stevens*, 130 S.Ct. 1577, 1587-89 (2010) (finding that a court may consider the impact on  
4 the First Amendment rights of persons not before the court where others are deterred from  
5 constitutionally protected expression); *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York,*  
6 *Inc. v. Village of Stratton*, 536 U.S. 150, 166 n.14 (2002).

7  
8 ***b) Defendants’ Restrictions are Unconstitutional Even if***  
9 ***Deemed Content-Neutral***

10 Even if the Border Patrol were able to show that its restrictions were content-  
11 neutral—which it cannot, since it created an “enforcement zone” exclusively for the  
12 Arivaca Road checkpoint, and did so solely to exclude protesters and monitors—its  
13 restrictions would be unconstitutional. A content-neutral restriction on speech in a public  
14 forum must be (1) justified without reference to the content of the regulated speech, (2)  
15 narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest, and (3) leave open ample  
16 alternative channels for communication of the information. *Ward v. Rock Against*  
17 *Racism*, 491 U.S. 781, 791 (1989); *see also ACLU of Nev.*, 333 F.3d at 1106. As  
18 demonstrated above, no significant interest is served by these arbitrary restrictions. They  
19 are not narrowly tailored to serve any government purpose, nor do they leave open ample  
20 alternative channels for effectively protesting, monitoring, and recording the operation of  
21 checkpoints.  
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25 In order to be narrowly tailored, a regulation must not “burden substantially more  
26 speech than is necessary to further the government’s legitimate interests.” *Ward*, 491 U.S.  
27 at 799. It “need not be the least restrictive or least intrusive means of” serving those  
28

1 interests, but the government “may not regulate expression in such a manner that a  
2 substantial portion of the burden on speech does not serve to advance its goals.” *Id.* Here,  
3 the distance from which monitors are forced to observe checkpoint interactions drastically  
4 burdens their speech. It prevents them from being able to adequately see or determine the  
5 nature of the interactions between Border Patrol agents and motorists, thereby preventing  
6 them from determining whether harassment or constitutional violations have occurred.  
7

8  
9 None of these restrictions on speech is necessary to further a legitimate interest in  
10 this case: the government “has available to it a variety of approaches that appear capable  
11 of serving its interests, without excluding individuals from areas historically open for  
12 speech and debate.” *McCullen v. Coakley*, 134 S. Ct. 2518, 2539 (2014) (holding that a  
13 thirty-five foot buffer zone around an abortion clinic burdened more speech than  
14 necessary); *see also Bay Area Peace Navy*, 914 F.2d at 1229 (“75-yard security zone” was  
15 not narrowly tailored to asserted safety interests). The current barrier is over ten car-  
16 lengths away from the checkpoint on both sides of the road. Even on the side where  
17 vehicles are stopped for secondary inspections, Plaintiffs have never observed more than a  
18 single vehicle stopped in the secondary inspection area at any time; the traffic on Arivaca  
19 Road is extremely sparse, and the number of vehicles at the checkpoint is typically no  
20 more than one or two. No traffic is ever diverted across Arivaca Road to the north side,  
21 and apprehensions at the checkpoint are extremely rare.  
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25 Moreover, the Border Patrol’s restrictions on Plaintiffs’ and the other monitors’  
26 speech does not leave open “ample alternative channels of communication.” *Ward*, 491  
27 U.S. at 802. Forcing Plaintiffs to stand so far away from the checkpoint that they can  
28 observe little detail about the stops impermissibly burdens Plaintiffs’ speech rights, and

1 the only remedy is to permit Plaintiffs to stand at a much closer distance. *See Bay Area*  
2 *Peace Navy*, 914 F.2d at 1229–30 (citing *City Council of L.A. v. Taxpayers for Vincent*,  
3 466 U.S. 789, 808–10 (1984)) (noting that while all imaginable alternatives need not be  
4 provided, leaving only inadequate modes available is constitutionally unacceptable).

5 Accordingly, Defendants’ restrictions on Plaintiffs’ speech are constitutionally  
6 impermissible, whether they are content-neutral or not.  
7

8 **B. Plaintiffs Have Suffered and Continue to Endure Irreparable Harm as**  
9 **a Result of Defendants’ Violations of their First Amendment Rights**

10 As a matter of law, “[t]he loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal  
11 periods of time, unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury.” *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S.  
12 347, 373–74 (1976); *see also Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012)  
13 (“[T]he deprivation of constitutional rights unquestionably constitutes irreparable  
14 injury.”)(internal quotations omitted); *Thalheimer v. City of San Diego*, 645 F.3d 1109,  
15 1128 (9th Cir. 2011) (harm resulting from First Amendment violations is “particularly  
16 irreparable”); *Klein v. City of San Clemente*, 584 F.3d at 1106 (9th Cir. 2009). Thus,  
17 Defendants’ act of restricting Plaintiffs from observing in a public area absent sufficient  
18 justification is itself irreparable harm.  
19

20 Defendants’ actions have chilled Plaintiffs and other monitors from engaging in  
21 protected activity. Because monitors have been frustrated in their attempts to observe and  
22 record critical information, Plaintiffs’ and others’ monitoring activity and participation  
23 has dwindled. Though monitoring continues on a lesser scale, PHP has revised the scope  
24 of the data sought in light of the fact that it cannot be collected from so great a distance.  
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1           Additionally, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer concrete irreparable  
2 consequences due to Defendants’ restrictions, as they severely limit Plaintiffs’ ability to  
3 observe interactions between Border Patrol agents and motorists. *See* Ragan Decl. ¶ 20.  
4 Monitors are unable to determine and document the identities and specific actions of  
5 Border Patrol agents at the checkpoint, and the deterrent effect of Plaintiffs’ actions is  
6 greatly reduced. It is therefore essential for the monitors to be able to properly observe  
7 Border Patrol’s interactions from a reasonable distance, as Plaintiffs are irreparably  
8 harmed by the restrictions placed on their First Amendment right to observe and record  
9 government officials.  
10

11  
12           **C.     The Balance of Equities and Public Interest Favor an Injunction to**  
13           **Prevent Further Constitutional Violations**

14           The final two elements of the preliminary injunction test—whether the public  
15 interest and the balance of the equities favor an injunction—merge when the government  
16 is a party. *See League of Wilderness Defenders/Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project v.*  
17 *Connaughton*, 752 F.3d 755, 766 (9th Cir. 2014). Plaintiffs satisfy both elements.  
18

19           The balance of equities tips “sharply in favor” of an injunction when free speech  
20 rights are at stake, *Klein*, 584 F.3d at 1208, and the public interest always favors  
21 injunctions protecting freedom of speech. *Arpaio*, 695 F.3d at 1002; *Alvarez*, 679 F.3d at  
22 590; *Sammartano v. First Judicial District Court*, 303 F.3d 959, 974 (9th Cir. 2002); *see*  
23 *also Galassini v. Town of Fountain Hills, Ariz.*, No. CV-11-02097-PHX-JAT, 2011 WL  
24 5244960, at \*6 (D. Ariz. Nov. 3, 2011) (the “balancing of equities that is undertaken in a  
25 conventional equity case is out of place in dealing with rights so important as the modern  
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1 Supreme Court considers the rights of expression to be,” quoting *Shondel v. McDermott*,  
2 755 F.2d 859, 869 (7th Cir. 1985)).

3 The public also has a specific interest in preserving the right to document Border  
4 Patrol activities, because the legality and efficacy of those activities is disputed and  
5 because observation and documentation of those activities promotes public transparency  
6 and accountability, and may help to protect the public by exposing wrongdoing.<sup>3</sup> See *Glik*  
7 *v. Cunniffe*, 655 F.3d 78, 82–83 (1st Cir. 2011) (citing *Fordyce* in finding that the public  
8 has a right to gather information about their officials, including police officers, as it aids  
9 in the uncovering of abuses); *Robinson v. Fetterman*, 378 F. Supp. 2d 534, 541 (E.D. Pa.  
10 2005) (finding that plaintiff’s videotaping police officers was a legitimate means of  
11 gathering information for public dissemination under the First Amendment, and provided  
12 “cogent evidence” regarding plaintiff’s concerns about the safety of certain police  
13 activity). The Abuse Documentation Clinic run by PHP compiled numerous accounts of  
14 alleged abuse by Border Patrol agents at the Arivaca Road checkpoint, which led PHP to  
15 launch the present checkpoint monitoring campaign. To date, monitors have collected  
16 some limited data to begin to corroborate these accounts that Border Patrol agents are  
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21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>3</sup> Others have recognized the risk inherent in widespread use of permanent immigration  
23 checkpoints—in particular, that they can be improperly used for broader purposes that are  
24 unsupported by the narrow justification of preventing immigration law violations.  
25 “There’s reason to suspect the agents working these checkpoints are looking for more than  
26 illegal aliens. If this is true, it subverts the rationale of *Martinez–Fuerte* and turns a  
27 legitimate administrative search into a massive violation of the Fourth  
28 Amendment... Given the strong hints that the Constitution is being routinely violated at  
these checkpoints, we owe it to ourselves and the public we serve to look into the matter.  
Even without an order of this court or the district court, the Department of Justice would  
be well-advised to establish the bona fides of these checkpoints.” *United States v.*  
*Soyland*, 3 F.3d 1312, 1316, 1320 (9th Cir. 1993) (Kozinski, J., dissenting).

1 engaging in abusive behavior, such as racial profiling of motorists. It is in the public  
2 interest for plaintiffs and other monitors to continue to monitor these agents' conduct in  
3 order to detect and deter further abuses. *City of Houston, Tex. v. Hill*, 482 U.S. 451, 462–  
4 63 (1987) (“The freedom of individuals verbally to oppose or challenge police action  
5 without thereby risking arrest is one of the principal characteristics by which we  
6 distinguish a free nation from a police state.”). Monitoring the activities at checkpoints  
7 thus serves the important purpose of holding public officials accountable, and the public  
8 interest favors an injunction to stop Border Patrol from restricting the monitors' ability to  
9 adequately observe and record their conduct.

12 The existence of the First Amendment violations at issue also outweigh whatever  
13 burden the injunction would impose on Defendants. The government is “in no way  
14 harmed by the issuance of an injunction that prevents the state from enforcing  
15 unconstitutional restrictions.” *Legend Night Club v. Miller*, 637 F.3d 291, 302-03 (4th  
16 Cir. 2011). The requested injunction would not interfere with Border Patrol's ability to  
17 carry out their duties safely and effectively. For the seven years before the monitoring  
18 campaign began, Border Patrol never prevented public access to the public right-of-way in  
19 a similar manner, and has not imposed similar restrictions at other checkpoints. On more  
20 than one occasion since the monitoring program began, Border Patrol agents have allowed  
21 other members of the public to access this area that they have designated as their  
22 “enforcement zone.” Further, while monitoring the checkpoint, Plaintiffs and other PHP  
23 monitors have observed that Border Patrol's inspection activities are largely confined to  
24 the primary inspection area directly surrounding the checkpoint shelter and the secondary  
25 inspection area to the east of the shelter, both on the south side of Arivaca road. The north  
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1 side of the road is largely vacant and unused for inspections, as is the area west of the  
2 checkpoint. Accordingly, allowing the monitors to observe and record checkpoint  
3 activities from the north side of the road and/or immediately outside the primary and  
4 secondary inspection areas would in no way interfere with Border Patrol's activity or  
5 compromise their safety. *See Arpaio*, 695 F.3d at 1002 (upholding the issuance of a  
6 preliminary injunction against Arizona sheriffs where the injunction "[did] not enjoin the  
7 defendants from enforcing valid [laws], or detaining individuals [and] thus the defendants'  
8 ability to enforce local and even federal criminal law [was] not impaired by the  
9 injunction").(internal quotations omitted).

12 The balance of equities also tips "sharply in favor" of an injunction where, as here,  
13 a party's actions infringe "on the free speech rights not only of [the plaintiffs], but also of  
14 anyone seeking to express their views in this manner." *Klein*, 584 F.3d at 1208. An  
15 injunction would not only end Border Patrol's policy with respect to Plaintiffs, but also  
16 with respect to other members of PHP. It would also put the government on notice that  
17 such actions against others at other similarly-situated immigration checkpoints are  
18 unconstitutional. Without an injunction, others observing and recording immigration  
19 checkpoints will face enforcement of a practice and policy that violates their First  
20 Amendment rights. Plaintiffs and others would be restricted from taking photographs or  
21 making recordings that document potential abuses and keep government agents  
22 accountable. The balance of equities therefore weighs heavily in Plaintiffs' favor.

#### 26 **IV. CONCLUSION**

27 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should enter a preliminary injunction.  
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DATED this 23rd day of December, 2014.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 23rd day of December 2014, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk’s Office using the CM/ECF System for filing. Notice of this filing will be sent by e-mail to all parties by operation of the Court’s electronic filing system or by mail as indicated on the Notice of Electronic Filing. I further certify that the attached document was served on the following counsel for Defendants, by means of electronic mail:

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Dated: December 23, 2014  
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/s/ Gloria Torres  
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