

Mr. Michael Bailey, United States Attorney, District of Arizona
United States Courthouse
405 W. Congress Street, Suite 4800
Tucson, Arizona 85701
Verenigde Staten

Amsterdam / Amstelveen, September 2019

Dear Mr. Bailey,

I am writing to urge you to immediately drop all charges against Dr. Scott Warren which appear to constitute a politically motivated violation of his protected rights as a Human Rights Defender. Dr. Warren was arrested in January 2018 and prosecuted for allegedly "harboring" two undocumented migrants by providing them with humanitarian aid in the desert town of Ajo, Arizona. His first trial ended in June 2019, when the jury was unable to reach a unanimous decision. His second trial will start on 12 November 2019.

Criminal, civil and administrative laws should not be 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. Criminalizing the act of humanitarian aid and the most basic forms of human kindness, regardless of citizenship status, is an attack on human rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,