

EYES ABOVE

Militarization of Sacred Land



CONTACT INFORMATION



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PRESS KIT





SYNOPSIS

AS THE UNITED STATES FURTHER MILITARIZES ITS BORDER WITH MEXICO, THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA GRAPPLES WITH THE ENCROACHING SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES BEING IMPLEMENTED ON ITS LAND UNDER THE EYE OF AN INCREASINGLY WATCHFUL BORDER PATROL.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I'M SO PROUD OF WHAT OUR TEAM WAS ABLE TO CREATE TOGETHER DESPITE THE CURVEBALLS 2020 THREW AT US. I KNOW OUR TEAM SHARES MY EXCITEMENT IN FINALLY SHOWING THE PRODUCT OF MONTHS OF FILMING, VIRTUAL WRITING SESSIONS, AND EDITING THAT WENT INTO THIS FILM. WE HOPE YOU FIND THE STORY AS COMPELLING AND IMPORTANT AS WE DO.

-BRENNAN LABRIE



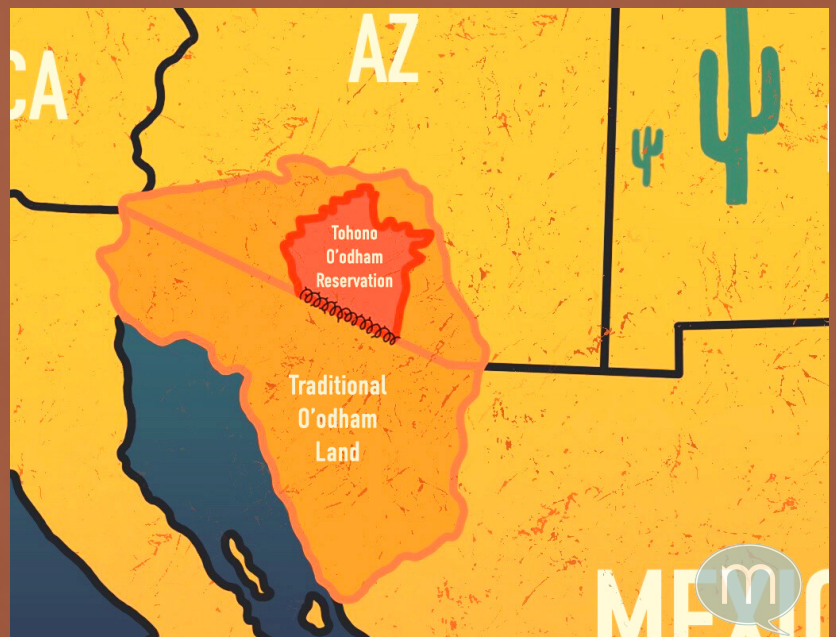


ABOUT THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

The Tohono O'odham nation is one of the largest indigenous populations along the southern border.

Created in 1917, the Tohono O'odham Reservation rests directly on the U.S-Mexico border. The border crossed the traditional O'odham territory, splitting the Nation in half, dividing them between the U.S. and Mexico.

As surveillance and infrastructures on the border increase, so does the intrusion on the traditional O'odham lands, causing the destruction of sacred and cultural sites.



BORDER MILITARIZATION

WHAT TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IS ON THE BORDER?

TOWERS

Integrated Fixed Towers, also known as IFTs stand along the border. There are 55 IFTs in southern Arizona, with 10 being built on the Tohono O'odham Reservation.

DRONES

While often undetected by border residents, drones, including large Predator B drones, surveil the border from above.

HELICOPTERS

Border Patrol helicopters surveil the border and often hover over individuals in the desert within the border zone.

VEHICLE BARRIERS

Vehicle barriers were constructed to replace miles of fencing along the border to better regulate travel across the border.

THE WALL

A hot topic of discussion in contemporary politics, the wall along the southern border was intended to replace the already existing miles of fence and vehicle barriers.



BORDER PATROL

Along with the technologies and structures mentioned above, the presence of Border Patrol agents on the southern border, especially following 9/11, increased significantly over the past couple of decades.

ABOUT MEDIALAB

MediaLab is an award-winning, student run media organization based in the School of Arts + Communication at Pacific Lutheran University. Students in MediaLab have expertise across the media spectrum. Along with producing media content (including photography, graphic design, writing, video, PR, and more) for clients, MediaLab students also create annual documentary films touching on topics within DJS (Diversity, Justice, Sustainability).



ABOUT OUR FILM

RUNTIME: 30 MINUTES

GENRE: DOCUMENTARY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, CULTURE

EQUIPMENT: SONY A6400, SONY ALPHA 7, CANON EOS 6D, AND DJI PHANTOM 4 DRONE

PRODUCTION LENGTH: 1 YEAR, 2 MONTHS



OUR TEAM



BRENNAN LABRIE

DIRECTOR, LEAD WRITER

Brennan is the Lead Videographer for MediaLab. He specializes in journalism and videography, and joined MediaLab in Spring of 2018. He is from Port Townsend, WA.

SARAH WARD

LEAD REPORTER

Sarah was a Communication Associate in MediaLab, and graduated from PLU in May 2020 with a degree in Strategic Communication. She is from Kalispell, MT.

HANNA MCCAULEY

**CO-DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY,
EDITOR**

Hanna was a General Manager of MediaLab, and graduated from PLU with a degree in Strategic Communication in May 2020. She is from Bonney Lake, WA.

HALLIE HARPER

**CO-DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY,
EDITOR**

Hallie is currently the General Manager of MediaLab. She specializes in videography, photography, and editing, and joined MediaLab in Spring of 2018. She is from Oak Harbor, WA.

RAVEN LIRIO

**LEAD AUDIO ENGINEER,
GRAPHICS ANIMATOR**

Raven is the Public Relations Executive in MediaLab. She specializes in PR, videography, photography, and journalism, and joined MediaLab in Spring of 2018. She is from Olympia, WA.

EMILY GROSECLOSE

**AUDIO ENGINEER,
GRAPHICS ANIMATOR**

Emily is a Communication Associate in MediaLab. She specializes in videography, and joined MediaLab in Spring of 2020. She is from Juliaetta, ID.

BEN LESCHENSKY

EDITOR

Ben is a Communication Associate in MediaLab. He specializes in videography, photography, and writing, and joined MediaLab in Spring of 2019. He is from Decorah, IA.

SELEY NEMISH

EDITOR

Seley is a Communication Associate in MediaLab. She specializes in PR, graphic design, and videography, and joined MediaLab in Spring of 2020. She is from Enumclaw, WA.



SPEAKERS IN OUR FILM

NELLIE JO DAVID

TOHONO O'ODHAM TRIBAL MEMBER,
ACTIVIST, TOHONO O'ODHAM ANTI-
BORDER COLLECTIVE



TODD MILLER

JOURNALIST,
AUTHOR, BORDER PATROL NATION



DAVID GARCIA

TOHONO O'ODHAM TRIBAL ELDER,
FORMER TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBER



DORA RODRIGUEZ

ACTIVIST, SALVAVISION
SALVADORIAN IMMIGRANT



VANA LEWIS

TOHONO O'ODHAM TRIBAL MEMBER,
ACTIVIST, #WORTHY MOVEMENT



OPHELIA RIVAS

TOHONO O'ODHAM TRIBAL MEMBER



JARED LUNKENHEIMER, M.D

VOLUNTEER, PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



SPECIAL THANKS

To everyone who spoke with MediaLab as a part of this film, and especially to members of the Tohono O'odham Nation who were open and shared their stories and insights with our documentary team. This film would not have been possible without these individuals.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO CHOSE TO SPONSOR MEDIALAB
AND OFFER THEIR SUPPORT TO OUR ORGANIZATION!

humanities
WASHINGTON | $\frac{h}{w}$

THANK YOU TO HUMANITIES WASHINGTON,
THE VIRTUAL PREMIERE OF THIS FILM WAS
MADE POSSIBLE IN PART DUE TO THEIR
SUPPORT.

THANK YOU TO THE NEWS TRIBUNE OF TACOMA
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MEDIALAB AND
ITS MEMEBERS.

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