

Seeking Refuge

Is an

Essential Travel

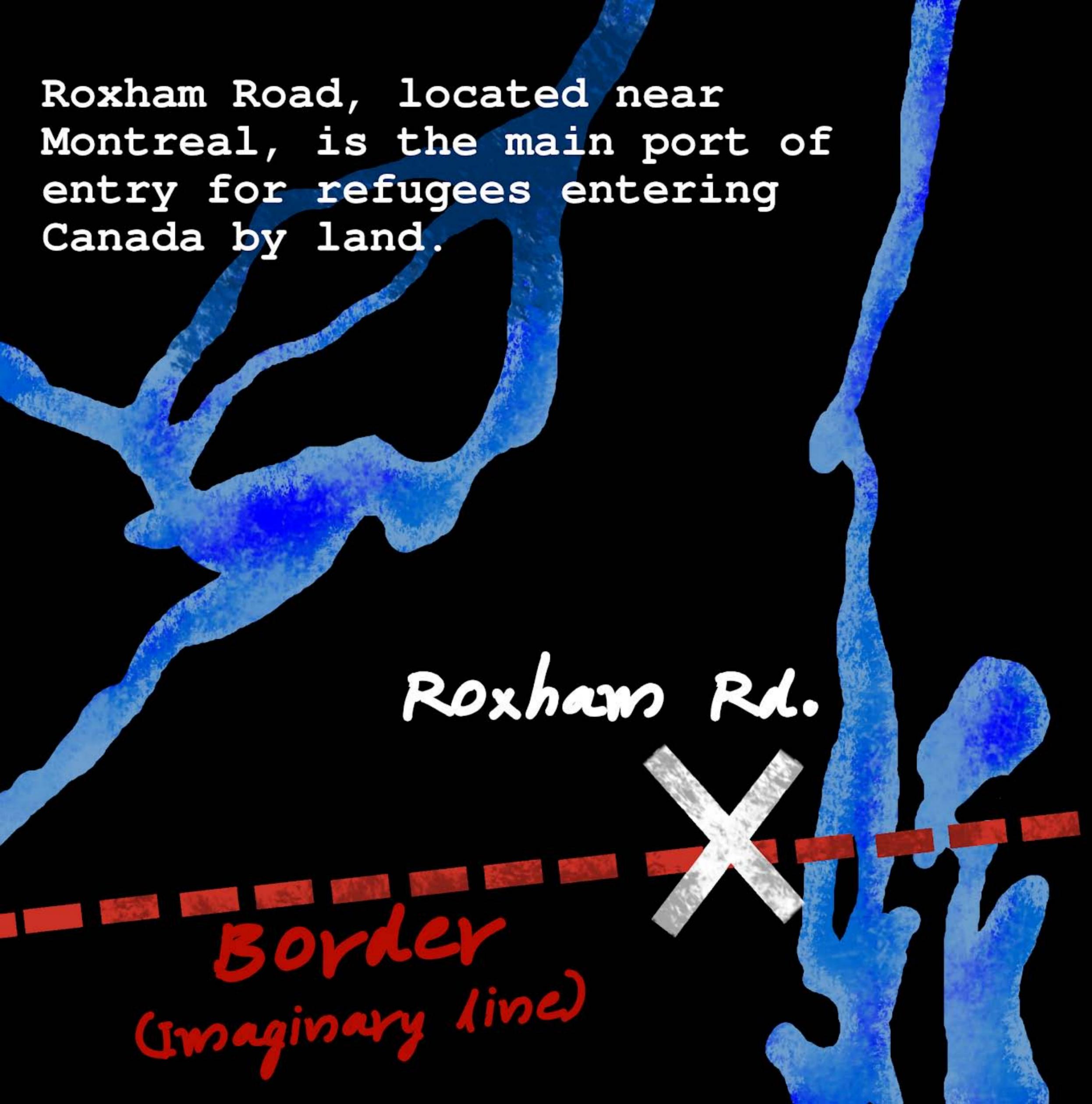
Roxham Road and COVID



Roxham Road, located near Montreal, is the main port of entry for refugees entering Canada by land.

Roxham Rd.

Border
(Imaginary line)



These people, often families, are fleeing persecution in their home countries, where they are at risk of imprisonment, torture and/or death.



They are also trying to escape from the U.S. asylum process, which would place them in grave danger:

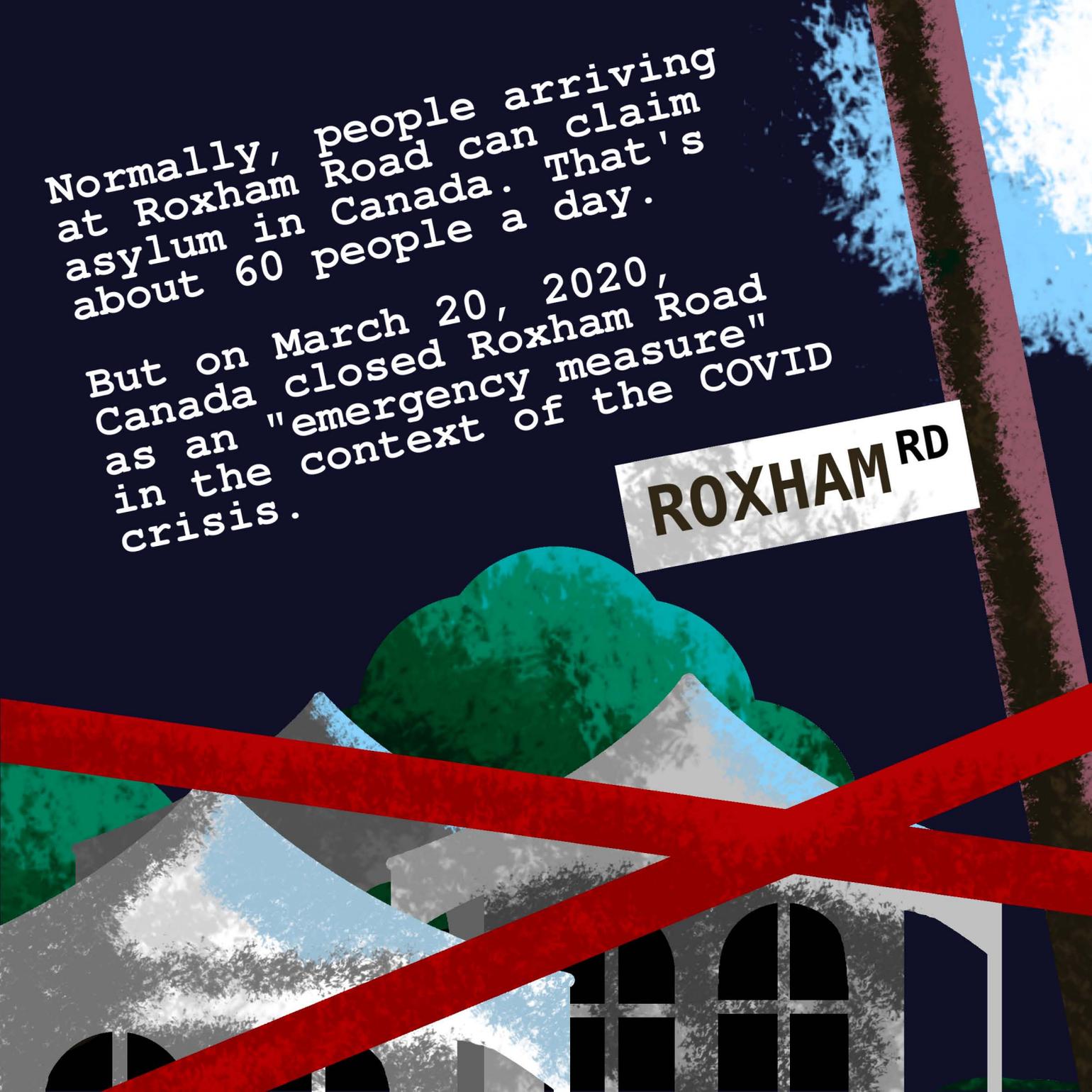
- Waiting for several months in Mexico in extremely dangerous border towns
- Imprisonment under conditions of torture in the U.S.
- Very high risk of deportation



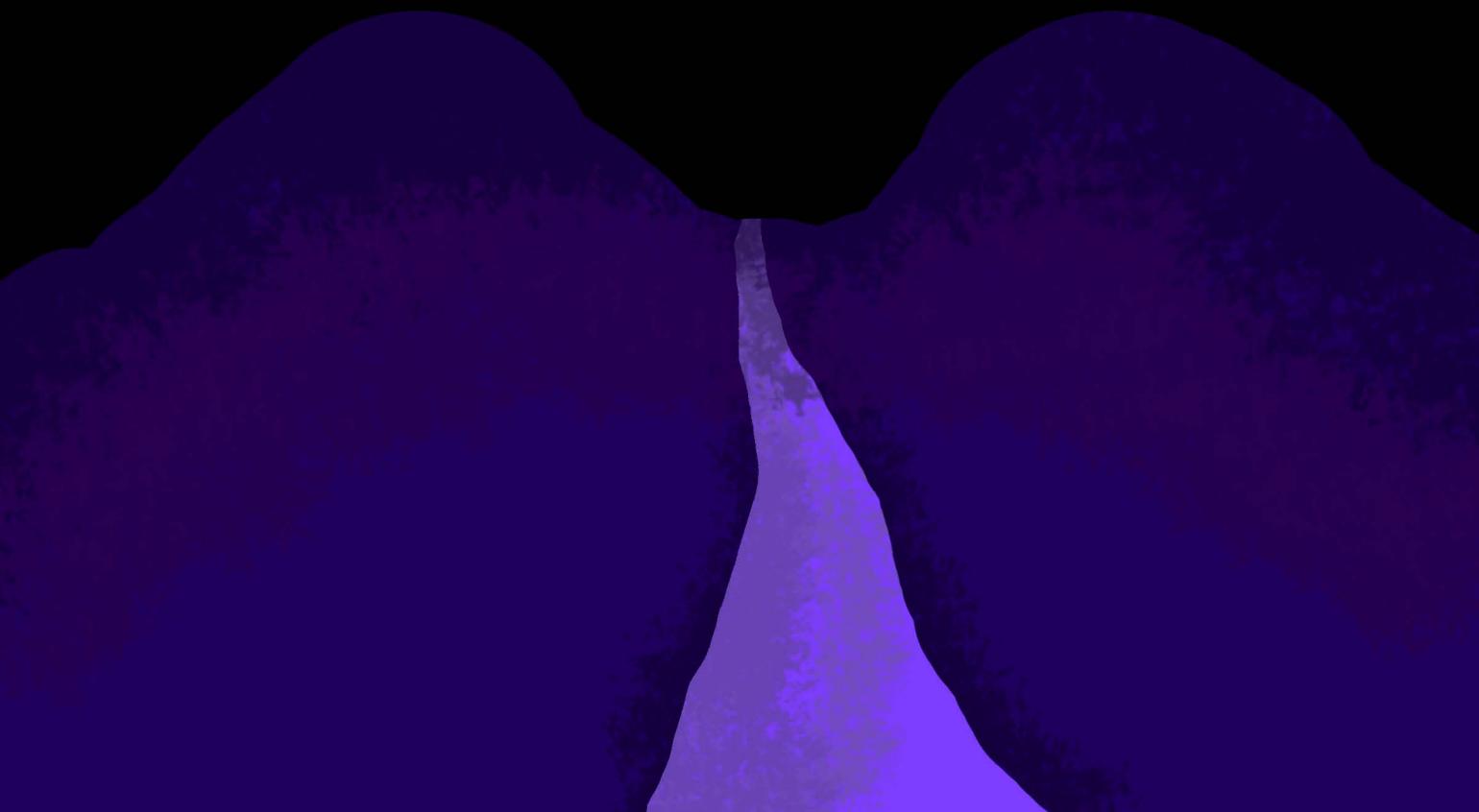
Normally, people arriving
at Roxham Road can claim
asylum in Canada. That's
about 60 people a day.

But on March 20, 2020,
Canada closed Roxham Road
as an "emergency measure"
in the context of the COVID
crisis.

ROXHAM RD



In a **twisted and xenophobic** logic,
seeking refuge
is not considered an
"essential travel".



Migrants who present themselves at the border will be denounced to U.S. immigration officials.

Some of these people will therefore be at risk of being imprisoned in inhumane conditions and then deported to their countries of origin, where they are in grave danger.

That's an hour from Montreal.

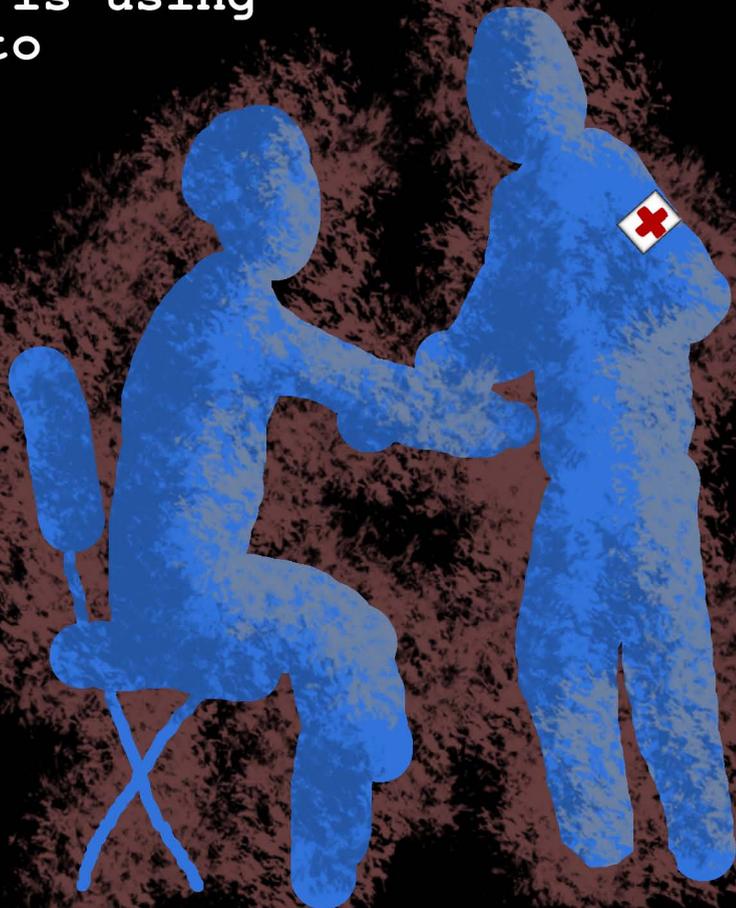


It would be entirely possible to test refugees and supervise their quarantine.

The most effective states so far are not necessarily the ones who restrict the most restrictive, but the ones who better target.

The Canadian state is using the health crisis to suspend the human rights of this vulnerable population.

It is clear that these choices are based on a fear of the Other and not a public health issue.



It is hypocritical for Canada to close its door in the face of these people who often flee from dangers caused by systems of colonialism, imperialism and capitalism. As a State, we participate and take advantage of these systems, for example through Canadian mines.



As activist Harsha Walia says in *Undoing Border Imperialism* :

"Border controls are most severely deployed by Western regimes that create mass displacement, and are most severely deployed against those whose very recourse to migration results from the ravages of capital and military occupations."

There is nothing innate or natural about the concepts of border and citizenship. In Canada, the cruelty with which these concepts are used is all the more illegitimate because the government operates on land stolen from Indigenous people.

Because all human beings deserve
safety and dignity, we demand the
reopening of the Roxham crossing
NOW.

