

Cartoons for the Classroom

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Can blowing up boats cut drug use?



Joe Heller / Courtesy of Cagle.com

1. How do these cartoons portray a new U.S. practice of blowing up boats and killing scores of people suspected of smuggling illegal drugs out of South America?
2. If a boat is destroyed in an explosion, is there any way of proving it was carrying drugs?
3. Do you think blowing up boats could reduce the amount of illegal drugs in the United States?
4. Will smugglers stop risking their lives or freedom as long as Americans are willing to spend billions of dollars for illegal drugs?
5. Should any government ever kill or indefinitely imprison someone suspected of a crime without proving their guilt in open court? Why or why not?

Between the lines

"We know from Coast Guard statistics that about 25% of the time the Coast Guard boards a ship, there are no drugs. So if our policy now is to blow up every ship we suspect or accuse of drug running ... 25% of the people might be innocent." – Senator Rand Paul.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/19/rand-paul-venezuela-strikes-00614882>

Additional resources

■ More by Joe Heller

<https://cagle.com/cartoonist/joe-heller>

■ More by Monte Wolverton

<https://cagle.com/cartoonist/monte-wolverton>

■ Editorial Cartoonists

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

■ Cagle Cartoons

<https://cagle.com/>



Monte Wolverton, Battle Ground, WA / Courtesy of Cagle.com