



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA**  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

**April 25-28, 2008      April 28: Lobby Day**

**Friday, April 25**

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|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 am - 7:00 pm  | Registration Open   |
| 9:00 am - 6:30 pm  | AGM Voting Cards and Group Sales  |
| 12:00 pm           | Ideas Fair Open   |
| 8:30 am - 12:00 pm | Legislative Institute (for Legislative Coordinators)*   |
| 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  | Legislative Training for Volunteer Leaders**  |
| 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  | Human Rights Education: Curriculum for Change   |
| 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  | Special Training Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Not Your Mother’s Organizing Workshop”</li><li>• “You, Me and Amnesty Workshop”</li><li>• “Messages that connect with Death Penalty Supporters”<br/>(2:00 pm -3:30 pm)</li><li>• “It’s a Sound Byte World: Delivering powerful Human Rights Messages”<br/>(3:45 pm -5:15 pm)</li></ul>   |
| 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm  | Movie screening with panel discussions with filmmakers and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Liberia: Women at War”, 2:00pm-3:00pm<br/>The film <i>Liberia: Women at War</i> highlights the stories of several women survivors of the wars in Liberia to give the viewer a greater understanding of the role women and girls played in the conflict, the personal experiences they had, and the struggles that they face in society today given the overall challenges of post war Liberia. Overall the video illuminates why it is so important for former women and girl child soldiers to participate in the DDR programs and on how these programs should be adapted to their needs.</li></ul> |

*Panelists:* Colby Goodman, AIUSA Program Manager for Child Soldiers and Arms Transfers

- “At the Death House door”, 3:45pm-5:00pm

At the Death House Door is an intimate look at the death penalty in the state of Texas through the eyes of the Rev. Carroll Pickett, who served 15 years as chaplain for the inmates of the infamous "Walls" prison unit in Huntsville. During Pickett's remarkable career, he witnessed 95 executions, including the world's first lethal injection. After each execution, Pickett recorded an audiotape account of his trip to the death chamber. The film also focuses on the story of Carlos De Luna, whose execution troubled Pickett more than any other. Pickett firmly believes De Luna was innocent, and the film tracks the investigative efforts of a team of Chicago Tribune reporters who turned up evidence that strongly suggests he was.

*Panelists:* Moderator: Sue Gunawardena-Vaughn, Director of Death Penalty Abolition Campaign

Peter Gilbert and Steve James (filmmakers, best known for Hoop Dreams)

Rev. Carroll Pickett (former Texas prison chaplain who oversaw 95 executions).

### **Friday Evening, April 25**

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm

Town Hall Meeting with Board of Directors

**Potomac Rooms**

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

#### **Welcoming Plenary**

**Ballroom**

The AGM official kick-off begins with welcoming messages from AIUSA's Board Chair, Ellen Dorsey and Executive Director Larry Cox. This year's keynote speaker, AI Secretary General Irene Khan, will be introduced by Larry Cox. Ms. Khan will share her unique vision of where we must go as an international movement to honor our commitment to those who look to us for hope and effective action. Musician and Audioslave member Tom Morello will close out the plenary with recognition of AIUSA Volunteer leaders who have helped make great strides this year to ignite hope and advocate change.

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Welcoming Reception: UDHR 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration

**Potomac Rooms**

9:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Cheesecake and Resolutions

**Washington Rooms**

### **Saturday Morning, April 26**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration Open

9:00 am - 6:30 pm

AGM Voting Cards, Ideas Fair, and Group Sales

7:30 am - 8:45 am

Breakfast roundtable discussion about Integrated Strategic Plan with Irene Khan

**Ballroom E-F**

Amnesty International works under a six year planning cycle. Under this model, the 2003 International Council adopted the first Integrated Strategic Plan. For the USA section, the Committee on Mission, Research and Action plays the role of

facilitating membership input to the 2009 Integrated Strategic Plan. This breakfast meeting is the sections' early opportunity to learn about the plan and the process for constructing it from Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, and several section participants in the planning process.

Facilitator: Joe Watkins, Chair of Committee on Mission, Research and Action

9:00 am - 10:30am

Saturday Program Session I (please see the bottom of this document for program session descriptions)

**Business and Human Rights**

**Ballroom C-D**

- *"Security and Intelligence, Inc – Impunity for Hired Guns and Private Interrogators"*

**Individuals at Risk**

**Ballroom A-B**

- *"The Dangers of Speaking Truth to Power: Defending Individuals at Risk"*

**China**

**Potomac Rooms 1-2**

- *- Legacy of the Beijing Olympics: China's Choice--An Opportunity for Action and Change*

**Dignity Campaign: Economic, Social, Cultural Rights**

**Potomac Rooms 5-6**

- *"Race and Human Rights in the United States: Two Case Studies"*

**Migrants Rights**

**Potomac Rooms 3-4**

- *"Why Work on Migrants' rights?"*

10:30 am – 11:00 am

**Break with refreshments**

During this break, AIUSA Country Specialists will be set up throughout the Ballroom foyer to discuss their recent visits to embassies in conjunction with AGM Lobby Day. Browse their displays, ask them questions about their visits to embassies and receive information about international human rights.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Focus Plenary**

**Ballroom**

The Focus Plenary will be opened with a film featuring former Prisoner of Conscience General Jose Gallardo. This will be followed by opening remarks from Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Ms. Bensouda will speak about her work helping to create a new international framework in which impunity is no longer an acceptable option. She will be followed by the 2008 Ginetta Sagan Award winner, Betty Makoni, who will speak about her work helping young women in Zimbabwe. Former Guantanamo Detainee Moazzam Begg (via satellite) and Center for Constitutional Rights Attorney Emi MacLean will join us to discuss the Guantanamo Bay facility and the challenges in closing it.

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Lunch Session (on your own, please see A-z guide on website for restaurant information)



7:30pm-9:30pm                      “Rendition”    **Potomac Rooms 5-6**  
This thriller focuses on Isabella El-Ibrahim, the American wife of an Egyptian-born chemical engineer named Anwar El-Ibrahimi. Anwar disappears on a flight from South Africa to Washington. The movie chronicles Isabella’s desperate attempts to find her husband, and the parallel life of a CIA analyst involved in the disappearance of Anwar. Starring Reese Witherspoon, Meryl Streep and Jake Gyllenhaal.

6:00pm – 10:00pm                      Evening activities (movies, “Monuments by Night” tours, etc. Please see the A-Z guide located on this website for more information on possible activities in the Washington, D.C. area.)

7:30pm – 9:30pm                      Regional Dinners

**Sunday, April 27**

7:30 am - 8:45am                      Board Candidates Forum Breakfast\*    **Ballroom E-F**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm                      Resolutions Voting Plenary\*    **Potomac Rooms**

12:00pm – 4:15pm                      Lobby Day Training (including lunch). This will be your opportunity to learn more about the legislation that Lobby Day will focus upon, to be trained on lobby techniques, and hear from Congressional speakers on this issue. Both introductory and advanced trainings will be offered.

4:30pm – 5:30pm                      Lobby Day Roundup  
  
Please note that the training and roundup is required for anyone attending Lobby Day.

7:00 pm- 10:00 pm                      Displaced: The Darfur Experience    **Potomac Rooms**  
  
“Displaced”, an interactive human rights exhibition on Darfur, considers the everyday lives and human rights of the 2.6 million Darfuri’s who are displaced today. The exhibition focuses on the massive human rights violations underlying the humanitarian catastrophe in Darfur and eastern Chad. It includes information on the conflict region, photographs, slide shows and materials (including replicas) of daily living used in displacement camps.

8:00pm- 10:00pm                      The AGM Program Committee presents: The Hall Monitors    **Ballroom**  
  
Join Amnesty International members and staff in a concert featuring the Hall Monitors. The Hall Monitors are acclaimed local bands who have carved a name for themselves in the Washington, DC music scene. The Hall Monitors have been described as a mix of Motown and rock. Please join us on Sunday night to hear the Hall Monitors!

**Monday, April 28**

7:45 am- 8:45 am                      Buses to Capitol Hill

9:00 am – 9:30 am                      Breakfast on the Hill

9:30 am – 9:45 am	Comments by Terry Lierman, Chief of Staff to Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
10:30am – 2:15pm	Meetings with Members of Congress (Lobby Day will be focused on SVAW) Lunch on your own Lobby Day picture on Capitol steps
2:15pm	Depart for Hotel

Please note that the Lobby Day main site is located across from the Capitol steps, at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets NW, between Jefferson and Madison Avenues.

## Saturday, April 26 - Program Sessions

### *Program Session I*

- **Business and Human Rights: Security and Intelligence, Inc – Impunity for Hired Guns and Private Interrogators**

Participants will learn about private military and security contractor involvement in serious human rights violations, including torture, rape, and indiscriminate shootings, and the fact that US officials have made virtually no effort to hold contractors accountable or compensate victims. Participants will be taken through an exercise to analyze the legal frameworks which allow loopholes for contractors, will debate the motivations of the Administration to avoid prosecutions in these cases, and discuss strategies for increasing political will to prosecute.

*Panelists:* Erica Razook (moderator), BHR Campaigner and legal expert on PMSCs Pratap Chattergee, Executive Director of CorpWatch Frank Kendall, AIUSA EDLC, Former Dept of Defense official (Dir. Of Tactical Warfare), former Raytheon Vice President of Engineering

- **China: Legacy of the Beijing Olympics: China's Choice--An Opportunity for Action and Change**

The session will introduce the four focal issues of the Beijing Olympics Campaign—internet censorship, human rights defenders, death penalty, and prolonged detention without trial—and participants will be informed of action opportunities surrounding the campaign. This session will give activists an opportunity to expand and strengthen their campaigning skills to provide the maximum impact on the human rights situation in China.

*Panelists:* Suzanne Wright, AIUSA China Country Specialist Joanne Lau, AIUSA China Country Specialist, Mona Cadena, AIUSA Interim Western Regional office Director, T. Kumar, AIUSA Asia Advocacy Director

- **Individuals at Risk: Defending the Defenders: The Dangers of Speaking Truth to Power: Defending Individuals at Risk**

Justice doesn't arise on its own. People make it happen. Activists, journalists, students, lawyers, farmers -- people from all walks of life -- have risked their safety, their freedom, their jobs and their very lives to stand up for justice and human rights. Join us for this panel discussion where we will hear from individuals who stood up for human rights and paid a price for doing so. We will learn what compelled them to action, what the prospects are for change in their country, and what role they feel the international community can best play in supporting justice. We will explore how the work of Amnesty International and other organizations can contribute to attaining positive developments in the lives of specific individuals at risk and to bringing about systemic changes that have broader impact.

*Panelists:* Michael O'Reilly (moderator), Director of AIUSA Campaign for Individuals at Risk Fatima Tlisova, Fellow at Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights Frehiywot Samuele, former president of SNNPRS in Ethiopia Bárbara Italia Méndez, former student activist detainee in Mexico

- **Dignity Campaign - Economic, Social, Cultural Rights: Housing and Health – the links between Katrina, Maternal Mortality and housing**

In the United States, approximately two women die of pregnancy complications every day. Almost three years after Hurricane Katrina, tens of thousands remain displaced from their homes in the Gulf Coast. Both human rights crises disproportionately impact minority communities, generating particular obligations for authorities to respond. Focusing on these two case studies, panel participants will explore the complex relationship between race and human rights in the United States.

*Panelists:* Mayra Gomez, (moderator) AIUSA Board of Directors, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Trine Christensen, AIUSA Research Director, Jared Feuer AIUSA Southern Region Director, Altrena Mukuria, White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, James Perry, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center

- **Migrants Rights: Why Work on Migrants' rights?**

AIUSA is currently researching the arbitrary detention of migrants and asylum seekers and will launch a campaign on migrants' rights, focusing on detention, in 2009. Why Work on Migrants' Rights will explore AI's human rights framework for migrants' rights, introduce some of the key international conventions and rights, include clips from *The Visitor*, a new film exploring the experience of detention and deportation, and provide AI materials on migrants' rights. Working through these materials, participants will identify and discuss human rights violations taking place in the immigration detention system.

*Panelists:* Sarnata Reynolds (moderator), AIUSA Refugee Program Director, Juan Pablo Lopez Cruz, a formerly detained migrant, Tom McCarthy, the award winning director of *The Visitor*, Erica Schommer, AIUSA Refugee Program's Steering Committee Chair

## *Program Session II*

- **Denounce Torture: Waging 'Lawfare' in the war on terror**

Many of the human rights issues implicated by the "war on terror" are being played out not in the halls of Congress but in the courtrooms. The government has accused these attorneys of committing "lawfare," calling it a form of asymmetrical warfare. This panel will give a broad perspective on the different ways that attorneys are working through the courts to win human rights victories. Activists will hear first hand accounts by the lawyers who are arguing cutting edge human rights cases

*Panelists:* Solomon Shinerock (moderator), American University law student, Lieutenant Commander William C. Kuebler, Judge Advocate General's Corps, Ben Wizner, ACLU staff attorney, Margaret Satterthwaite, Director of Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU

- **Arrest Now! Campaign for Enforcement of International Justice Cases: Peace with Justice: Ensuring Accountability in Conflict Situations**

The last decade has ushered in great progress on the international justice front. Throughout the world, domestic courts are now hearing cases against former heads of state and others responsible for human rights abuses committed in other countries.

This workshop will explore current landmark cases, the reasons indicted suspects have not been apprehended and what activists can do to generate pressure to make arrests. This session will feature remarks and discussion with the Honorable Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and former Head of The Legal Advisory Unit at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Participants will be invited to take action with AIUSA's Arrest Now! campaign this year in honor of the tenth anniversary of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

*Panelists:* Shayna Plaut (moderator), Internship Coordinator for the Center for International Studies at the University of Chicago, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, International Criminal Court Deputy Prosecutor

- **Stop Violence against Women: Stop Violence against women at home and abroad: Maze of Injustice Campaign and the International Violence against Women Act**

Participants will hear from Betty Makoni, founder of Zimbabwe Girl Child Network, about her work and the obstacles she faces. She will discuss how the I-VAWA legislation could help her work to stop violence against girl children. Tinekkia Three Legs Williams, Board member for Pretty Bird Woman House on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North and South Dakota, will speak about gains made as a result of AIUSA's campaign to stop sexual assault of Native American and Alaska Native Women and obstacles that remain.

*Panelists:* Michael Heflin (moderator), AIUSA Campaigns Director, Tinekkia Three Legs Williams, Board Member of Pretty Bird Woman House, Betty Makoni, 2008 Ginetta Sagan Award winner

- **Stop the Violence in Darfur: Peacekeeping in the Darfur Conflict Region: current news, personal testimony, and next steps**

Why is it taking so long to get peacekeepers into Darfur? Join a diverse panel that will chart the progress and setbacks that have taken place throughout the Darfur conflict region with deployment of the UNAMID and MINURCAT peacekeeping forces. Come to hear the most current assessment of the political, logistical, and social implications of these deployments to Darfur, eastern Chad and northeastern Central African Republic. Participants will also have the opportunity to speak with a Darfuri refugee who will share insights from his recent trip to visit family living in refugee camps in eastern Chad. Finally, you'll hear an overview for 'next steps' in advocacy and strategies to help ensure security for the people living in the Darfur conflict region.

*Panelists:* Denise Bell, (moderator) AIUSA Darfur Campaigner, Garelnabi Abusikin, Darfuri refugee, Jerry Fowler, President of Save Darfur Coalition, Lynn Fredriksson, AIUSA Africa Advocacy Director

- **Death Penalty Abolition: Preaching Beyond the Choir: Engaging 'Unusual Suspects' in the Death Penalty Debate**

The Program Session on Abolish the Death Penalty will focus on new campaigning strategies. As U.S. public opinion begins to shift away from the death penalty, we must seize the opportunity and begin to seek new allies and adopt fresh tactics. This workshop will challenge activists to move beyond their comfort zone and engage in the more emotionally-charged arguments waged by our traditional opposition. Participants will build on their knowledge of death penalty issues while developing communication, messaging and organizing skills to put to use in their respective states.

*Panelists:* Virginia E. Sloan (moderator), President of the Constitution Project, Laura Porter, Director of Organizing at Equal Justice USA, Ronald E. Hampton, Executive Director of National Black Police Association