



AIUSA Mid-Atlantic Messenger

November 15, 2010

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HOPE FOR HUMANITY.

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What's Going On!

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

MARO Regional Conference will be held this week from November 19-21, 2010. If you haven't had the opportunity we will have on-site registration. For more information, please go to [click here](#)

Write-A-Thon

Your words have power. Your words can save lives.

Join thousands of people around the world who will be writing for rights. Sign up now to Write for Rights from December 2010...For more information, [click here](#)

Get on the Bus

Get on the Bus for Human Rights and come to Washington, DC for a fun day of rallying at embassies.

When: April 15, 2011, starting at 10:00 a.m. **Where:** Embassy Row, Washington, DC

What: Speakers' panel in the morning followed by rallying at embassies on human rights issues

How: Come by bus*, train, car, mini-van, metro

*Groups are responsible for booking their own transportation to DC. Buses or other transportation can be paid for through fundraising activities.

For more information check out: www.gotb.org or email getonthebus@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENT : Excited for the **50th Anniversary AGM in San Francisco**?! Meet **Stephanie Viggiano** representative for everything AGM! We would love to learn what YOU would like to see at our AGM this year! suggestions to: stephanieviggiano@gmail.com. Learn more about this year's AGM including fundraising, registration and more. Thanks so much & hope to hear from you!

Your 2011 AGM Rep for MARO: Stephanie Viggiano, stephanieviggiano@gmail.com

When: March 18-20, 2011.

Human Rights. San Francisco. And you. Amnesty International USA's 2011 Annual General Meeting.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting in San Francisco promises to be AIUSA's most exciting event to date! This year we will commemorate the 50 years of hard work by our members, activists, and staff; reflecting back on the impact of human rights in the world of human rights, while looking forward to the future and the work ahead of us. You have all been a part of it and we cannot thank you enough for your tremendous work. Yet there are more battles to win and we still need you to continue the fight for human rights in all corners of the world...[click here to read more!](#)

[Click here](#) to register for the AGM now!

Shine A Light On...

Voices from the Amnesty Movement

Shine a Light on....Jibran Mushtaq

I met with Jibran Mushtaq recently at the tail end of mid-terms. A senior at La Roche College, Jibran had just completed an analytical chemistry exam that had been pushed back by his professor to extend one of the most grueling parts

Karma Rally outside
the Indonesian
Embassy
• 12.10.2010
Eastern PA Global
Write-a-thon

another week. In addition to being a full time student, Jibrán stays quite active on campus and off, and much of it is due to his work with Amnesty International. As a Student Area Coordinator, he mentors youth activists throughout Pennsylvania. As a member of the Regional Conference Planning Committee, he spends extra evenings and weekends participating in meetings and coordinating outreach efforts in Pittsburgh. His list of volunteer leadership roles is growing....[click here to read more about Jibrán, and to join the conversation!](#)

Campaign Updates

Take Action on AIUSA's Human Rights Priorities!

Death Penalty

What's Going On:

1) State Legislative Campaigns:

Abolition coalitions in many of the 35 death penalty states are gearing up for state legislative sessions starting in January. We are working to pass abolition or reform legislation. This is some of the most crucial work you can support!

2) Momentum Needed for Emblematic Cases:

Help us build momentum in support of Reggie Clemons (Missouri), whose case will be reviewed by a Special Panel in 2011, by collecting petitions now and sending him cards during the December Write-a-thon. And help us maintain momentum on the Troy Davis case (Georgia); he is at risk of getting an execution date later this year.

Action Needed:

1) State legislative campaigns:

Please contact your State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator (SDPAC) for information about what's happening in your state. Connect with your SDPAC by clicking on your state in our Death Penalty in States map: <http://tinyurl.com/ai-dp> or dpac@aiusa.org or 202-509-8174.

2) Write-a-thon: Reggie Clemons:

The Clemons case is featured in the Global Write-a-Thon. Sending him letters and cards will both help his spirit and increase in Missouri the growing support for our campaign on his behalf. www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon and www.amnestyusa.org

Sign-on Letters: Troy Davis

We have two new sign-on letters to engage religious leaders and legal professionals. Please ask clergy, attorneys, and professors to add their support to prevent the execution of Troy Davis. Both letters are available at: www.justiceusa.org. Questions? Email bevans@aiusa.org.

Thanks for taking action!

Demand Dignity

What's Going On:

Between April and July 2009, police officers in Papua New Guinea illegally and forcibly evicted people from their homes alongside one of the biggest mines in Papua New Guinea, the Porgera gold mine, burning down homes and threatening residents. The Porgera mine is 95 percent owned and operated through the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) and by subsidiaries of the Canadian-based mining company, Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick). In response to the police action, Barrick and the PJV were providing support to the police force under an agreement. The support was conditional on the police respecting national law and international human rights standards. We demand that Barrick and PJV continue to provide this support.

Action Needed:

Amnesty International is fighting to make sure corporations are held accountable for human rights abuses. We demand accountability from the Barrick for human rights violations at the Porgera Gold Mine! Sign a petition to

Expert Organizing Tip:
Running a meeting is an important skill, only improved with practice. It is also one you should help your group to develop! If group members change roles every meeting, it will help to develop everyone's skills as well as create an understanding/ respect when someone is in a difficult role! Keeping your group involved will not only develop skills, but improve group morale!

Barrick accountability at www.amnestyusa.org/png.

Questions? Email demanddignity@aiusa.org

Counter Terror With Justice

What's Going On:

9/11 Trials & 9/11 Survivors

1) We need your help this month on two key issues. First, we need you to contact your Senators right now, urge an important bill—the 9/11 Health & Compensation Act (H.R. 847)—that will guarantee the right to treatment for other survivors whose health is suffering as a result of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Under international law, victims of crimes against humanity such as the 9/11 attacks have a right to reparations, including medical and psychological care. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill in November.

2) Second, President Obama is expected to decide very soon whether he will support Attorney General Holder to prosecute Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the other 9/11 suspects fairly in U.S. federal court, or cave to political pressure and resort to the unfair kangaroo court system at Guantanamo. We need an outpouring of messages urging President Obama to support the right to a fair trial—send yours now!

Action Needed:

1) Support the rights of 9/11 responders and survivors. Tell your Senators to pass the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Visit www.amnestyusa.org/hr847

2) America's reputation is on trial. Urge President Obama to prosecute the 9/11 suspects fairly in U.S. federal court. Visit www.amnestyusa.org/911trials

Questions? Email ctwj@aiusa.org.

Individuals At Risk

HIGHLIGHT: Aung San Suu Kyi was released Saturday, November, 13 2010. Suu Kyi, a human rights leader who has been held in detention or house arrest in Myanmar for 15 of the last 21 years, spoke with her supporters outside her home shortly after her release. She stated, *"The release of political prisoners is the most important thing for all those who truly wish to bring about change in Burma."* Thank you to everyone who has worked hard on her case! Keep up the great work!

What's Going On:

Shine a Light on Filep Karma! People across the world will mark International Human Rights Day on December 10. Amnesty International's Write for Rights Global Write-a-thon – the world's largest letter writing event. The Mid-Atlantic Special Focus Case – Filep Karma – will be one of the featured cases in this year's Write for Rights. Filep Karma has spent 15 years in prison simply for participating in a peaceful ceremony in Indonesia's Papua province, which included a flag symbolizing Papuan independence. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience and demands his unconditional release.

Action Needed:

Use the power of your words to help secure the release of Filep Karma. Join us in demanding that the rights of all individuals are respected and protected. Sign up to Write for Rights! Organize a Write for Rights event in your area that calls attention to Filep's case. For more information visit: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon. Check out the list of participants to see who else will Write for Rights. For more information about the case of Filep Karma, visit: www.amnestyusa.org/filepkarma

Questions? Contact Ulana Moroz Senenko, IAR Campaigner for Asia, at: umoroz@aiusa.org or 202-544-0200

Opportunities

Volunteer with MARO!

Kristof Fellowship for outstanding AIUSA College Activist

This Fellowship, which is open to outstanding AIUSA student activists who are in college, honors the legacy of founding member of the Portland Amnesty group and lifelong human rights activist. Each year, one exceptional activist will receive the Kristof Fellowship for his or her outstanding efforts on behalf of human rights and AIUSA. The recipient will receive a \$3,500 stipend to complete an eight-week residency with an AIUSA Regional Field Organizer, plus travel to the 2011 Annual General Meeting. In the 2011 inaugural year, the Kristof Fellow will be based in AIUSA's Western Regional Office in San Francisco, California.

*Contact the Western Regional Office at: aiusasf@aiusa.org for an application. Deadline for submitting a completed application is **December 28, 2010 at 5:00pm PST**

Seeking applicants for the Women's Human Rights Coordination Group

Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) is currently seeking applicants for its Coordination Group for Women's Human Rights. Through collaboration with other activists, volunteer leaders and staff, this newly formed group will develop and implement strategies to promote women's human rights, particularly addressing violence against women and supporting women human rights activists. The group will also support the Dignity Campaign's goal of promoting maternal health and reducing maternal mortality. The group will support the Congressional passage of the International Violence against Women Act (IVAWA).

Qualified applicants will possess a combination of content expertise and activist experience on behalf of women's human rights. They must be members of AIUSA and able to contribute approximately ten hours a week and make at least a \$100 contribution to the position. All coordination group positions are unpaid but some basic expenses are covered. Anyone who is interested in applying to serve AIUSA's Coordination Group for Women's Human Rights should request an application at aiusa@aiusa.org or call 202-544-8169. The application deadline is November 22, 2010.

A call for Volunteer Graphic Designers and Web Developers

The MARO office is looking for creative and talented web designers and graphic artists to assist with upcoming projects. Work will include design and development of event logos, web pages, and other materials. Use your skills to help us advance human rights!

*To Apply: Contact [Emilia Gutierrez](mailto:emilia.gutierrez@aiusa.org) at 202-544-0200 ext. 344

Events

What's Happening Around the Region?

Monthly Vigil for Filep Karma Outside of the Indonesian Embassy



Where: Embassy of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
(Close to Dupont Circle Metro Stop, on the Red Line)
Dates: December 1, 2010
Time: 12:30-1:30pm

The Response: Film Screening and Panel Discussion in West Virginia

Please join Amnesty Local Group 539 at their screening of *The Response*, at 7 pm, Wednesday, November 11, at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies. Shortlisted for the 2010 Academy Awards® (one of only ten films worldwide), *The Response* also won the 2009 American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award for best of the year in Literature, joining past winners *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Twelve Angry Men*.

*Amnesty International Policy Director for Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Human Rights, Tom Parker

Response writer and producer Sig Libowitz for a panel discussion of after the film.*

For more information, please visit our [event center](#), or contact Lynn Yellott at 304 876-1545

For more resources and information for the Mid-Atlantic Region visit: www.amnestyusa.org/MARO
For questions or comments please contact us at aiusama@aiusa.org