

**ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HOPE FOR HUMANITY.****In this issue:****What's Going On!**

- Register for the 2011 Annual General Meeting
- We want to hear from you!
- March Against Guantanamo!
- MD Death Penalty Abolition Campaign

Campaign Updates and Actions

- Individuals at Risk
- Demand Dignity
- Counter Terror With Justice
- Death Penalty Abolition

Opportunities

- A Call for Volunteer Web Designers
- Become a Student Area Coordinator!

Events

- January 11: March Against Guantanamo!
- Monthly Vigil for Filep

Expert Organizing Tip:

The New Year is here! As you set goals and resolutions, take a few minutes to think about how you want to contribute to human rights this year, and what you'll do to achieve those goals.

What's Going On!**[REGISTER FOR THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TODAY!](#)**

The 2011 Annual General Meeting in San Francisco promises to be AIUSA's most exciting event to date! This year, we commemorate the 50 years of hard work by our members, activists, and staff; reflecting back on the impact Amnesty has had in the world of human rights, while looking forward to the future and the work ahead of us.

Click [here](#) to register today!

[WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!](#)

We want to thank you for all of your hard work in 2010! As we close the 2010 chapter here at Amnesty International, and look ahead to celebrating our 50th anniversary, we're asking all of our volunteers—leaders, group members, student activists, and everyone else—to take 3 minutes to fill out this [brief survey](#) and help us recognize the countless hours you have all spent working for human rights:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YHW7PTZ>

[MARCH AGAINST GUANTANAMO!](#)

Please join us for a march against Guantanamo on January 11th, the 9th anniversary of the first "war on terror" detainees arriving at Guantanamo to face torture, indefinite detention, and unfair military commission "trials"—seen worldwide as kangaroo courts.

We'll meet in front of the White House, then march to the Department of Justice. Our goal is to make a ton of noise and get covered in the media. We'll wear orange jumpsuits and carry "No Kangaroo Courts at Guantanamo" signs. Wear orange and bring kangaroo props!

[Click here for more!](#)

[WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN MARYLAND!](#)

We are very close to abolishing the death penalty in Maryland! We need YOUR help to make sure that this horrific human rights violation is finally off of the books. Over the next few weeks we'll need a lot of support, and you don't have to be from Maryland to join the cause! We need volunteers to phone bank, attend rallies, and more! This is an amazing opportunity to see exactly how your hard work can contribute to a major victory for human rights!

To get involved, contact [Jiva Manske](#) at 202.544.0200 ext. 8151.

Campaign Updates***Take Action on AIUSA's Human Rights Priorities!*****INDIVIDUALS AT RISK**

Did you “Write for Rights?”–Tell us what you did in the Global Write-a-thon

Were you one of the more than 75,000 people in the US that took part in AI’s Global Write-a-thon? Did you send letters calling for the release of Femi Peters, a prisoner of conscience in the Gambia? You’ll be delighted to learn that Mr. Peters was released from prison in December. If your group organized a Write for Rights event or you participate as an individual please answer our brief survey to tell us how many letters you sent and let us know what you liked about the Write-a-thon, and how we might improve it for next year. In the U.S. alone, writers pledged more than 240,000 letters. We hope to learn of more human rights victories like Femi Peters’ release. You can see a heartwarming message of thanks from Femi Peters’ son by visiting Amnesty on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxgizFkTE8Q.

Action Needed:

- Tell us how many letters you sent in the Write for Rights Global Write-a-thon. Go to: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/survey.php.
- Complete the 10-second survey to help us improve next year’s Write-a-thon.
- Use the discount code you’ll receive after completing the survey to purchase the cool Write for Rights t-shirt at a 35% discount off regular price.

Questions? Contact 202-544-0200 ext. 8193 or writeathon@aiusa.org.

Local groups campaign on long-term case dossiers

AI’s local groups play a valuable role focusing on specific, long-term cases by applying sustained pressure on authorities to free prisoners of conscience, protect human rights defenders, or bring perpetrators to justice. In Massachusetts, members of Group 133 campaign for the release of a prisoner of conscience in Tibet. In Illinois, the members of Groups 259 and 50 work on behalf of individuals detained in Iran. In California, the members of Group 35 call for an end to deadly assaults on journalists in Russia.

Action Needed:

- AIUSA local groups looking to take ongoing action on a case dossier should contact the Campaign for Individuals at Risk.

Questions? Contact Ulana Moroz Senenko at 202-544-0200 ext. 8586 or at umoroz@aiusa.org.

Art for human rights!

AI members throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region have an opportunity to design a t-shirt we’ll use in our campaign to free Filep Karma, a Papuan activist sentenced to 15 years in prison in Indonesia for raising a flag. Are you passionate about freedom of expression and Filep's case? This is a great opportunity to showcase your passion for human rights and your design skills! The winner of the contest will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC, along with 5 group members to our “Get On the Bus Day of Action”, where the winning design will appear on an Amnesty t-shirt to be featured at an action at the Indonesian Embassy.

Action Needed:

- Submit your design by March 1 to Jiva Manske, Mid-Atlantic Field Organizer, jmanske@aiusa.org. Three finalists will be selected by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, and then voting will be opened to Amnesty members around the region. Finalist designs will be displayed at the 2011 Annual General Meeting in San

Francisco, where Amnesty members from around the country will vote on their favorite design

For more information, contact [Jiva Manske](mailto:Jiva.Manske@aiusa.org) at 202.544.0200 ext. 8151. For more information about Filep Karma's case visit www.amnestyusa.org/filep.

DEMAND DIGNITY

Take action on the global MOMS Act

In 2010, Amnesty International helped push Washington to act on the crisis of women dying in childbirth, with the introduction of international and domestic legislation like the Global MOMS Act, the MOMS for the 21st Century Act and other bills. In 2011, the new Congress represents an opportunity to take advantage of that momentum. The beginning of the new Congress is crucial for ensuring that maternal mortality is on Congressional leaders' legislative agendas.

Action Needed:

- Urge Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) to prioritize passage of legislation to fight maternal mortality. Take action at www.amnestyusa.org/maternalhealth.
- Let us know how we can strengthen the Demand Dignity campaign—and you may win a round-trip ticket to the Annual General Meeting in San Francisco! Take our survey at www.amnestyusa.org/demanddignity.

Questions: Email demanddignity@aiusa.org.

COUNTER TERROR WITH JUSTICE

January Guantanamo anniversary: 9 years of detention without charge and “kangaroo courts”

January 11th marks the 9th anniversary of detainees arriving at Guantanamo to face torture, indefinite detention and unfair trials. Recently, members of Congress have worked to keep Guantanamo open and President Obama is accepting unfair trials, detention without charge and impunity for torture. This January, join Amnesty International activists across the US and around the world in taking action to urge President Obama and Congress to end human rights violations at Guantanamo, once and for all.

Action Needed:

- Organize a “No Kangaroo Courts at Guantanamo” teach-in, screening of *The Response* or demonstration. Sign up for our action guide and free DVD of *The Response* at www.amnestyusa.org/january11.
- Write “letters to the editor” about Guantanamo. Go to www.amnestyusa.org/january11 to find out how.
- Send a postcard to help resolve the case of Shaker Aamer, who has been held without charge at Guantanamo for over 8 years: www.amnestyusa.org/ctwj/aamer.
- Give us feedback! We have drafted a new campaign strategy and invite you to read it and give us your feedback. Email ctwj@aiusa.org to find out how.

Questions? Email ctwj@aiusa.org.

DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION

Momentum Needed for Emblematic Cases

Troy Davis (Georgia) has until January 21 to file a final appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court. Should the appeal be denied, he would be at risk of an execution date as early as March 2011. Help us build momentum for his campaign and for Reggie Clemons (Missouri), whose case will be reviewed by a Special Master in spring 2011.

Action Needed:

- During the Death Penalty Action Weeks (February 21-March 6), promote action on emblematic cases and state legislative activity if you are in a state with death penalty legislation. www.amnestyusa.org/dpaw.
- Sign-on letters for Troy Davis: Help us with the general audience petition and two sign-on letters to engage religious leaders and legal professionals. The petition, fact sheet and both letters are available at www.justicefortroy.org.

Questions? Email bevans@aiusa.org.

Thanks for taking action!

Opportunities

Volunteer with MARO!

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 special events and projects. Work will include design and development of event logos, web pages, and other materials. Use your creative skills to fight for human rights!

To Apply: Contact [Emilia Gutierrez](#) at 202-544-0200 ext. 8141

Become a Student Area Coordinator: Now Recruiting for Fall 2010 - DC, WV, VA & MD

The Student Area Coordinator (SAC) is an unpaid volunteer leadership position within Amnesty International's activist leadership structure. Maro is currently looking for an experienced Amnesty International (AI) Student or youth volunteer who represents the organization in an assigned geographic area by serving as advisor to student and youth groups on group activities, campaign opportunities and policy-related issues; acts as a liaison between AI groups, staff, and other volunteer leaders; promotes area-wide initiatives, and acts as a spokesperson for AI where appropriate. As an SAC, you will provide student groups with valuable assistance and support in organizing meetings, recruiting members, locating resources, participating in local and regional events, and sharing ideas for their human rights activism. An SAC typically commits for a minimum of two years. The SAC works under the guidance and supervision of the Mid- Atlantic Regional Office.

To Apply:

MD, VA, WV: Contact [Jiva Manske](#) at 202.544.0200 ext. 8151

DC: Contact [Emilia Gutierrez](#) at 202.544.0200 ext. 8141

[Click here for more great opportunities!](#)

Events

What's Happening Around the Region?

For other events from around AIUSA and to submit your own events for others to attend, check out the [Events Submission Page!](#)

No More Kangaroo Courts!



January 11, 2011 marks the 9th anniversary of "war on terror" detainees arriving at Guantanamo to face torture, indefinite detention, and unfair trials--seen around the world as kangaroo courts. And despite a pledge by President Obama two years ago to close the detention facility within one year, Guantanamo remains open and members of Congress have vowed to keep it that way. Nine years is far too long for these human rights violations to continue at Guantanamo, we have to speak out now!

Join us by making as much "Kangaroo"-themed noise in your communities and local media as possible, centered around the January 11th anniversary. Urge President Obama and Congress to end the human rights nightmare at Guantanamo, NOW. We can't wait another year.



[March with us in Washington, D.C. on January 11th - RSVP on Facebook!](#)

At 10:30AM meet us in front of the White House. Come ready to march to the Department of Justice!

1. [Organize an event around the January 11th anniversary](#). Get event ideas ? check out our Action Kit and other resources below!
2. Get the local news to cover your "Kangaroo"-themed event ? enter to win a free iPod shuffle. Enter by emailing news articles about your event or by sending us photos of your event to ctwj@aiusa.org by February 15, 2011.
3. [Respond to newspaper stories](#) that discuss Guantanamo, terrorism or detainee trials.
4. [Email President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder](#) denouncing kangaroo courts at Guantanamo and urging them to use fair trials to prosecute terror suspects.

Monthly Vigil for Filep Outside of the Indonesian Embassy

Join us each month to demand the release of prisoner of conscience Filep Karma. We have not forgotten him and we must apply maximum pressure on the Indonesian government to release him immediately! The vigil will be held on the third Thursday of each month outside of the Indonesian Embassy until this human rights defender is released.

Where: Embassy of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
(Close to Dupont Circle Metro Stop, on the Red Line)

Dates: The 3rd Thursday of each month

Time: 12:30-1:30pm

[Click here for more opportunities!](#)

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

