

Guidelines for the Use of AI's name

Adopted by the Board of Directors, AIUSA
April 1992, Amended February 1993

- ◆ Members of AIUSA must make clear when they are speaking/writing:
 - As individuals
 - As AI members
 - As volunteers in AIUSA
- ◆ When acting as individuals, for example in political action or public discourse on issues outside the mandate, we should not identify ourselves as AI, because that conveys a falsehood: that AI has a stand on such matters. But especially because Amnesty International is fundamentally devoted to freedom of expression, and indeed was founded on that principle, volunteer members will not in any way be penalized for exercising their rights as individuals.
- ◆ When acting as members of AIUSA, we should hold the mandate in mind. Generally speaking, we should mention that AI membership in every positive connection, so as to spread awareness of and respect for the organization. Good judgment would indicate not using the label in highly charged positions or otherwise controversial contexts.
- ◆ When acting as a volunteer in AIUSA, we should clearly identify ourselves as that, for example on stationery. This label conveys trust. It should be vigorously asserted on appropriate occasions when working on the mandate. We should never use this label on any but mandate and organizational issues.
- ◆ Members of AIUSA should avoid using their identification with Amnesty International when their public statements and/or activities contradict or go beyond AI's mandate.
- ◆ If speaking as a representative of AI, a member may be asked questions which go beyond the mandate. The individual should make clear when their statements do not represent the views of Amnesty International.
- ◆ Members who are uncertain if activities and/or their correspondence violate these guidelines or who feel that an exception to these guidelines should occur, should consult with a member of their Regional Staff.
- ◆ In keeping with Amnesty policy, nationals (meaning citizens of a specific country) should not play a leading public role in Amnesty International actions, letters or appeals to countries where they could be identified as potentially "hostile." They should not be members of a coordination group on that country. In local and student groups, nationals should not work on cases from or sign in any letters or appeals to their country of origin. These criteria also apply to any others who may be considered non-objective by virtue of country of birth, ancestry, or other close identification where such a relationship could lead to a perception of bias.
- ◆ Members of the AIUSA Board and staff, in recognition of their leadership role with the membership and high profile in public and the media, bear a special responsibility for respecting and clarifying the limits of the mandate, in their actions and words.