

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 26, 7:30 PM. *Monthly Meeting* Caltech Y Lounge has moved. **New Location!** Just around the corner from our old meeting place, we move to San Pasqual between Hill and Holliston, south side. You will see two curving walls forming a gate to a path, with the sign "Caltech Auxiliary and Business Services, 1-62" on one of them; our building is just behind that sign. Help us plan future actions on the Patriot Act, Campaign Against Discrimination, death penalty, environmental justice and more.

Tuesday, September 14, 7:30 PM. *Letter-writing Meeting* at the Athenaeum. Corner of California & Hill. **Please note that in the summer, the basement area where we usually meet is closed.** Look for us on the lawn or check with the receptionist. This informal gathering is a great for newcomers to get acquainted with Amnesty!

Sunday, September 19, 6:30 PM. *Rights Readers Human Rights Book Discussion Group.* Vroman's Book Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. This month we discuss Tracy Kidder's profile of health and human rights activist Paul Farmer. (More info below.)

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Hi everyone,

Summer is almost over and I am making the most out of my last few days of freedom! Robert and I took a car trip to N. California and Oregon for a week to see the sights and his relatives in Oregon. Highlights were seeing elk in Redwood Nat'l Park, Oregon Sand Dunes and Lava Beds Nat'l Monument (in North Eastern California). I hope that you also have had a relaxing summer.

Congratulations to Lucas Kamp, Phil Lefcourt and the rest of the Coalition for Civil Liberties for getting the Pasadena City Council (finally!) to pass a resolution opposing the USA Patriot Act on July 19, 2004. The vote was 6-2 in favor of the resolution. (Unfortunately, my councilperson, who shall remain nameless, voted against it!). Several group 22 members attended the meeting 7-19-04. Now Pasadena joins 4 states, and 335 other US cities in opposition to the USAPA.

On July 22, 2004, the US Congress passed a resolution urging the US and the international community to take all steps necessary to end the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan, including calling it "genocide". For more info, see the AI USA website www.amnesty.org. I sent a letter to the LA Times about 3 weeks ago re the situation, but it didn't get published. There is an action you can take on the AI website's opening page.

An AI delegate, Jumana Musa, will attend the first preliminary hearing scheduled for August 23, 2004 for 4 Guantanamo detainees who will be tried under a US military commission. Please see the "War on Terror" action in this issue.

Please take note that our monthly meetings have moved to a new location just down the street from the old one (see Upcoming Events for details!)

Take care,

Kathy

aigp22@caltech.edu

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Another young woman, Alma Brisa Molina Baca, age 34, has been abducted, sexually assaulted and murdered in Ciudad Juarez, a Mexican border town across from El Paso, Texas. Her body was found July 27, 2004. There is a history of inadequate investigation into the murders by Mexican authorities and over the past 10 years, over 300 women have been killed in Juarez and the state of Chihuahua. Relatives of the murdered women and human rights organizations, have sought to highlight the failure to bring those responsible to justice, and the negligence of the state authorities. They have been harassed and threatened because of their activism.

Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:

- expressing concern at the abduction and murder of Alma Brisa Molina Baca in Ciudad Juarez and calling for a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into her killing that will identify those responsible and bring them to justice;
- urging authorities to ensure that the family of the victims are able to assist the official investigation;
- urging the state and federal authorities to take effective action to ensure that all the cases of women missing or murdered in the state of Chihuahua are effectively investigated;
- calling on the state and federal authorities to take effective action to ensure that women can live free from violence in the state of Chihuahua.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of the State of Chihuahua:

Lic. Patricio Martinez
Gobernador del Estado de Chihuahua
Aldama 901, Colonia Centro, Chihuahua, Mexico

Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua:
Lic. Jesus Antonio Pinon Jimenez
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Chihuahua
Calle Vicente Guerrero 616, Col. Centro,
Chihuahua, Mexico

COPIES TO:

Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez
Embassy of Mexico
1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20006
Email: mexembusa@sre.gob.mx

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

Ngawang Gyaltzen, Tibetan Monk

Group 22 is now working on the case of Tibetan monk Ngawang Gyaltzen, held in the infamous Drapchi Prison since he was arrested in 1989 along with the other monks in the "Group of Ten", who published a Tibetan translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and leaflets relating to Tibet independence.

The Chinese authorities cited Ngawang Gyaltzen and four others of the Group of Ten as "main culprits" and sentenced them to unusually long terms of 17 to 19 years. One of these five died in prison in 1996.

Another one of the five, Ngawang Woesser (sometimes spelled Oeser), was just reported in July to have been released from Drapchi after serving 15 years of his 17-year sentence. (Full story at <http://www.tchrd.org/hrupdate/2004/hr200407.html>). He is said to be in very poor health as a result of torture and ill-treatment during his long imprisonment.

We don't have any information about the physical condition of Ngawang Gyaltzen, but he was probably subjected to the same conditions as Ngawang Woesser. Working on his case together with the AI group in Santa Cruz, let's make a special effort for his early release.

This month let's write to China's Ambassador to the U.S. You can copy the letter below or use it as a guide.

Ambassador Jiechi Yang
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington DC 20008

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you about a prisoner in Tibet Autonomous Region Prison No. 1. The prisoner's name is NGAWANG GYALTSEN. He was sentenced in 1989 to a term of 17 years because of his activity in publishing material such as a Tibetan translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I believe that NGAWANG GYALTSEN has been imprisoned solely for the nonviolent expression of his beliefs. I respectfully urge that his case be reviewed and that his present status be reported to international organizations.

I welcome the recent release of Ngawang Woesser, who was arrested and sentenced along with Ngawang Gyaltzen. However, I am sorry to hear that Ngawang Woesser is said to be in very poor health as a result of ill-treatment during his imprisonment; I hope that Ngawang Gyaltzen has not been subjected to similar abuse and I urge that he receive any necessary medical care.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I hope to hear soon of Ngawang Gyaltzen's release.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address)

LETTER COUNT

Ngawang Gyaltzen	6
Summer Postcard Action	40
Total	46

Want to add your letters to the total? Get in touch with lwkamp@sbcglobal.net

WAR ON TERROR

Guantanamo Prisoner Hearings

Feroz Ali Abbasi (m), UK national, aged 23
Moazzam Begg (m), UK/Pakistan national, aged 35
David Hicks (m), Australian national, aged 28
Salim Ahmed Hamdan (m), Yemen national, aged 34
Ali Hamza Ahmed Sulayman al Bahlul (m), Yemen national
Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi (m), Sudan national

In the face of international opposition, the US administration is continuing to prepare to conduct trials by military commissions. In the week of 23 August, preliminary hearings are due to be held in the cases of four men in custody in the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They have been charged under the Military Order on the Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism signed by President Bush in November 2001. Those held under the Order can be tried by military commission, whose verdicts cannot be appealed in any court.

The four men who have been charged are Ali Hamza Ahmed Sulayman al Bahlul, Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi, David Hicks, and Salim Ahmed Hamdan. Their charges include conspiracy to commit "terrorism". The preliminary hearings for the four defendants will take place in a specially built courtroom in Guantanamo, before the presiding officer only. It is expected that the presiding officer - retired military judge, Colonel Peter E. Brownback - will hear pre-trial motions, may set trial dates, and will be questioned by defence and prosecution lawyers on his

fitness to serve on the military commissions. An Amnesty International delegate will observe these preliminary hearings.

The death penalty will not be sought against these four defendants. A death penalty trial must be held before seven commission members, and these men will be tried in front of a panel of five military officers, including the presiding officer. Life imprisonment will be the maximum punishment available. Sentencing is at the discretion of the commission members. There are no detailed guidelines.

Amnesty International is concerned that any guilty pleas or detainee testimony before the commissions could be the result of the coercive nature of the conditions in which the detainees have long been held without any legal process. The four men, as well as Feroz Abbasi and Moazzam Begg who have been made eligible for trial by military commission, but who have not yet been charged, have been held for months in isolation in Camp Echo, the part of the Guantanamo facility where pre-commission detainees are held. Their conditions of detention have raised serious concern about their well-being and their susceptibility to making coerced statements. Salim Ahmed Hamdan, for example, is reported to have said that he has considered making a false confession in order to improve his situation.

The military commissions will be able to admit coerced evidence. The procedures for the commissions provide that evidence "shall" be admitted if the presiding officer or a majority of the commission members consider that it "would have probative value to a reasonable person". In other words, if a statement made under torture or coerced by the conditions of detention at Guantanamo or elsewhere is considered to have some significant evidential value, it "shall" be admitted. In similar vein, a memorandum from the US Justice Department to the Department of Defense, dated 26 February 2002, advised that "incriminating statements may be admitted in proceedings before military commissions even if the interrogating officers do not abide by the requirements of Miranda [the US Supreme Court decision controlling the rights of criminal suspects and conduct of interrogators]".

It is now known that the administration has approved interrogation techniques that have gone beyond normal US army doctrine. The purpose of the techniques has been to extract information. Methods approved in December 2002 by Secretary Rumsfeld for use at Guantanamo, for example, included stress positions, sensory deprivation, hooding, stripping, the use of dogs to inspire fear, and isolation.

On 7 July 2004, the Pentagon announced that another nine foreign detainees had been determined by President Bush to fall under the provisions of his Military Order. These detainees have not been identified. It is not known if they are held in Guantanamo Bay. They have not yet been charged.

Amnesty International has called for the Military Order to be rescinded ever since it was signed, on the grounds that it is fundamentally flawed and because trials under its provisions will violate international fair trial standards. The military commissions will entirely lack independence from the executive, will place severe restrictions on the defence, and provide no right of appeal to any court. The fact that only foreign nationals are eligible for such trials violates the prohibition on the discriminatory application of fair trial rights. The USA should abandon these trials and only countenance proceedings that fully meet international standards.

If possible, please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in your own words:

- expressing regret at the continuing preparations for trials by military commission, trials which will not comply with international standards, not least because the commissions lack independence from the executive, are discriminatory, and deny the right of appeal to an independent and impartial court established by law;
- expressing concern at the coercive nature of Camp Echo conditions, widespread allegations of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees in US custody in the "war on terror", and that coerced testimony or pleas may be admitted in trials before military commissions;
- urging that the military commission trials be cancelled, that the Military Order of 13 November 2001 be revoked, and that the Guantanamo detainees be charged with recognizably criminal offences, brought to trial, without recourse to the death penalty, in proceedings which fully meet international standards for fair trial, including the right to appeal to a court of law, or else released.

APPEALS TO:

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington DC 20301

Colin Powell, Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20520

SMALL ARMS CAMPAIGN *Renew 1994 Assault Weapons Ban*

Controlling the dangerous spread of deadly small arms and light weapons is a central goal of the Control Arms Campaign, launched by Amnesty International, Oxfam and the International Action Network on Small Arms in October

2003. These widespread weapons take more than a half a million lives each year. For that reason, the campaign seeks negotiation and ratification of an International Arms Trade Treaty that would ban weapons sales to governments that violate international humanitarian and human rights law.

But it is not only the international arms trade that kills innocent people, and AI is not just concerned about the international sale of arms used to violate human rights. Under international human rights law, governments have a duty to take reasonable steps to prevent acts of violence and unlawful killings of their citizens, including those committed by private persons. This responsibility is enshrined in international law, which lays out a range of 'due diligence' responsibilities to protect human rights. When a state fails to exercise due diligence and small arms are used by private persons to abuse the rights of others, the issue of gun regulation becomes a human rights concern. The Control Arms Campaign calls on all governments to enact careful regulation of domestic, or local, firearms sales in order to ensure to the greatest extent possible that people in their country are not harmed by gun violence.

According to the Geneva-based think tank Small Arms Survey, the domestic firearms trade in the United States dwarfs that of all other countries. Private citizens in the US possess one third of all firearms in the world, and gun sales laws in the US are much more lax than in any industrialized country. Unfortunately, this largely open market services not only hunters and sportsmen, but also murderers, batterers, gang members, rapists, and even international terrorists.

A key piece of federal gun control legislation—the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994—will expire on September 13, 2004 unless Congress takes urgent action to renew it. President Bush has said that he will sign the bill into law if Congress passes it.

This law prohibits the manufacture and distribution of 19 specific models of military-style assault weapons, and weapons with certain combinations of features designed for military use. An assault weapon can spray dozens of bullets across a wide area in a short time. Most assault weapons are semi-automatic versions of fully-automatic machine guns designed specifically for the military. Assault weapons can be handguns (like the Uzi or TEC-9) or long guns (like the AK-47 rifle or the Street Sweeper shotgun). According to a Congressionally-mandated study conducted by the US Department of Justice, the ban has made semiautomatic assault weapons less accessible to criminals.

According to the Brady Campaign, US crime gun traces performed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) showed that prior to the Assault Weapons Ban, between 1986 and 1992, assault weapons were used in 1,578 murders, 940 assaults, 224 robberies, and more than 4,500 narcotics crimes. Before the federal ban, there were numerous newspaper accounts

publicizing some of the worst mass murders ever committed in the United States, all committed using assault weapons. Such reports included:

- The McDonald's shooting - On July 18, 1984, James Huberty killed twenty one people and wounded nineteen others in a San Ysidro, California, McDonald's using an Uzi assault pistol and a shotgun.
- The Stockton schoolyard massacre - On January 17, 1989, Patrick Purdy killed five small children and wounded twenty nine others and a teacher at the Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, California, using a semiautomatic AK-47 assault rifle imported from China. That weapon had been purchased from a gun dealer in Oregon and was equipped with a 75-round "drum" magazine. Purdy shot 106 rounds in less than two minutes.
- The Louisville, Kentucky, workplace massacre - On September 14, 1989, Joseph Wesbecker killed seven people and wounded thirteen others at his former place of work in Louisville, Kentucky, before taking his own life. Mr. Wesbecker was armed with an AK-47 rifle, two MAC-11 assault pistols, and a duffle-bag full of ammunition.
- The CIA headquarters shootings - On January 25, 1993, Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kasi killed two CIA employees and wounded three others outside the entrance to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Kasi used a Chinese-made semiautomatic AK-47 assault rifle equipped with a 30-round magazine purchased from a Northern Virginia gun store.
- The Branch-Davidian standoff in Waco, Texas - On February 28, 1993, while attempting to serve federal search and arrest warrants at the Branch-Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, four ATF special agents were killed and sixteen others were wounded with an arsenal of assault weapons. According to a federal affidavit, the cult had accumulated at least the following assault weapons: 123 AR-15s, 44 AK-47s, two Barrett .50 calibers, 2 Street Sweepers, an unknown number of MAC-10 and MAC-11s, twenty 100-round drum magazines, and 260 large-capacity banana clips. The weapons were bought legally from gun dealers and at gun shows.
- The San Francisco Pettit & Martin shootings - On July 1, 1993, Gian Luigi Ferri killed eight people and wounded six others at the San Francisco law offices of Pettit & Martin and other offices at 101 California Street. Ferri used two TEC-DC9 assault pistols with 50-round magazines. These weapons had been purchased from a pawnshop and a gun show in Nevada.

The information above, summarizing news accounts of highly publicized cases provides compelling evidence in support of renewing the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban.

Amnesty International understands assault weapons to be firearms that utilize military features useful in combat, but

which have no civilian purpose. Such weapons can be indiscriminate if used in self-defense in a civilian context, because they are designed to spray indiscriminate fire. Because of their design, a shooter can maintain control of the weapon even while firing many rounds in rapid succession. Moreover, the bullets fired from many types of assault weapons are designed to pass through humans and will pass through structures, and therefore pose a heightened risk of hitting innocent bystanders.

Amnesty International endorses efforts to renew and extend the current ban on the possession, trade, and use of assault weapons by civilians in the United States. Such a ban should include "sporterized" or "post-1994 ban" versions of assault weapons, and include all assault weapons.

Law enforcement officers are at particular risk from these weapons because of their high firepower and ability to penetrate body armor. According to the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, one in five law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty during 1998-2001 was shot with an assault weapon. It is therefore not surprising that all major national law enforcement organizations in the United States have supported the federal assault weapons ban and worked for its renewal. According to the Brady Center, law enforcement organizations that support the ban include the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

Amnesty International does not oppose gun ownership; Amnesty International does oppose the sale and distribution of weapons that contribute to human rights violations and abuse. Military-style weapons that are sold and used in streets and schools contribute to human rights abuses.

Please act immediately to protect human rights by renewing the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and keeping these deadly weapons off the streets. Sample Letter:

Representative Adam Schiff
326 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0529

Dear Representative Schiff,

As your constituent and a member of Amnesty International, I urge your immediate and active support for efforts to renew the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, which will expire on September 13, 2004 unless Congress takes action. Amnesty International joins major national law enforcement organization in the United States in support of banning assault weapons sales as a critical measure to increase public safety and prevent human rights abuses. President Bush has said that he will sign an assault ban renewal into law.

Military-style assault weapons are designed to kill or injure as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time. Reports indicate that they are the weapons of choice for violent criminals. Before the federal ban in 1994, there were numerous newspaper accounts publicizing some of the worst mass murders ever committed in the United States, all committed using assault weapons. Such atrocities included a massacre at a McDonald's restaurant that killed twenty one people and one at an elementary school in Stockton, California that left five small children dead and twenty nine more wounded.

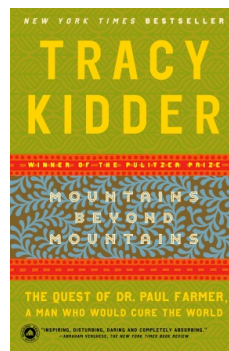
All governments have a duty to protect against violence and unlawful killings, including such acts committed by private citizens. Military-style assault weapons that are sold and used in streets and schools contribute to human rights abuses. Please act immediately to protect human rights in America by renewing the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and keeping these deadly weapons off the streets. Don't let the assault weapons ban expire.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME and ADDRESS

RIGHTS READERS

Human Rights Book Discussion Group
Vroman's Bookstore
695 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena
Sunday, September 19, 6:30 PM



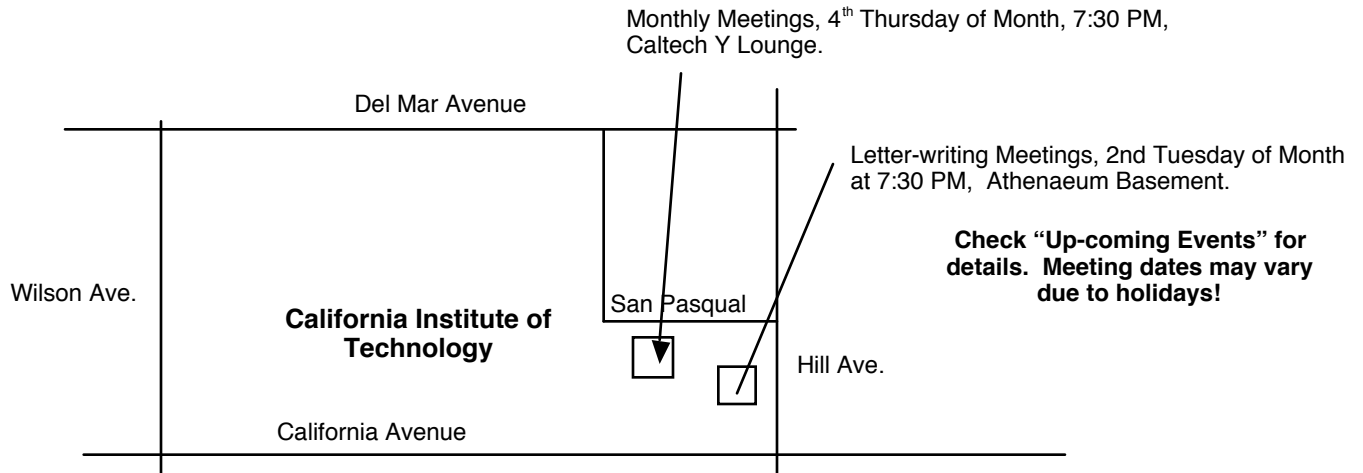
Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World

by Tracy Kidder

At the center of Mountains Beyond Mountains stands Paul Farmer. Doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, world-class Robin Hood, Farmer was brought up in a bus and on a boat, and in medical school found his life's calling: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. This magnificent book shows how radical change can be fostered in situations that seem insurmountable, and it also shows how a meaningful life can be created, as Farmer, brilliant, charismatic, charming, both a leader in international health and a doctor who finds time to make house calls in Boston and the mountains of Haiti, blasts through convention to get results.

EDITOR'S LAST WORD:

Read us on line: <http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~aigp22>
Martha Ter Maat, 626-281-4039 / rightsreaders@yahoo.com



From the 210 exit on Lake Avenue, head south, turn left on Del Mar
 From the 110 continue on Arroyo Parkway north, turn right on California
 Street parking is generally available.

Amnesty International Group 22
P.O. Box 50193
Pasadena, CA 91115-0193



Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.