

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, December 10, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

*International Human Rights Day Global Write-a-thon.* Café Culture, 1359 North Altadena Drive, Pasadena (Near Altadena Drive & Washington Boulevard). Drop by anytime, have a cup of coffee, breakfast or lunch, sign a postcard, write a letter and share a little conversation!

**Monday, December 12, 8:30 PM.**

*Death Penalty Vigil.* All Saints Church, 132 N. Euclid Ave. Pasadena. Witness against the death penalty prior to the scheduled execution of Stanley Williams. Service begins at 9:00 PM.

**Sunday, December 18, 6:30 PM.**

*Rights Readers Human Rights Book Discussion Group.* **Special Location!** Home of Lucas Kamp: 187 S. Catalina, No. 2, Pasadena. This month we read Marjane Satrapi illustrated memoir of growing up in Iran, *Persepolis*. (More below.)

**Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 PM.**

*Letter-writing Meeting* at the Athenaeum. Corner of California & Hill. Look for our table downstairs in the cafeteria area. This informal gathering is a great for newcomers to get acquainted with Amnesty!

**Sunday, January 15, 6:30 PM.**

*Rights Readers Human Rights Book Discussion Group.* Vroman's Book Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. This month we read Edward P. Jones' Pulitzer-winning novel, *The Known World*. (More info below.)

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Hi all. It's been awhile since I've written the column--in September my work schedule was too crazy!

Robert and I attended the Western Regional Conference, November 11-13 in San Francisco, as well as other group 22 members, Veronica Raymond, Lucas Kamp, and Joyce Wolf. I am hurrying to write this as we are driving home before it gets dark! The weather was great in "the city"-- not that we had much time to walk around! The conference was titled, "A Turning Point for Human Rights" and addressed the need to keep fighting for human rights in the repressive climate of the "War on Terror." Workshops were held on human rights in US prisons, harassment of LGBT persons by police, human rights and corporations, HIV-AIDS in Africa

and how gender and the debt crisis affect this, diversity in AI, and a new POC from Honduras, just to mention a few. The opening plenary featured Rebiya Kedeer, a Uighur woman (a religious and ethnic minority in China), who was a POC that we wrote letters on behalf of in the past. Although she spoke through a translator, the passion and forcefulness of her speech came through. She reported that Uighurs are still being persecuted in China, including members of her family. Some are being held in Guantanamo! Not that everything was so serious-- we also heard from Richard Montoya of Culture Clash, a well-known Latino comedy and theatre group!

During the conference, several resolutions were discussed and voted on. You may be interested to know that the "no-circ" resolution did not make it out of the working party and therefore was not voted on! (This was an attempt by a group of activists to equate male circumcision with FGM, or female genital mutilation and to have AI pass a resolution against male circumcision). Other resolutions dealt with putting more focus on Prisoner of Conscience cases.

The ending session was a very interesting panel of speakers on "human rights and the war on terror" which included the attorney who argued *Rumsfeld vs. Padilla*, the director of the immigrant rights project of ACLU, who is suing Don Rumsfeld and other high ranking commanders to hold them accountable for torture and abuse of detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan and an Iranian attorney based in San Francisco who is defending Middle Eastern, South Asian and Muslim men targeted by the US government solely on the basis of their ethnicity/religion. We also heard from Steve Fainaru, Iraq Correspondent for the Washington Post, who described his recent experiences in Iraq. He spoke about accompanying US troops to villages where all the men/boys of military age were "swept up" and then a paid informant randomly selected the ones who were "terrorists" --those persons were then detained!

We also had our Christmas cards and "Animals for the Ethical Treatment of people" tee shirts for sale, and we did pretty well. (I bought a tee shirt from a group from Las Vegas, New Mexico!).

This month be sure to join us on International Human Rights Day, December 10, at Café Culture for our first (annual?) write-a-thon. Drop by, enjoy a cup of coffee and write a letter or two!

Hope to see you at one of our December events!

Kathy aigp22@caltech.edu

## RIGHTS READERS

Human Rights Book Discussion Group

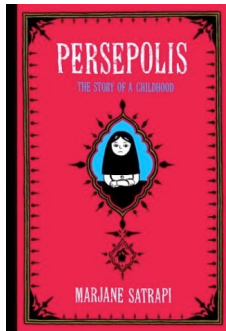
### Special Location!

187 S. Catalina Ave. No. 2, Pasadena

Contact Lucas at 626-795-1785 /

lwkamp@sbcglobal.net for more information

Sunday, December 18, 6:30 PM



*Persepolis*

by Marjane Satrapi

Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the

overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.

*Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

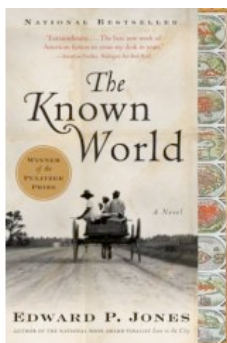
## RIGHTS READERS

Human Rights Book Discussion Group

### Vroman's Bookstore

695 E. Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena

Sunday, January 15, 6:30 PM



*The Known World*

by Edward P. Jones

In one of the most acclaimed novels in recent memory, Edward P. Jones, two-time National Book Award finalist, tells the story of Henry Townsend, a black farmer and former slave who falls under the tutelage of William Robbins, the most powerful man in

Manchester County, Virginia. Making certain he never

circumvents the law, Townsend runs his affairs with unusual discipline. But when death takes him unexpectedly, his widow, Caldonia, can't uphold the estate's order and chaos ensues. In a daring and ambitious novel, Jones has woven a footnote of history into an epic that takes an unflinching look at slavery in all of its moral complexities.

## DEATH PENALTY

*Another California Execution set for January 17*

If you haven't yet written a letter requesting clemency for Stanley Williams, you may still do so using the addresses in this action. We must turn however to the next scheduled execution (January 17) in California. California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty supplies us with the following background: Clarence Ray Allen, a Choctaw Indian, will turn 76 years old on Jan. 16, 2006, the day before the state intends to execute him. If this execution is carried out, Allen will be the oldest man put to death in the U.S. in over 60 years. Allen is in very poor health, suffering from advanced heart disease and diabetes. He is confined to a wheelchair and nearly blind. He suffered a major heart attack and on Sept. 2, 2005. He has been nearly discipline-free for the past 23 years. Executing him now will be gratuitous and uncivilized.

**Case History.** Allen was convicted in 1982 for ordering the murders of three individuals while serving a life sentence at Folsom State Prison for the murder of a young woman in 1974. Billy Hamilton, the man who actually carried out the three murders, also received a death sentence.

**Case Status.** On Jan. 24, 2005 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals denied Allen's petition for relief. On Oct. 3, 2005 the U.S. Supreme Court denied Allen's request for relief. Attorney General Bill Lockyer has requested that the Glenn County Superior Court set Allen's execution date on Jan. 17, 2006.

Can We Trust This Death Sentence?

(1) Case depends on the testimony of unreliable informant witnesses. All of the key witnesses against Allen at trial were co-participants in the crimes that he was charged with. The prosecutor gave all of them benefits in exchange for their testimony, including the promise that some of the witnesses would not be charged with these very same murders. All of these witnesses had obvious reasons to lie, shifting blame and responsibility to Allen in order to protect themselves.

(2) Race is a factor in this case. Allen is Native American. All of the victims are white. This case was tried in a rural, predominantly white county. According to recent study published in the Santa Clara Law Review, racial and geographic factors such as these, inappropriately effect who is sentenced to death in California.

(3) Allen had an ineffective, poorly qualified lawyer. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said in their opinion denying

Allen relief, "Trial counsel admits he did nothing to prepare for the penalty phase until after the guilty verdicts were rendered, and even then, in what little time was available, he failed sufficiently to investigate and adequately present available mitigating evidence." His performance, according to the court, "fell below an objective standard of reasonableness."

(4) Other serious mistakes were made. The judge gave the jury the wrong instructions on the law, stating "If you conclude that the aggravating evidence outweighs the mitigating evidence, you shall return a death sentence." This is not an accurate statement of the law. The jury was completely misled by the judge and the prosecutor. In addition, the jury should have considered only 3 aggravating factors, but mistakenly considered 11 aggravating factors. On this issue, the 9th Circuit stated in its denial of relief, "No one disputes that the trial court erred."

(5) How can we execute Allen while the Justice Commission investigates these issues? The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice has been established to study exactly these kinds of mistakes. No one should be executed while the Justice Commission is conducting this in-depth study. The Justice Commission must report its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by Dec. 31, 2007.

(6) This execution will not deter other murders. The percentage of people convicted of murder who then murder again while in prison is only one fifth of one percent – regardless of whether the state does or does not have the death penalty. The threat of death in those states where it is available does not have even an incremental effect on that rate. ("The Deterrent Effect of the Death Penalty on Prison Murder," W. Wolfson in Bedau, *The Death Penalty in America*, 1982)

Please send letters and emails requesting clemency for Clarence Ray Allen to the Governor and the Parole Board:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-445-2841  
Fax: 916-445-4633

To send an Electronic Mail please visit:  
<http://www.govmail.ca.gov>

Board of Parole Hearings  
1515 K Street  
Suite 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-4072

[http://www.bpt.ca.gov/about\\_us.asp](http://www.bpt.ca.gov/about_us.asp)

## **CORPORATE ACTION NETWORK** *Human Rights Violations in Oil-Rich Niger Delta*

*"It is like paradise and hell. They have everything. We have nothing... If we protest, they send soldiers."*

Eghare W.O. Ojhogar, chief of the Ugborodo community.

*"I was told to kneel down on the beach with some of the chiefs and their hands were tied behind their backs. Then the soldiers started beating them with horsewhips, and told us to eat sand."*

Cadbury George Omieh, Igno XXI, Amanyano (King) of Odioma.

Ten years after the execution of human rights advocate Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight fellow activists, a new Amnesty International (AI) report reveals that the people of Nigeria's oil-producing Niger Delta continue to face death and devastation at the hands of security forces. In particular, members of poverty-stricken communities who protest the actions of Chevron, Shell or their subcontractors, or are suspected of obstructing oil production, risk collective punishment by forces charged with protecting major oil installations.

"A decade after executions that horrified the world, the exploitation of oil in the Niger Delta continues to result in deprivation, injustice and violence," said Dr. William F. Schulz, Executive Director for Amnesty International USA (AIUSA). "Security forces are allowed to kill and raze communities with impunity, and civilians who escape such injustices often suffer the pollution that saps their health and renders their economic livelihood impossible. That Nigeria's federal government continues to turn a blind eye to its own people is unconscionable."

The report, *Ten Years On: injustice and violence haunt the oil Delta*, focuses on human rights violations committed this year at the Escravos oil terminal and in the community of Odioma, both on the Niger Delta coast:

On February 4, soldiers from Nigeria's Joint Task Force fired on protesters from Ugborodo at Chevron Nigeria's Escravos oil terminal. One man was shot and later died from his injuries while 30 other demonstrators were injured, some of them seriously by blows from rifle butts and other weapons. It took several hours to transport the injured by boat to a hospital. Neither the government nor Chevron Nigeria provided adequate medical care or assistance to transport the injured; no thorough, independent inquiry has been carried out into the incident.

On February 19, at least 17 people were killed and two women reportedly were raped when Joint Task Force soldiers raided the Ijaw community of Odioma. The raid ostensibly was to arrest members of an armed vigilante group, but the suspects were not captured and about 80 percent of homes in the area were destroyed. The previous month, Shell Nigeria had withdrawn plans for oil exploration in the area, reportedly after youths from Odioma demanded a halt to operations and the company became aware that ownership of the land was disputed. An inquiry into the raid has not been made public, no one has been charged and Odioma is now almost deserted.

"Chevron must commission an independent, impartial investigation into the company's role during the incidents at Escravos terminal," said Mila Rosenthal, Director of AIUSA's Business and Human Rights Program. "The company promised to ensure respect for human rights in its worldwide operations, but its actions in Nigeria tell a different story."

AI also demands that Shell investigate allegations of a security arrangement between a Shell Nigeria subcontractor and a criminal group in Odioma, and calls on the Nigerian federal government to conduct thorough and independent inquiries into allegations that security forces killed, injured and raped civilians and destroyed their property. The findings should be made public and those responsible for human rights violations brought justice.

Act now to support the human rights claims of the Niger Delta people. Join the campaign for governments and companies to be accountable for human rights abuses in the communities of the Niger Delta. Call on:

*The Nigerian federal government to:*

- urgently conduct thorough and independent inquiries into allegations that the security forces killed, injured or attacked civilians or damaged their property in incidents on 4 February 2005 at Escravos terminal and on 19 February 2005 in Odioma, to establish whether excessive force was used; make public the findings of these inquiries and of the Bayelsa State inquiry into the Odioma case; and bring those responsible for human rights violations to justice ensure that all members of the security forces receive training in international standards on the use of force and firearms, in particular the 1979 UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the 1990 UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials

His Excellency  
 Olusegun Obasanjo  
 President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
 Office of the President, Aso Rock  
 Abuja, Federal Capital Territory  
 Nigeria

*Call on Chevron to*

- commission an independent and impartial investigation into Chevron Nigeria's role, responsibility and conduct in relation to incidents on 4 February 2005 at Escravos terminal in which the security forces allegedly killed, injured or attacked civilians suspend all security arrangements with individuals who have allegedly abused human rights and terminate the arrangements if the individuals are found after investigation to be responsible for such abuses; and make public the findings of such investigation.

David J. O'Reilly  
 Chairman of the board and Chief Executive Officer  
 Chevron Corporation  
 6001 Bollinger Canyon Rd  
 San Ramon, CA 94583, USA

*Call on Shell to*

- investigate allegations of a security arrangement between a Shell Nigeria subcontractor and a criminal group in Odioma; make public the findings of such investigations; and halt immediately any subcontractual relationship that is found to benefit criminals either directly or indirectly.

Jeroen van der Veer  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Shell International  
 Shell Centre  
 London SE1 7NA, UK

<b>LETTER COUNT</b>	
Denounce Torture	10
OutFront	10
Death Penalty	25
Urgent Actions	18
<b>Total:</b>	<b>63</b>
Want to add your letters to the total? Get in touch with <a href="mailto:lwkamp@sbcglobal.net">lwkamp@sbcglobal.net</a>	

## **DENOUNCE TORTURE**

### *Force Feeding of Prisoners at Guantanamo*

Some of the Guantánamo detainees who have been on hunger strike since 12 August are being forcibly fed by the authorities. Some of those who participated in the hunger strike, including Saudi Arabian national Yousef al-Shehri, may not be receiving adequate medical treatment for injuries he apparently sustained during force-feeding.

On 26 October a District Court judge ruled that lawyers for the hunger strikers must be informed by US authorities 24 hours before the detainees are force-fed. Ruling on a petition filed by a law firm representing ten Guantánamo detainees from Qatar, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan, Judge Gladys Kessler also ordered the US government to give the lawyers access to their client's medical records for the week prior to any force-feeding.

Lawyers for the ten detainees visited Guantánamo from 30 September to 2 October and met a number of their clients, including two participating in the current hunger strike. One of their clients, Yousef al-Shehri, described how after approximately seven days without food or water, he and four other prisoners were taken to the camp hospital where they were verbally abused, insulted and placed in shackles or other restraints on their arms, legs, waist, chest, knees and head. After this he said they were given intravenous medication and described how, if they

moved, they were hit in the chest area. The detainees were then apparently told, falsely, that a court had ordered that they be forcibly fed. The petition describes how Yousef al-Shehri, who is believed to have been a juvenile when initially detained, was administered the force-feeding: "Yousef was given no anaesthesia or sedative for the procedure; instead two soldiers restrained him – one holding his chin while the other held him back by his hair, and a medical staff member forcefully inserted the tube in his nose and down his throat. Much blood came out of his nose..." After two or three days he was given liquid supplement through the tube. He said that he and other prisoners were "vomiting up substantial amounts of blood. When they vomited up blood, the soldiers mocked and cursed them, and taunted them with statements like 'look what your religion has brought you.'"

After two weeks of force-feeding, the detainees said that they were transferred from the hospital and placed in solitary cells. They described how the soldiers laughed and made fun of them, rattled the bars on their cells day and night and interrupted their prayers. After five days they describe being transferred to a different area with foam walls, and a hole in the floor for a toilet. Here they allege that the guards began inserting larger, thicker tubes into their noses. According to Yousef al-Shehri, these larger tubes were forcibly inserted up their noses and down into their stomachs without anaesthesia or sedative. When the tube was removed, he described how "blood came gushing out of him". He and several other detainees apparently fainted and told that the tubes would be inserted and removed twice a day until the hunger strike ended. The tubes were reportedly forcibly inserted and removed in a brutal manner by men identified by prisoners as members of the Immediate Reaction Force (IRF) rather than by the doctors who were present in the room. On one occasion a member of the IRF is said to have taken the tube from the nose of one detainee and re-inserted it into another detainee's nose without cleaning it first. A doctor was apparently present at the time, but did nothing to intervene,

according to Amnesty International's information. According to Yousef al-Shehri's lawyers, he can no longer walk, has lost some of his vision and has been vomiting regularly since the force-feeding. He is also said to suffer from severe headaches, pain in his ear and is only able to urinate once every few days. They describe him as being visibly weak and frail with speaking difficulties due to lesions in his throat from the force-feeding. Amnesty International fears that he is not receiving adequate medical attention for his injuries.

The lawyers met another of their clients, Saudi Arabian national Abdul-Rahman Shalabi, who is said to have independently confirmed the treatment described by Yousef al-Shehri, including the forcible insertion and removal of the nasal tubes by members of the IRF. Abdul-Rahman Shalabi reportedly told his lawyers of his determination to die, saying, "Now, after four years in

captivity, life and death are the same". He also spoke of the other detainees participating in the hunger strike: "These detainees are young. They are innocent...Now, the situation is more severe. It has been four years now...All the promises we've been given are lies. We lost trust...there is no law here, only injustice."

Lawyers for Kuwaiti detainee, Fawzi al-Odah recently disclosed that he has asked them to file court papers to seek the removal of his feeding tube "out of desperation" over his imprisonment without charge.

The head of the detainee medical facility at Guantánamo has stated that the nasal tubes are always inserted with a lubricant and anaesthetic if necessary and were never administered in a manner intentionally designed to inflict pain or harm on the detainees. A number of medical experts have commented that forcible feeding of hunger striking prisoners by physicians is contrary to internationally agreed medical ethics, including standards of the World Medical Association.

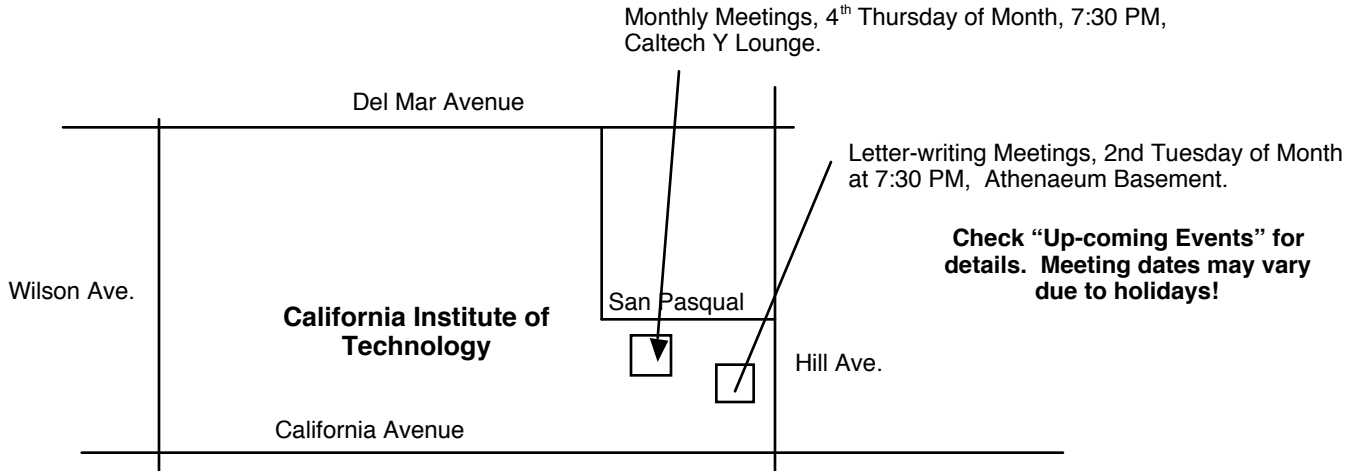
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:

- expressing serious concern at reports that Guantánamo detainees participating in the hunger strike may be being force-fed in a manner which is deliberately intended to cause harm and inflict suffering;
- expressing particular concern at the allegations that members of the IRF have been inserting and removing nasal tubes in a brutal manner in the presence of medical personnel, and stating that the force-feeding methods used may constitute torture or other ill-treatment;
- calling for an independent inquiry into the specific allegations of abuse against Yousef al-Shehri;
- calling for all the detainees who have participated, or who continue to participate in the hunger strike, to be given immediate access to adequate medical care and treatment;
- calling for all Guantánamo detainees to be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried in full accordance with international standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO:  
Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington DC 20301

Matthew Waxman  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs  
2500 Defense Pentagon 5E420  
Washington, DC 20301

Editor's Last Word:  
Read us on line: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22>  
Martha Ter Maat, 626-281-4039 / [rightsreaders@yahoo.com](mailto: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.*