

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 29, 7:30 PM. *Monthly Meeting.* Caltech Y is located off San Pasqual between Hill and Holliston, south side. You will see two curving walls forming a gate to a path--our building is just beyond. Help us plan future actions on Sudan, the 'War on Terror', death penalty and more.

Saturday, December 15, 8 AM to 2 PM. Letter writing marathon at Café Culture, 1359 N. Altadena Drive in Pasadena. 626-398-8654. Drop by anytime!

Sunday, December 16, 6:30 PM. Rights Readers Human Rights Book Discussion Group. Note: meeting is at Lucas Kamp's home, 187 S. Catalina Ave. Unit 2 in Pasadena (626-795-1785), not Vromans. Featured book is "From Newbury with Love: Letters of Friendship across the Iron Curtain", by Marina Aidova and Anna Horsbrugh-Porter.

Tuesday, January 8, 2008, 7:30 PM. Letter writing meeting at Caltech Athenaeum, corner of Hill and California in Pasadena.

Sunday, January 20, 2008, 6:30 PM. Rights Readers Human Rights Book Discussion Group at Vromans bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena. 626-449-5320. We will discuss "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" by Lisa See.

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Hi everyone,

A great party was held to say goodbye to Martha in early October at Paula's beautiful home in east Pasadena. Friends from All Saints Church and Amnesty joined to toast Martha's achievements and to wish her well in her new journey of life as she returns to Wisconsin to assist her family. A good time was had by all! Thanks to all who assisted with the party.

It seems strange with Martha gone, but we will carry on as best we can. Our muse will be in touch with us via our blog (<http://www.rightsreaders.blogspot.com>) and email. She will help us select books for our reading group from afar!

We each have our area of interest in the group, and different talents. Working together we can

make a beautiful whole. For example, Stevie is very knowledgeable on the death penalty and other criminal justice issues, Paula has been to Africa many times for her public health work in the field of HIV-AIDS, Christina is interested in women's issues, and Joyce is our case-work expert. She and Paula are helping us focus on our POCs from Eritrea. Wen and Lucas have been involved in Chinese human rights issues, including the controversy over the Chinese float in the upcoming Rose Parade. I hope I haven't left anyone out! From time to time, I hope to have the different people in our group write pieces, submit actions, etc. for this newsletter on their area of interest/expertise.

What is your passion? Come join us at one of our meetings!

Con cariño,
Kathy

aigp22@caltech.edu

REPORT FROM WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Three members of Group 22 (Lucas, Christina and Joyce) attended the AIUSA Western Regional Conference in San Francisco November 9-11. Hard-working volunteer Christina deserves special thanks for staffing early-morning registration and for serving as rapporteur for Resolutions Working Party and also the Voting Plenary.

The keynote speaker on Saturday was Naomi Roht-Arriaza, professor of law and author of the book "The Pinochet Effect". She spoke about the efforts of Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberta Menchu to bring to justice the Guatemala ex-generals who were responsible for up to 200,000 deaths during the bitter civil conflict of 1979-1984. As he introduced Naomi, MC Magdeleno Rose-Avila recalled that he was in Guatemala City at the time of the 1980 Spanish Embassy tragedy and saw the burned bodies of the protesters, motivating him to join AI and work for human rights. Naomi showed a clip from the new AIUSA film "Justice Without Borders", which covers the Guatemala case as well as the work of the ICC and the recent extradition of ex-president Fujimori to Peru. I have a copy of this 36-minute DVD for Group 22 to show or loan.

Lucas pursued the China issues of concern to Group 22, attending workshops on the Beijing Olympics Campaign and the case of Shi Tao. He also had a private meeting with members of the AIUSA China Coordination Group to discuss policy matters. Christina attended workshops on providing quick answers about Amnesty to the media and creating effective "sound bytes".

"What's a POC?" At the AIUSA Burning Issues workshop that Christina and I attended, an audience member commented that he was quite upset by this question, which had come up in a conversation at the conference. "What's a POC?" immediately echoed several young people at the workshop. For most of us, POC was probably the first acronym we learned when we went to a letter-writing or local group meeting. Nowadays the term Prisoner of Conscience has been replaced by the more inclusive but awfully bland Individual at Risk. Board member Jeff Bachman assured us that under whatever name POCs would remain one of the National Priorities. However, AI's operations could look quite different in the future; for instance, student Board member Aniket said that five years from now he couldn't imagine himself driving 25 minutes to attend a local group meeting. O brave new Facebook world!

The tension between tradition and innovation that has marked AI in recent years was evident in the Resolutions voting plenary on Sunday morning. One resolution required that proposed changes concerning nomination and resolution processes be presented by the Board to the entire membership via regional conference resolutions. Yet the resolution process itself seemed in need of change, as evidenced by the difficulty of getting a voting quorum of 40 out of a total attendance of nearly 500. Board member Jeff was kept very busy jumping up to answer questions about current and proposed operation of the Board and staff which are apparently in the throes of a major reorganization. I felt that I should really start paying much more attention to the Members section on the AIUSA website in order to learn what's going on.

The conference concluded with a speech by Director Larry Cox. He said that Regional Conferences held in California always seemed to have the word "Revolution" in their titles, and indeed many revolutionary AIUSA ideas had originated in California.

-Joyce

RIGHTS READERS

Human Rights Book Discussion Group

Keep up with Rights Readers at
<http://rightsreaders.blogspot.com>



Next Rights Readers meeting:
Sunday, December 16, 6:30 PM
Lucas Kamp's home in Pasadena
(see Upcoming Events section)

"From Newbury with Love: Letters of Friendship across the Iron Curtain"

by Marina Aidova and Anna Horsbrugh-Porter.

In 1971 a retired English bookseller joined an Amnesty International campaign to write letters to children of political prisoners. He chose seven-year-old Marina Aidova because her birthday was one day before his, and he had always loved Russia and its literature. His postcard was signed, "With love from Newbury, Berks, England." Marina, whose father was in one of the harshest Soviet prison camps, wrote back: "I am a first class schoolgirl. I learn ballet and study English. And what are you?"

So began a correspondence that changed their lives. For the next fifteen years they exchanged letters, telegrams, magazines, and books . . . while a profound affection grew. Marina and her mother drew great strength from the exchange-it was a lifeline to another, more hopeful world. Through Harold's encouragement, Marina was inspired to study English at university, and eventually went on to work as an English translator.

Published in association with Amnesty International, the families' correspondence-along with over thirty photos they exchanged-is collected here, making for a moving look at the powerful influence one family can have on another in need, halfway around the world.

PAKISTAN URGENT ACTION

09 November 2007 UA 301/07

Fear of torture or ill treatment/illegal detention

PAKISTAN

Ayub Qureshi (m)]

Ghulum Farid Awan (m)] politicians

Hasil Bizenjo (m)]

Yusuf Mastikhan (m), trade union leader

Liaquat Ali Sahi (m)

Three politicians and a trade union leader are among those arrested on charges of sedition and rioting, after making speeches against the imposition of emergency rule by General Musharraf. The group has been remanded in police custody in Karachi until 19 November, and are at risk of torture or ill treatment. In the context of the state of emergency, the charges against the men appear to be politically motivated in an effort to suppress their right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

The detainees are Hasil Bizenjo, a Baluch nationalist leader and former parliamentarian; Ayub Qureshi, provincial chief of the Baluch National Party; Yusuf Mastikhan, Vice President of the National Workers Party and trade union leader; and Liaquat Ali Sahi. The detainees have been active in campaigns to assert the interests and protect the rights of the people of Baluchistan province. Another political activist, Ghulum Farid Awan, is also feared to have been arrested on charges of sedition.

The men were arrested on 6 November in Karachi, after participating in a civil society meeting at the Karachi Press club to protest against the imposition of emergency rule. They were presented before a magistrate court on 8 November and were remanded in judicial custody until 19 November.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Acting in his capacity as army chief of staff, on 3 November General Musharraf suspended the bulk of the Constitution, including the rights not to be arbitrarily deprived of life and to be guaranteed a fair trial. He assumed powers to amend the Constitution without any parliamentary procedure and proclaimed a Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO). This order prohibits

any court issuing an order against the President, Prime Minister or any person exercising powers under their authority.

The PCO and the new oath of office for the superior judiciary effectively rendered the position of existing judges invalid. The majority of the Supreme Court and Higher Court judges declined to take the new oath, resulting in their removal from service. Many of them are now under house arrest. Since the imposition of emergency, police and law enforcement agencies have arrested thousands of lawyers, political activists and human rights defenders. On Monday 5 November, more than 300 lawyers were arrested in Lahore and have been charged under Pakistan's anti-terrorism laws. They have since been detained in city jails across the country. There have been mass arrests, into the thousands, of political opponents across the country. Independent TV and Radio news channels have been prevented from broadcasting within the country since Saturday. New laws restricting freedom of print and electronic media were issued, breach of which attracts three to four years imprisonment and heavy fines. Two daily newspapers have been issued with notices to refrain from publishing materials which violate the new press laws.

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

- urging the authorities to ensure that none of the detainees are tortured or otherwise ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the detainees have access to lawyers of their own choice;
- expressing concern that the charges appear to have been leveled for political reasons and aimed to suppress their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and accordingly, that they are prisoners of conscience whom the authorities should release;
- calling on the authorities to protect and uphold the constitutional human rights guarantees, including safeguards on life and liberty.

APPEALS TO:

President Pervez Musharaff
Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan
Fax: 011 92 51 9221422
E-mail: via website:
<http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/WTPresidentMessage.aspx>
Salutation: Dear President Musharaff

Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao
 Minister for the Interior
 Ministry for the Interior
 Room 404, 4th Floor, Block R, Federal Secretariat
 Islamabad, Pakistan
 Fax: 011 92 51 9202624
 E-mail: minister@interior.gov.pk
 secretary@interior.gov
 Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr. Zahid Hamid
 Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights
 Room 305, S-Block, Pakistan Secretariat
 Islamabad, Pakistan
 Fax: 011 92 51 9202628
 011 92 51 9201631
 E-Mail: minister@molaw.gov.pk
 Salutation: Dear Minister

Dr. Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan
 Governor Sindh
 Governor House
 Karachi, Pakistan
 Fax: 011 92 21 920 1218 / 1226
 E-mail: governor@governorsindh.gov.pk
 Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Ambassador Mahmud Ali Durrani
 Embassy of Pakistan
 3517 International Ct., NW
 Washington DC 20008
 Fax: 1 202 686 1544
 Email: info@pakistan-embassy.org

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.
 Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if
 sending appeals after 19 December 2007.

LETTER COUNT	
Urgent Actions	19
Total:	19
To add your letters to the total contact lwkamp@gmail.com	

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S GLOBAL WRITE-A-THON

"December 10th is International Human Rights Day. To mark this day, join thousands of people across the United States and all around the world as they participate in Amnesty International's Global Write-A-Thon – Amnesty's largest and most renowned letter writing event."

If you won't be able to attend Group 22's letter-writing marathon on Dec 15, you might visit AIUSA's link to the Global Write-a-thon at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/page.do?id=1108452> and participate as an individual. You can join the list of those who have pledged to write letters and help AIUSA attain its goal of 70,000 letters.

Two of the 15 actions listed on the above page are cases that Group 22 has worked on: Falun Gong practitioner Bu Dongwei and Internet journalist Shi Tao.

Even if you do plan to come to the Group 22 event, you might want to visit the above page in order to check out the three inspiring video clips.

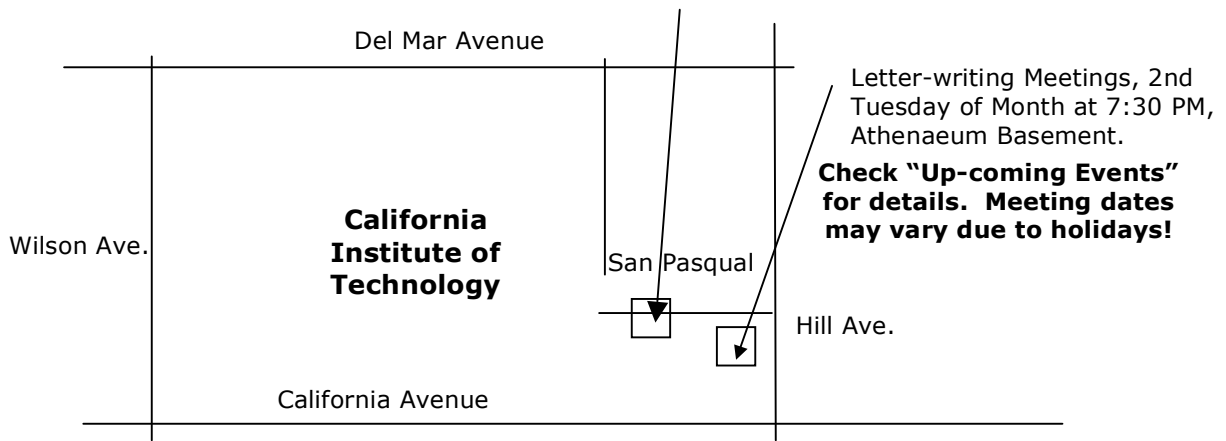
"How To Get Involved:

Everyone can participate. It's easy! Follow the 5 simple steps below:

- 1. Register for the write-a-thon as an individual or as a group. Watch as your pledges help light up the Amnesty candle.*
- 2. Spread the word! Encourage your friends and family to get involved.*
- 3. Check out the write-a-thon resources online: You'll find everything you need to participate on this site including case sheets, sample letters, a checklist for how to plan an event, and promotional materials. Just go to our Actions and Resources pages to find all you need. For hard copies, please email us at writeathon@aiusa.org*
- 4. Write and mail lots of letters on Dec. 7-10.*
- 5. Report back: Let us know how many letters were sent."*

Save the Date. Save A Life.

Monthly Meetings, 4th Thursday of Month, 7:30 PM,
Caltech Y Lounge.



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
The Caltech Y
Mail Code 5-62
Pasadena, CA 91125
www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22/
<http://rightsreaders.blogspot.com>



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.