

Amnesty International

Southern California

Mini-Conference

Program



February 23, 2002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the following groups and individuals for their hard work on this conference:

- All the trainers and speakers for their time.
- The Western Regional staff (Michelle, Mario and Kathy) for all their support, including press releases, flyer distribution, fielding phone calls, putting packets together, etc., etc., etc.
- Jacques Kilchoër for taking care of the food.
- Tim Spann for providing signs.
- Ernie Solheid for arranging for the facilities and putting together the programs.

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PROGRAM

9:00–10:30	REGISTRATION	McCarthy Hall 121 Lobby
9:00– 9:30	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	McCarthy Hall 121 Lobby
9:30–10:30	OPENING PLENARY <i>Emcee: Tracy Gore, Chair, AIUSA Greater Los Angeles Development Group</i> Staff Welcome <i>Michelle Williams, AIUSA Western Region Deputy Director</i> Mandate Overview <i>Ali Azizi, AIUSA Board Member</i> Invited Address: Afghan Crisis <i>Hekmat Sadat, Senior Writer for AfghanMagazine.com</i> Invited Address: Larger than Life <i>Fada Hilary, Founder, Center for the Advancement of Peaceful Alternatives</i>	McCarthy Hall 121
10:30– 5:00	GROUP SALES	McCarthy Hall 484
10:40–12:00	WORKSHOPS, SET 1 Introduction to Amnesty International <i>Rachel Ackoff, AIUSA Student Area Coordinator</i> <i>Darcie Guy, AIUSA Area Coordinator</i> Afghan Refugee Crisis and Issue of Asylum Seekers <i>Hekmat Sadat, Senior Writer for AfghanMagazine.com</i> Death Penalty Workshop <i>Christopher Calhoun, ACLU Southern California Deputy Director for Public Policy</i> <i>Tim Spann, AIUSA California State Death Penalty Coordinator</i> <i>Martha Ter Maat, Human Rights Educators Network Steering Committee/Group 22 Pasadena</i>	McCarthy Hall 476 McCarthy Hall 480 McCarthy Hall 121
12:00– 1:00	LUNCH	Off Campus (See flyer in packet)

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- 1:00 – 1:50 CAUCUSES**
- Death Penalty** McCarthy Hall 121
Facilitators: Tim Spann, *California State Death Penalty Coordinator*
 and Martha Ter Maat, *Human Rights Educators Network Steering
 Committee/Group 22 Pasadena*
- Local and Student Groups** McCarthy Hall 476
Facilitators: Ali Azizi, *AIUSA Board Member*
 and Tracy Gore, *Greater Los Angeles Development Group*
- Teachers Post 9/11** McCarthy Hall 480
Facilitator: Victor Condé, *AIUSA Human Rights Educators Network*
- 2:00 – 3:20 WORKSHOPS, SET 2**
- Casework Strategies** McCarthy Hall 121
 Deidre Jackson, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*
- Military Ethics as a Source of Human Rights** McCarthy Hall 476
 Lawrence P. Rockwood, *AIUSA Military, Security & Police
 Working Group*
- Affirming Human Rights through Public Health** McCarthy Hall 480
 Gabriella Miotto, M.D., *The Children's Clinic*
- 3:30 – 4:50 WORKSHOPS, SET 3**
- Organizing and Planning Events** McCarthy Hall 476
 Mario Tafur, *AIUSA Western Regional Membership Program
 Coordinator*
- Human Rights in Post 9/11 America** McCarthy Hall 480
 Victor Condé, *AIUSA Legal Support Network*
- Human Rights Education: Resources for Classroom
 and Community** McCarthy Hall 121
 Martha Ter Maat, *Human Rights Educators Network Steering
 Committee/Group 22 Pasadena*
 Bernie Weinraub, *Facing History and Ourselves*
- 5:00 – 5:30 CLOSING PLENARY** McCarthy Hall 121
 Emcee: Michelle Williams, *AIUSA Western Region Deputy Director*
- Evaluations**
Video: Southern California Group Activities
Announcements of Local Events
Door Prizes/Raffle
Acknowledgements

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INVITED SPEAKERS

Hekmat Sadat
Afghan Crisis

Hekmat Sadat is a senior writer for AfghanMagazine.com and a Ph.D. candidate at Claremont Graduate University. He is active in the Afghan community and works collaboratively with organizations such as the United Nations Association, World Affairs Council, and Doctors of the World.

Fada Hilary
Larger than Life

Fada Hilary is the founder and father of the Center for the Advancement of Peaceful Alternatives (CAPA). He is a lawyer and international civil and human rights activist. In the United States from his native Nigeria, Fada Hilary brings to CAPA his own first-hand experience of what happens when conflict is resolved by violence. He is a recent recipient of the Master of Dispute Resolution degree from Pepperdine University. Fada Hilary is also a member and volunteer for Amnesty International, and often speaks on behalf of Amnesty International and on the values of peace, human rights, and non-violence.

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WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Amnesty International

Rachel Ackoff, *AIUSA Student Area Coordinator*

Darcie Guy, *AIUSA Area Coordinator*

This workshop will give a brief overview of Amnesty International—how to get involved, what we do as activists, the volunteer leadership structure, where to go for information, and what all those acronyms stand for.

Afghan Refugee Crisis and Issue of Asylum Seekers

Hekmar Sadat, *Senior Writer for AfghanMagazine.com*

This workshop will discuss the challenges of resolving Afghanistan's internal refugee problems, refugee populations in Iran and Pakistan, and the issue of asylum seekers still not granted the right to stay in Australia, Japan, Europe, and North America.

Death Penalty Workshop

Christopher Calhoun, *ACLU Southern California Deputy Director*

Tim Spann, *AIUSA California State Death Penalty Coordinator*

Martha Ter Maat, *Human Rights Educators Network Steering Committee/Group 22 Pasadena*

There is a major effort headed by Death Penalty Focus of California to get local governments to adopt death penalty moratoriums. Several cities, including Sacramento and San Francisco, have adopted such a resolution. This workshop will primarily be concerned with what you can do to get a moratorium adopted in your community.

Casework Strategies

Deidre Jackson, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*

If you have just been assigned your first adoption case or have been laboring for awhile on a tough case, come brainstorm and benefit from other's wisdom at this hands-on workshop.

Military Ethics as a Source of Human Rights

Lawrence P. Rockwood, *AIUSA Military, Security & Police Working Group*

Military ethics, derived from just war tradition, comprises one of the two historical foundations of human rights, the other being international law derived from natural law theory. Just war tradition is primarily associated with St. Augustine who, after the christianization of the western Roman Empire in 476 AD argued that it was possible "to please God while engaged in military service." The international law foundation is primarily associated with Hugo Grotius who secularized just war theory in the seventeenth century and attempted to establish a code of legalistic proscriptions affecting the conduct of nations. Modern expressions of just war principles include the Lieber Code issued during the American Civil War and the Nuremberg principles established after World War II. Conversely, modern expressions of international legalism include the Geneva Conventions and the establishment of the International Red Cross. Augustine's primary concern was the justice of the decision to initiate war (*jus ad bello*). However, he and later just war theorists were also concerned with just conduct in war (*jus in bello*). Just war theory continues to enable individuals of diverse backgrounds to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue on the humanitarian

consequences of war by providing a common language. The talk will end with a brief discussion of the relationship between the military profession and the human rights community in general and Amnesty International in particular.

Affirming Human Rights through Public Health

Gabriella Miotto, M.D., *The Children's Clinic*

Through a slide show presentation focussing on Chiapas, Mexico, Guatemala, Macedonia, Kosovo, and South Africa, we will ponder issues of human rights violations both abroad and in the USA, and the challenging role of public health in upholding basic human rights.

Organizing and Planning Events

Mario Tafur, *AIUSA Western Regional Membership Program Coordinator*

This workshop will discuss some of the elements that go into organizing and planning an event. Events are a very important part of engaging the community and getting them interested in Amnesty International's work. Hopefully this workshop will encourage you to feel more comfortable in doing events in your community.

Human Rights in Post 9/11 America

Victor Condé, *AIUSA Legal Support Network*

This workshop will consist of a lecture describing in human rights terms and context what has happened in the US and in the "War Against Terrorism." It will describe events from the 9/11 attack to the attack in Afghanistan; the status, arrest and trial of Taliban and Al Qaeda prisoners; the Executive Order on military tribunals; the passage of the US Patriot Act legislation; the arrest and detention of suspects in the US; the US and the proposed International Criminal Court; and how the "War on Terrorism" will affect human rights for Americans. Questions and discussion will follow.

Human Rights Education: Resources for Classroom and Community

Martha Ter Maat, *Human Rights Educators Network Steering Committee/Group 22 Pasadena*

Bernie Weintraub, *Facing History and Ourselves*

An overview of current AIUSA Human Rights Educators Network projects and an introduction to Facing History and Ourselves, a national organization engaging teachers and students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and antisemitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry, and to understand the connections between history and the moral choices we confront every day.

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CAUCUSES

Death Penalty

Tim Spann, *AIUSA California State Death Penalty Coordinator*

Martha Ter Maat, *Human Rights Educators Network Steering Committee/Group 22 Pasadena*

An open discussion about the death penalty and events in California with two of Amnesty's State Death Penalty Coordinators.

Local and Student Groups

Ali Azizi, *AIUSA Board Member*

Tracy Gore, *Greater Los Angeles Development Group*

An open discussion between local and student groups to provide a chance to meet one another and discuss resources they can share.

Teachers Post 9/11

Victor Condé, *AIUSA Human Rights Educators Network*

An open discussion about teaching human rights. A local teacher will come and speak from experience of teaching human rights in a classroom setting. In addition, there will be an open discussion about teaching human rights.

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PRESENTERS

Rachel Ackoff

Rachel Ackoff is currently attending Claremont High School and has been coordinator for the past two years of her campus Amnesty group. She is the Student Area Coordinator (SAC) for her surrounding area. In addition, she is one of the Sierra Club's Student Coalition coordinators.

Ali Azizi

Ali Azizi joined Amnesty International when he was a student at UCLA in the 80's and has been active since then. He has served Amnesty in many different capacities: group coordinator, case coordinator, area coordinator, cogroup member, member of various task forces, and, most recently, Board member since 2000. He is originally from Iran and has a degree in physics.

Christopher Calhoun

Christopher Calhoun is Deputy Director for Public Policy of ACLU of Southern California. He is a full-time activist for civil and human rights and has worked on several successful campaigns for the ACLU.

Victor Condé

Victor Condé is a lawyer and professor of international law and human rights at Trinity Law School. He is an expert on international and comparative human rights and humanitarian law and international criminal law. Professor Condé is part of the AIUSA Legal Support Network and the AIUSA Human Rights Education Network for the Western Region. He is the author of *A Handbook of International Human Rights Terminology*, published in 1999 and *Human Rights in the United States: A Dictionary and Documents*, published in 2000. The latter book features a forward by Bill Schulz, AIUSA Executive Director.

Tracy Gore!

Tracy Gore! is currently the chair of Amnesty International's Greater Los Angeles Area Development (GLAD) group, which coordinates the activities of a cluster of local AI community groups.

Darcie Guy

Darcie Guy has been involved in Amnesty for 6 years, during which time she has served as coordinator of Group 178 Irvine, Orange County Area Coordinator, and member of the Western Regional Planning Group. She serves as co-chair for the Run for Freedom.

Deidre Jackson

Deidre Jackson has been a volunteer for Amnesty International for twenty years, both in local community groups and for ten years as a trainer for the Western Region. She has worked as a case coordinator for prisoners in Nepal, Burma and Syria and assisted in cases in the former Soviet Union and Benin, West Africa.

Gabriella Miotto

Gabriella Miotto currently works in family medicine at The Children's Clinic, a private non-profit in Long Beach. She has had the opportunity to work with the UNHCR, PROSECO, Doctors of the World, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. She loves travel, flamenco, and poetry.

Lawrence Rockwood

"Captain" Lawrence Rockwood is a former US Army intelligence officer court-martialed for exposing his former military command's dereliction of duty during Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti in 1994. In that operation, his commanding general refused to recognize international human rights norms and official US military doctrine by refusing to account for political prisoners being held by a collapsing repressive military dictatorship. AIUSA was instrumental in his receiving pro bono legal representation by former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Since his separation from the service he has served as a Fellow for the Center for International Policy, a consultant for the Institute for Policy Studies, and a member of Amnesty International's Military, Police, and Security Working Group. While accepting speaking engagements at numerous military forums on military ethics and human rights, he is presently an adjunct professor in the history department at California State University at San Marcos. He and his wife, Dr. Amelia Simpson, are co-authors of a forthcoming book on human rights and military professionalism.

Tim Spann

Tim Spann has been a member of AI for more than 10 years and was coordinator of Group 137 for seven years. He is also one of the California State Death Penalty Coordinators for AI as well as a member of Death Penalty Focus.

Mario Tafur

Mario Tafur started volunteering with Amnesty International in 1987 as a part of Chaparral High School's student chapter. In the summer of 1990, he participated in Amnesty's Asylum Summer program which took 11 students from around the country to Southern Texas to work with law offices doing political asylum work. After completing graduate school in Southern Arizona, he moved to Los Angeles and began working for the Western Region as the Ralph J. Bunche Fellow. He has been the Membership Program Coordinator for the Western Region Los Angeles office for the past two years.

Martha Ter Maat

Martha Ter Maat is a member of AIUSA Group 22 Pasadena/Caltech and a member of the Steering Committee for the Human Rights Educators Network in the Western Region.

Bernie Weinraub

Bernie Weinraub is Program Associate for Facing History and Ourselves. He joined the Facing History staff in 2000 following a 33-year teaching career, having taught at SUNY Potsdam, Connecticut College, the Emma Williard School in Troy, the Mountain School in Vermont, Beaver Country Day School in Brookline, and the Archer School in Los Angeles.

Michelle Williams

Michele Williams is Deputy Director for Amnesty International USA's Western Region. She holds a masters degree in social work and previously served on the staff of Amnesty International's Program to Abolish the Death Penalty. Prior to joining Amnesty's staff, she served as a legislative aide with a Texas state representative, working against the death penalty and on other issues, and has over ten years of experience working for nonprofits.