

Amnesty International

Southern California

Mini-Conference

Program



March 28, 2006

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Putting on this conference requires the combined efforts and hard work of a large number of groups and individuals. The organizing committee would like to especially thank:

- The invited speakers and workshop presenters for their time and participation.
- The Western Regional staff (Samer Rabadi and Kathy Brown) for all their support, including fielding phone calls, putting packets together, staffing group sales, etc., etc., etc.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Program	Kristina Brady Jacques Kilchoër Harmon Tipton
Support	Western Regional Office
Groups Sales	Kathy Brown
Logistics	Ernie Solheid

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PROGRAM

All sessions are in University Hall

9:00– 2:00	REGISTRATION	Lobby
9:00– 9:20	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	Lobby
9:20–10:20	OPENING PLENARY <i>Emcee: Kristina Brady, AIUSA Trainer/Group 178 Irvine</i> Invited Speaker: Dan Noël The Death Penalty Case of Kenneth Clair Film Screening: <i>Nobelity</i>, Part I	Room 252
10:30– 5:00	GROUP SALES	Room 240
10:30–11:50	WORKSHOPS, SET 1 Death Penalty <i>Tim Spann, AIUSA Death Penalty Coordinator for Southern California</i> Introduction to Amnesty International <i>Cathleen Kilgallen, AIUSA Area Coordinator, Orange County/Long Beach</i> Lobbying 101/Denounce Torture Teach-In <i>Irene Garza, AIUSA Southern California Legislative Coordinator</i>	Room 250 Room 248 Room 246
12:00– 1:00	FILM SCREENING <i>Nobelity, Part II</i>	Room 252
1:00– 2:00	LUNCH: See flyer in packet for places to eat	Off Campus
2:00– 3:20	WORKSHOPS, SET 2 Death Penalty: Up Close and Personal: The Case of Kenneth Clair <i>Dan and Fabiola Noël</i> Outfront LGBT Campaign <i>Darlene Adler, AIUSA Los Angeles Area OUTfront Coordinator</i> Making Special Events Special <i>Tracy Gore!, AIUSA Group 96 Santa Monica</i>	Room 246 Room 250 Room 248

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PROGRAM

3:30– 4:50 WORKSHOPS, SET 3

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Room 250

Deidre Jackson Gaffney, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*

J. Kevin Gaffney, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*

Human Rights on the Border

Room 246

Enrique Morones, *Founder of Border Angels*

5:00– 5:30 CLOSING PLENARY

Room 252

Emcee: Kristina Brady, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 178 Irvine*

Invited Speaker: Enrique Morones, Founder of Border Angels

Acknowledgements

6:00– DINNER: Angelo's and Vinci's Ristorante

550 N. Harbor Blvd in downtown Fullerton

Sign up at the registration desk.

Directions from campus: Exit the parking lot and go south on E. Campus Drive to the campus entrance at Commonwealth and Nutwood Avenues. Go south on Commonwealth one block to Chapman Avenue. Turn right on Chapman and go 2.3 miles. Turn right on Harbor Blvd.

The restaurant is on the right just past the Fox Theater. Turn right at the next street and then right into the parking lot behind the restaurant.

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INVITED SPEAKERS

Dan and Fabiola Noël

Fabiola was born in Colombia; as soon as her personal situation allowed it, she looked for volunteer work and quickly settled on helping indigenous people. As you may know, this is a very risky occupation in Colombia; after she and her companions found out that they had been designated for disappearance and that the local authorities, viewing them as troublemakers, would not protect them, she quit and followed the advice of a friend to check out a “super-cool new international organization” that was just opening a section in Colombia. She did check it out, liked it, and accepted to volunteer as media and outreach coordinator for the Colombian section of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International was less than popular in Colombia; their work was punctuated with insults and death threats; they had about 100 members at their apex. After a few years, the section closed and some of its leaders left the country for their own safety. Shortly before then, Fabiola came over to the United States for other reasons, and she quickly got in touch with the U.S. section.

Dan became active with Amnesty International back in France, as soon as he got some professional stability. He worked with a local group on outreach and the 1986 campaign on South Africa; he also briefly worked as a national coordinator on Central America and Mexico. After moving to the LA area, he co-founded and gave much energy to group #452 (Ventura).

Fabiola and Dan met at the 1990 AI conference on refugees in Northridge. With their apologies (but no regrets), they drastically scaled back their involvement, focusing instead on their marriage, house and children. They must not have completely ignored human rights, though, because a few months ago, when they asked their younger son what he would like for his 10th birthday, he asked to visit his friend on San Quentin’s death row.

FILM SCREENING

Nobility

Nobility is a look at the world’s most pressing problems through the eyes of Nobel laureates from disparate fields, including peace, social justice, and scientific disciplines. *Nobility* follows filmmaker Turk Pipkin’s personal journey to find answers about the kind of world his children and grandchildren will know. Filmed across the U.S., and in France, England, India and Africa, *Nobility* combines the insights of nine distinguished Nobelists with a first-person view of world problems and the children who are most affected by them. The distinguished laureates of *Nobility* include: Desmond Tutu, (Nobel Peace Prize, 1984.); Sir Joseph Rotblat, (Nuclear Physicist/Disarmament Activist, Nobel Peace Prize, 1995), a contemporary of Einstein; Wangari Maathai, (Nobel Peace Prize, 2004), founder of the Pan-African Green Belt Movement; Jody Williams from the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines (Nobel Peace Prize, 1997); and five others. For complete information, go to www.nobilitythemovie.com.

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INVITED SPEAKER

Enrique Morones

Enrique has a long history of firsts and accomplishments, amongst them first two-time president of the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; first director then vice-president in major league sports with the San Diego Padres of Major League Baseball where he directed the Padres' and Major League Baseball's efforts in the first ever regular season games outside the US/Canada (La Primera Serie, August 16–18, 1996 in Monterrey, Mexico); president and founder of House of Mexico in San Diego's Balboa Park (to promote Mexico's wonderful art, culture and history); president and founder of Border Angels (saving migrant lives) an all-volunteer group he established in 1986 which place water in the desert and blankets and food in the winter on the border areas to help save migrant lives; first director and founder of Mexico's Border Commission and advisory group to Mexican President Vicente Fox as part of Mexico's Institute of Mexican Abroad.

Enrique has been featured on CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, BBC, NPR, HBO, Univision's Don Francisco Presenta, Televisa Nacional, Rocio en Telemundo and countless other international media around the world. He frequently lectures and has more than held his own on shows with Bill O'Reilly, Lou Dobbs, Minutemen founders and many other promoting the truth about the migrant community and exposing the racist vigilantes for who they really are. As a founder of GENTE UNIDA (a human rights border coalition of 65 human rights groups) in May of 2005, he led the national effort against the vigilante Minutemen, and soundly shut down the Minutemen in California. He is recognized as one of the 100 most influential Latinos in the USA by *Hispanic Business* magazine and his recognitions include being : Frontline Human Rights international awardee for his lifelong dedication to human rights.

His most recent creation was the National March for Migrants as he led 111 vehicles and thousands across the country from San Diego to Washington, DC and back in the month of February where they visited 40 cities in 27 days demanding no on HR 4437, and calling for justice for migrants and no more deaths. He encouraged people across the country to raise their voices for justice, and hundreds of thousands have responded with marches and rallies across the country.

A standout student/athlete at Saint Augustine High School in San Diego, he was offered several scholarships across the country, but stayed close to the border and accepted a four-year full scholarship to the University of San Diego in International Marketing, where he later returned to get his master's in Executive Leadership.

Enrique continues his all-volunteer human rights work, resides in San Diego and lives by "when I was hungry did you give me to eat, when I was thirsty did you give me to drink" Matthew 25:35.

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WORKSHOPS

Death Penalty

Tim Spann, *AI Death Penalty Coordinator for Southern California*

Introduction to Amnesty International

Cathleen Kilgallen, *AIUSA Area Coordinator for Orange County & Long Beach*

This workshop will include an overview of Amnesty International's work and structure in the U.S. and internationally—how to get involved, what we do as activists, the volunteer leadership structure, and where to go for information. Questions about Amnesty's work and campaigns will be welcome.

Lobbying 101/Denounce Torture Teach-In

Irene Garza, *AIUSA Southern California Legislative Coordinator*

Death Penalty: Up Close and Personal—The Case of Kenneth Clair

Dan and Fabiloa Noël,

The workshop will cover the death penalty, with emphasis on our personal experience of being involved in it as a family and befriending a death row inmate.

OUTfront LGBT Campaign

Darlene Adler, *Los Angeles Area OUTfront Coordinator*

Making Special Events Special

Tracy Gore!, *AIUSA Group 96 Santa Monica*

Brent Fulton,

Participants should feel free to bring their ideas and we will brainstorm a couple of upcoming events for groups. Discussion will cover finding venues for events, flyers, connecting with other NGOs, and ways to keep group meetings interesting.

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Deidre Jackson Gaffney, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*

J. Kevin Gaffney, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*

Even wealthy and powerful governments have manifestly failed to meet their obligations to end hunger and preventable disease, and to eliminate illiteracy and homelessness in their own countries as well as internationally. Despite expressions of concern and statements of good intent, the international community has stood by while individual governments have disregarded the human rights of millions of people.

So says the introduction to Amnesty's latest publication *Human Rights for Human Dignity, A Primer on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Come discover AI's 40 year journey to embrace the full spectrum of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how the organization plans to tackle this ever growing area of human rights activism.

Human Rights on the Border

Enrique Morones, *Founder of Border Angels*

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PRESENTERS

Darlene Adler

After growing-up in San Diego, I moved to Los Angeles to study at the University of Southern California, graduating in 1993. Coming out in college, I became active in the LGBT community on campus, programming events and co-hosting the weekly women's group. In addition to working with The Center OC as a fundraiser and a member of the Board of Directors, I am involved with Amnesty International's LGBT human rights "OUTfront" network as the OUTfront Coordinator for Los Angeles and the surrounding areas.

Christina Alvarez

Christina Alvarez has been involved with Amnesty International USA for the past 12 years, as a student and local group leader, and now as Co-Chair of the National OUTfront Steering Committee. She lives in Oakland, California.

Deidre Jackson Gaffney

Deidre Jackson Gaffney (see below) 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 been active in Amnesty's transition from mandate to mission both in training local groups about this as well as many other issues within AI. She is also noted to be the "serious" one in the Kevin/Deidre combo . . . we think? (Don't let the humor fool you, these two are well-informed Amnesty activists.)

J. Kevin Gaffney

Kevin has been with Amnesty since he had a full head of hair. Besides being a trainer, he is said to have been a stunt double for Bart Simpson. He's also been a group coordinator, Area Coordinator, Student Area Coordinator, and head chef at BBQ meetings in the county (and has the hat to prove it). He recently married his fellow trainer and may show you some tips of how AI can be a great dating pool. He's willing to tell you all about it for a Diet Coke or a Guinness. Attend one of his workshops and make up your own mind about this character activist.

Irene Garza

Although a native Texan, I have found the sunshine and liberal spirits of California too tempting and presently reside in Los Angeles. After graduating from Yale in 2002 with a degree in Ethnicity, Race, & Migration, I briefly worked on a television show in New York, before moving to LA to work on the re-election campaign for Senator Barbara Boxer. Fifteen months later, I began working at Break the Cycle, a non-profit whose mission is to end dating and domestic violence amongst youth. I have been with Amnesty since I was 17, and the Legislative Coordinator for Southern California for little over a year. I look forward to meeting as many AI groups as possible!

Tracy Gore!

Tracy Gore! has been an AI group coordinator, chair and co-chair of GLAD (Greater Los Angeles Development), AI Area Coordinator, and is currently the proprietrix of "On The House" un-LTD. She has initiated and/or managed hundreds of events.

Cathleen Kilgallen

As a young activist, Cathleen started a chapter of Amnesty at her high school in 1997. She has since been involved in many forms of public service and activism, working on environmental issues and interning at the World Affairs Council as well as the congressional office of Dennis Kucinich. She studied abroad in France, Germany, and Mexico and graduated from Hollins University in Virginia with a BA in Political Science last spring. She currently serves as the Amnesty International Area Coordinator for Orange County and Long Beach.

Tim Spann

Tim Spann has been active working towards abolishing the death penalty for seventeen years. He is the Death Penalty Coordinator for Southern California for Amnesty International. He is also the chapter coordinator for the San Diego chapter of Death Penalty Focus of California, a statewide death penalty abolition organization. He has traveled to many states across the U.S. in support of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, a group comprised of surviving family members of homicide victims who speak out against capital punishment. Mr. Spann is also active in the San Diego/Hillcrest chapter of Amnesty International USA.