

Amnesty International

Southern California

Mini-Conference

Program

March 1, 2003

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 Greater Los Angeles Development (GLAD) group for its support and help.
- The Western Regional staff (Michele Williams and Kathy Brown) for all their support, including press releases, flyer distribution, fielding phone calls, putting packets together, etc., etc., etc.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Program	Kris Elali and Harmon Tipton
Emcee	Tracy Gore
Support	Michele Williams
Logistics	Ernie Solheid
Food	Jacques Kilchoër

**Amnesty International
Southern California Mini-Conference
March 1, 2003**

PROGRAM

9:00 – 2:00	REGISTRATION	University Hall 252 Lobby
9:00 – 9:20	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	University Hall 252 Lobby
9:20 – 10:20	OPENING PLENARY <i>Emcee: Tracy Gore, Chair, AIUSA Greater Los Angeles Development Group</i> Amnesty International's Response to the Crisis in Iraq Michele Williams, <i>AIUSA Western Region Deputy Director</i> Invited Speaker Nguyen Thanh Trang, <i>Vietnam Human Rights Network</i> Invited Speaker Sheila Dauer, <i>AIUSA Women's Human Rights Network</i>	University Hall 252
10:30 – 5:00	GROUP SALES	University Hall 240
10:30 – 11:50	WORKSHOPS, SET 1 Human Rights in Vietnam Joseph Tran, <i>Vietnam Human Rights Network</i> Thuan Do, <i>Vietnam Human Rights Network</i> Introduction to Amnesty International Mario Tafur, <i>AIUSA Artists for Amnesty</i> Group Health, Recruitment and Retention Michele Williams, <i>AIUSA Western Region Deputy Director</i>	University Hall 252 University Hall 245 University Hall 208
12:00 – 12:40	CAUCUSES Local and Student Groups <i>Facilitators: Kris Elali, Group 178 Irvine and Harmon Tipton, Group 137 Hillcrest</i> Death Penalty <i>Facilitator: Tim Spann, California State Death Penalty Coordinator</i> Area Coordinators/Student Area Coordinators <i>Facilitator: Devinder Hans, San Diego Student Area Coordinator</i>	University Hall 252 University Hall 208 University Hall 245
12:40 – 2:00	LUNCH	Off Campus (See flyer in packet)

**Amnesty International
Southern California Mini-Conference
March 1, 2003**

PROGRAM

2:00 – 3:20 WORKSHOPS, SET 2

Response to the Crisis in Iraq

University Hall 252

Shady Hakim, *AFSC Middle East Peace Education Coordinator*

Michele Williams, *AIUSA Western Region Deputy Director*

Victor Condé, *AIUSA Legal Support Network*

Sex-Trafficking—Over There and Here

University Hall 208

Sandra Hunnicutt, *Captive Daughters*

Diversification

University Hall 245

Christina Vargas, *AIUSA Ralph J. Bunche Fellow*

Use of the Internet in Human Rights Work

University Hall 304

Charles Zimmerman, *Web Developer/Group 92 San Fernando*

3:30 – 4:50 WORKSHOPS, SET 3

**Domestic Violence is a Human Rights Violation:
Russia and the World**

University Hall 252

Sheila Dauer, *AIUSA Women's Human Rights Program*

Marina Pisklakova-Parker, *Women's Human Rights Activist*

Where Did the Mandate Go?

University Hall 208

Deidre Jackson, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*

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

Myths About the Death Penalty

University Hall 245

Richard (Dick) Carlburg, *California People of Faith Working
Against the Death Penalty*

Tim Spann, *California State Death Penalty Coordinator*

Carolyn Boyle, *California People of Faith Working Against
the Death Penalty*

Human Rights Book Discussion:

University Hall 304

***The Tattooed Soldier* by Hector Tobar**

Kimberly Yang, *Group 96 Santa Monica/*

Standing Committee on Membership Development

5:00 – 5:30 CLOSING PLENARY

University Hall 252

Emcee: Tracy Gore, *Chair, AIUSA Greater Los Angeles
Development Group*

Invited Speaker

Nguyen Chi Thien, *Poet and Former Prisoner of Conscience
from Vietnam*

Acknowledgements

Evaluations

6:00 – DINNER: Angelo's and Vinci's Ristorante in downtown Fullerton
Sign up at the registration desk

**Amnesty International
Southern California Mini-Conference**
March 1, 2003

INVITED SPEAKERS

Nguyen Thanh Trang

Nguyen Thanh Trang is the founder and Chairman of the Vietnam Human Rights Network and the former chairman of the Indochinese Committee for Radio Free Asia. While in Vietnam, he was the Vice Dean of the School of Economics and Business at Minh Duc University, Saigon. He is currently the General Manager at Alpha Company in San Diego

Sheila Dauer

Sheila Dauer, Director of AIUSA's Women's Human Rights Program, has been on the staff of AIUSA since 1979. Since 1988, as a charter member of an AIUSA Taskforce on Women's Human Rights, she has worked with both international and US AI staff, board and volunteer leaders to develop AI's mandate, action and publications on women's human rights. In 1991, she prepared AI's first international report on women's human rights, *Women in the Front Line*. As Acting Campaign Director in 1995, she directed AIUSA's campaign on women's human rights concurrent with the UN 4th World Conference on Women. She is currently the Director of AIUSA's Women's Human Rights Program. She holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology and has carried out fieldwork in East Africa. She is a member of the Human Rights Committee of the American Anthropological Association and has received two research fellowships from the National Institute of Mental Health and a Ford Foundation Fellowship on Women's Studies.

Nguyen Chi Thien

Nguyen Chi Thien's poems have been translated into dozens of languages, including English, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Czech. In addition to being awarded the Amsterdam Poetry Prize and the American PEN Freedom Prize, he has twice been nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature for his outstanding works.

He was first imprisoned from 1961–1964 for writing poetry critical of the Hanoi regime, and then again from 1966–1977 for suspected political disturbances. He was imprisoned a third time from 1977–1991 after giving a British diplomat a collection of his poems made mentally while in prison. He was finally released in 1991, thanks to the actions of many international human rights organizations and governments from around the world. He was allowed to leave Vietnam for the US in 1995. In all, Thien spent 27 years in prison for being a poet who truly expressed himself in poetry.

His main published books are *Flowers From Hell*, *Blood Seeds Become Poetry*, and *Hanoi's Hilton, or Furnace Fire*.

Amnesty International
Southern California Mini-Conference
March 1, 2003

WORKSHOPS

Human Rights in Vietnam

Joseph Tran and Thuan Do, *Vietnam Human Rights Network*

The workshop will include working towards passing OCDP's Resolution Supporting Vietnam Human Rights Act HR 2833 going through Congress now and religious persecution in Vietnam today. There are a number of Amnesty International prisoners of conscience in Vietnam that we will have information and/or letters on that members can take back to their groups.

Introduction to Amnesty International

Mario Tafur, *AIUSA Artists for Amnesty*

This session will include an overview of Amnesty International's work and structure in the USA and internationally. Questions about Amnesty's work and campaigns will be welcome.

Group Health, Recruitment, and Retention

Michele Williams, *AIUSA Western Region Deputy Director*

Every group is different, but each has a basic need to recruit and retain members. This workshop covers the basics, including incorporating diversity, signs of a healthy group, and practical and innovative techniques.

Response to the Crisis in Iraq

Shady Hakim, *AFSC Middle East Peace Education Coordinator*

Michele Williams *AIUSA Western Region Deputy Director*

Victor Condé, *AIUSA Legal Support Network*

Amnesty International is currently in a Crisis Response Alert mode for a potential military intervention in Iraq. We will outline the parameters for AI's position on the possible impending crisis in Iraq, including applicable international and humanitarian law, as well as discuss practical steps members can take to ensure our human rights message is not lost in the debate. We will also discuss the American Friends Service Committee's response to this crisis and outline what group members can do in our communities: organizing peace vigils, forming coalitions with other human rights groups, educating others on the possible humanitarian catastrophe ...

Sex-Trafficking—Over There and Here

Sandra Hunnicutt, *Captive Daughters*

The practice of sexual trafficking is a direct assault on the basic human rights and lives of adolescent females. This practice is widespread in many areas of the world and is entrenched largely because of the historical and cultural attitudes toward females. Its proliferation also continues due to limited educational and economic opportunities and a high demand from the sex industry in both the East and West. Apart from its heinous nature, girl/sex-trafficking also is an issue of health and welfare, since many girls living these lives of enslavement and neglect die prematurely of AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, or suicide. Captive Daughters seeks to give voice to these helpless victims by educating and informing the general public about the severity and scope of the practice of girl/sex trafficking.

Diversification

Christina Vargas, *AIUSA Ralph J. Bunche Fellow*

This workshop will discuss Amnesty International's diversification efforts, including the Mentors for Diversity Program and the "Imagine: Freedom from Discrimination" conference. In addition, I'll present "promoting diversity" tools and information.

Use of the Internet in Human Rights Work

Charles Zimmerman, *Web Developer/AIUSA Group 92 San Fernando*

An overview of Internet resources in human rights work, focusing on Amnesty International resources on the World Wide Web and, if time permits, suggestions for developing a Web site for local/student groups. The workshop assumes you have a very basic understanding of how to browse the Web and to use email; however, no special computer skills beyond this are required. The workshop format will be open and informal, with participants free to ask questions and contribute their own suggestions and experiences.

Domestic Violence is a Human Rights Violation: Russia and the World

Sheila Dauer, *AIUSA Women's Human Rights Program*

Marina Pisklakova-Parker, *Women's Human Rights Activist*

As part of the Russia Campaign and the AIUSA Women's Program's focus on how AI deals with violations by non-state actors, this workshop will cover AI's position that domestic violence is a human rights violation. It will also explain how domestic violence can be a form of torture. We will hear from a Russian anti-domestic violence activist who has worked for many years in her country who will describe the successes they have had and obstacles they face.

Where Did the Mandate Go? Amnesty's New Mission and Where We Go from Here

Deidre Jackson, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 141 Orange*

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

This workshop is for active members who want a better understanding of how Amnesty's new mission and vision and its venture into social and cultural rights will affect their work in the future. "Can we now work on boycotts?" "Who can we work in coalition with?" "What are social and cultural rights?" are some of the questions we'll try to answer. Get ready to put on your thinking caps and think outside the old mandate box.

Myths About the Death Penalty

Richard (Dick) Carlburg, *AIUSA Group 596/California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty*

Tim Spann, *California State Death Penalty Coordinator*

Carolyn Boyle, *California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty*

The proponents of the death penalty state that it deters murders, costs less than life in prison, provides closure to victims, the *Bible* states "an eye for an eye," and so on. The various arguments for the death penalty are examined and found wanting.

Human Rights Book Discussion: *The Tattooed Soldier* by Hector Tobar

Kimberly Yang, *Group 96 Santa Monica/Standing Committee on Membership Development*

Read the book before the Mini-Conference to participate in the book discussion. Participants will discuss issues elicited by the book, the current human rights situation in Guatemala, and how book discussion groups, such as the "Human Rights Readers" can be used for AI membership outreach. (You are welcome to attend even if you do not finish reading the book.) *Book Summary:* Two Guatemalan adversaries in Los Angeles play out a deadly struggle begun in their homeland where one man's wife and son was killed by a death squad and the other is recognized by him in LA as one of the killers.

**Amnesty International
Southern California Mini-Conference**
March 1, 2003

CAUCUSES

Local and Student Groups

Kris Elali, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 178 Irvine*

Harmon Tipton, *AIUSA Trainer/Group 137 Hillcrest*

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

Death Penalty

Tim Spann, *AIUSA California State Death Penalty Coordinator*

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

Area Coordinators/Student Area Coordinators

Devinder Hans, *San Diego Student Area Coordinator*

Area Coordinators and Student Area Coordinators will meet to discuss solutions to problems they have in common and to share successes.

SPECIAL DISPLAY

Conflict Diamonds

The Group Sales room contains a Conflict Diamonds display put together by the UCLA group. Learn about blood diamonds and help take action against the illicit diamond conflict in Africa. In many African countries such as Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, diamonds have been and continue to be exploited by insurgent groups and governments who forcefully kidnap and drug children to fuel conflict and carry out atrocities against innocent civilians. Come learn more about what you can do to help implement change.

The UCLA group is making this informative display available for outreach purposes. If you are interested in borrowing it, please contact Mandeep Kaur Rajpal at Missmandeep@aol.com.

**Amnesty International
Southern California Mini-Conference
March 1, 2003**

PRESENTERS

Richard (Dick) Carlburg

Dick Carlburg has been a member of AI since 1972. He is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy and before retiring, served as an Air Force officer and an Aerospace Project Manager. He is also a member of the ACLU, Death Penalty Focus, and is on the Steering Committee of California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty.

Thuan Do

Thuan Do was a high school teacher in Vietnam and in France and is an active member of the Vietnam Human Rights Network. She has a degree in computer science from UC-Irvine and has taught computer science at Cal State Fullerton, Santa Ana College, and UC-Irvine.

Kris Elali

Kris Elali has been involved with Amnesty International for 11 years. She is a member of Group 178 Irvine, a trainer for Amnesty, and Western Regional Representative for the Special Initiative Fund Committee.

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 most recently survived a sweaty, intense two-day weekend in Washington, DC on Amnesty's new mission and lived to tell about it. He's willing to tell you all about it for a Diet Coke or a Guinness. Attend one his workshops and make up your own mind about this character activist.

Shady Hakim

Shady Hakim is coordinator of the Middle East Peace Education Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Pacific Southwest Region based in Pasadena. At the AFSC, Shady works to raise awareness in Southern California on issues relevant to the Middle East and domestic issues affecting the Arab and Muslim community. He has been actively engaged in the antiwar effort, organizing Los Angeles' first civil disobedience action against a second Gulf War.

In 1998-99, Shady spent over three months in the occupied West Bank with the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron working in solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli groups. Shady was born in Cairo, Egypt and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1981 at the age of five.

Sandra Hunnicutt

Sandra Hunnicutt is the founding director of Captive Daughters, a six-year-old non-profit which works against the sex trafficking of girls in America and abroad.

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 been active in Amnesty's transition from mandate to mission both in training local groups and moderating the New Mission plenary at the regional conference in Denver.

Marina Pisklakova-Parker

Marina Pisklakova-Parker is internationally recognized as one of the leading women's rights activists in Russia. In 1993 Marina started the first hotline for battered women in Russia and later helped create a network of crisis centers for women.

As a researcher, Marina Pisklakova-Parker took part in the first Russian-American study in 1997 of domestic violence in Russian marriages. She is a co-author of the book *Marriages in Russia* published in the USA and Russia in addition to authoring and co-authoring a number of articles regarding domestic violence in Russia.

In 1997 Human Rights Watch honored Ms. Pisklakova-Parker for her work in the area of domestic violence against women. In 1998 Human Rights Watch (California) honored her together with five other human rights monitors from different countries as the most significant activists of the decade.

Tim Spann

Tim Spann has been active working towards abolishing the death penalty for fifteen 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 Hillcrest chapter of Amnesty International USA.

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 served as the Membership Program Coordinator for the Western Region Los Angeles office for three years. He is now an associate with AIUSA's Artists for Amnesty program.

Harmon Tipton

Harmon has been active in AI for more than sixteen years as a student coordinator and local activist. He is currently a trainer for the Western Region and a member of San Diego Group 137.

Joseph Tran

Joseph Tran is a founding member of the Vietnam Human Rights Network as well as being a member of Amnesty International. He graduated from Cal State Fullerton with an MPA in 1978 and has worked for Orange County as a senior planner for 23 years.

Christina Vargas

Christina Vargas graduated from UCLA this spring, with a triple major in International Development Studies, Political Science, and History. She has been involved with AI since 2000, first as an intern, then as a student coordinator at UCLA, and now as a Ralph J. Bunche Fellow. She is currently working on building a human rights constituency for AI's human rights goals and activities within the Chicano/Latino community in Southern California. Her work aims to involve these communities in AIUSA's Campaign Against Discrimination and other relevant issues that need their support and participation of leadership, such as the death penalty, women's human rights, and refugee and immigration concerns.

Michele 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.

Kimberly Yang

Kimberly Yang (kimberly.yang@stanfordalumni.org) is coordinator of AIUSA Group 96 in Santa Monica, California; Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Membership Development for the Western Region; and a member of the AIUSA Western Region Planning Group. She organized and has led the Stanford West Side Book Club since 1998. She is also an Outings Leader for the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter. She practiced law as a corporate attorney for three years. Currently working as a freelance grantwriter, she is on the lookout for nonprofits that need grantwriting assistance or a development associate.

Charles Zimmerman

Charles Zimmerman owns and operates a software firm that specializes in Web site development. He created the Web site for Amnesty International Group 92 (<http://www.isols.com/AIGroup92>).