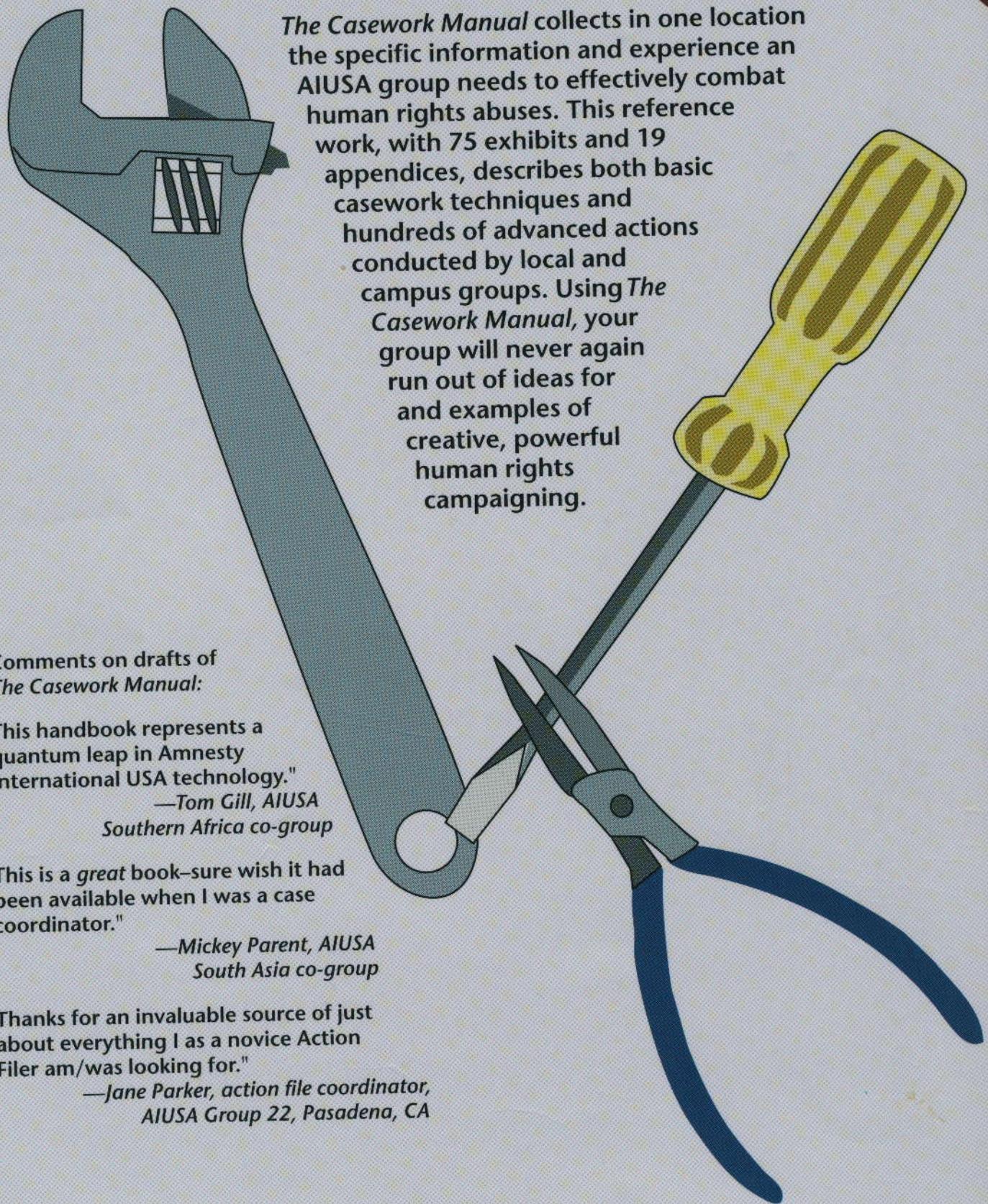


# THE CASEWORK MANUAL

## A TOOLBOX

for coordinators of action  
files, cases, dossiers, and  
long-term campaigns

Amnesty International USA  
Group 19



*The Casework Manual* collects in one location the specific information and experience an AIUSA group needs to effectively combat human rights abuses. This reference work, with 75 exhibits and 19 appendices, describes both basic casework techniques and hundreds of advanced actions conducted by local and campus groups. Using *The Casework Manual*, your group will never again run out of ideas for and examples of creative, powerful human rights campaigning.

**Comments on drafts of  
*The Casework Manual*:**

"This handbook represents a quantum leap in Amnesty International USA technology."

—Tom Gill, AIUSA  
Southern Africa co-group

"This is a great book—sure wish it had been available when I was a case coordinator."

—Mickey Parent, AIUSA  
South Asia co-group

"Thanks for an invaluable source of just about everything I as a novice Action Filer am/was looking for."

—Jane Parker, action file coordinator,  
AIUSA Group 22, Pasadena, CA

# Casework Manual

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# Foreword

This manual is for human rights activists. If you are reading these words, chances are that you are such an activist. Activists not only recognize the right of people everywhere to enjoy basic human rights, but also act to make rights a reality in people's lives.

Activism is what Amnesty International is all about. We're always searching out the right pressure points for halting oppression and the most effective means of applying that pressure. Far from being merely academic exercises, the actions we take can mean the difference between freedom and imprisonment or life and death.

Each member of Amnesty brings to the movement unique experiences and capabilities. As an organization composed overwhelmingly of volunteers, Amnesty International's strength comes from the dedication and resourcefulness of its diverse membership. Amnesty group members are entrusted with the responsibility to campaign effectively for those cases assigned to them. During my years with Amnesty, I have seen AI members pursue this responsibility with vigor and tenacity, and the record of prisoners freed and cases closed attests to the success of their efforts.

If we're going to protect human rights in today's world, we have to be flexible enough to change our approach in accordance with the types of violations we encounter. Consider, for example, shifting patterns of torture.

Amnesty has made significant strides in addressing prison systems that encourage or facilitate torture.

But how should we act to stop the torture that is now committed in the back rooms of police stations, in remote rural clearings, or in residential areas suddenly turned into battlefields of ethnic warfare? Sending appeals to prison officials and government authorities surely has a place, and an important place, in our work. However, we can't just stop there. Different strategies and different actions are also needed. The vast array of action suggestions contained in this manual gives an idea of some of the directions we can explore.

Amnesty International continues to exist more than 32 years after its creation because it is needed. While fighting for human rights can, at times, seem a Sisyphean task, we have seen conclusive evidence time and again that *what we are doing works*. A glance at some of the work done by Amnesty's grassroots members demonstrates this point:

-- After years of concerted work by AI members in Wheaton, Illinois, and around the world, Vera Chirwa was freed from a Malawi prison in January 1993. Actions by group members were instrumental in getting U.S. officials and others to press successfully for Vera's release.

-- Upon learning that the King of Bhutan was a basketball fan, a group in Washington, DC, contacted professional basketball players in the U.S.A. to appeal for the release of the group's prisoner in Bhutan. Several players did, and the prisoner was released soon afterward, in December 1991.

-- Following Amnesty's Mexico campaign actions in 1992, the Mexican Government established a National Human Rights Commission. Several high-ranking police officers were indicted on charges of torture, and many members of oppressed indigenous communities were released from police custody.

-- A Milwaukee group's effort on behalf of a prisoner in China included distributing T-shirts emblazoned with "Where is Chen Xuedong?" to Wisconsin Senators and Representatives. Mounting pressure was placed upon the Chinese Embassy and consulates when countless cards, petitions, letters, and orchids were sent to Chinese officials. Chen Xuedong was released in July 1991, a year and a half after the group first took up his case.

-- During Amnesty's 1991 campaign on Morocco, the government freed over 200 "disappeared" individuals who had been held in secret detention centers for up to 15 years.

These are but a few of the accomplishments achieved by Amnesty's activist membership. I know that there are many more to come. But just as you offer Amnesty International the commitment to stop human rights abuses, Amnesty must offer you the information you need to carry out your work as efficiently as possible. This manual is a comprehensive compendium of such information. It pulls together a wealth of proven techniques and new ideas to help you to reach your goal, whether that goal is freeing a prisoner of conscience, accounting for the whereabouts of a "disappeared" person, halting an execution, or bringing a torturer to justice.

Activism lies at the heart of what Amnesty International is all about. The information contained in this manual can help anyone become a more effective human rights activist. I encourage you to make good use of it.

-- Michael O'Reilly

National Coordinator

AIUSA Casework Program

Atlanta, GA

June 1993

## Goals of this manual

This manual was designed to be a resource for action file, case, dossier, and campaign coordinators regardless of their level of experience. It was designed to cull all the information an action file coordinator needs to know from a wide variety of AI documents. It was designed to collect ideas from work done on cases and campaigns by groups in all U.S. regions. And it was designed to help stop groups from reinventing the wheel.

In no way can a document like this replace the expertise and advice provided by country coordination groups (co-groups). Neither is it meant to substitute for original strategy development. However, perhaps it can result in better ideas being submitted to co-groups and in better use of valuable group and co-group time. Perhaps it can contribute to better group actions and to speedier resolutions of human rights violations. Those are its goals.

## Action files

As this manual was being prepared, Amnesty International underwent an important transition. At its 1991 International Council Meeting, Amnesty established a new dossier structure in which prisoner cases and other types of long-term action dossiers would come together under the one heading of ***action files***. Beginning in February 1992, any ***case*** assigned to a group would be an action file. An action file could focus on a

prisoner of conscience or possible prisoner of conscience, or it could focus on a victim of extrajudicial execution, or it could focus on a death penalty case or refugee case. The duration of the action file would usually be at least one year, after which time it would be evaluated by the International Secretariat and the local group to decide whether or not it would be effective to continue work.

Groups that had been issued cases before February 1992 will continue to work on those cases until they close. If your group is still working on a case or an action dossier, simply read ***case*** or ***dossier*** everywhere this manual reads ***action file***. ***Dossier*** in this manual refers to the physical file of papers and reports your group receives from the International Secretariat.

This manual includes casework ideas that were conducted or developed prior to 1993. New working methods are always being developed. This diversity and flexibility is one of the strengths of the movement. As a result, this manual can never be a definitive document. For specialized actions appropriate to newer types of action files, you will need to rely more on your co-group and less on this manual.

Yet you will find that regardless of the type of action file, the approaches to writing and distributing petitions, to seeking help from Members of Congress, to attracting the media, and to many, many other actions remain the same.

## Using this manual

This manual is a reference work: you are not expected to read it all. Read the Executive Summary. Skim Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4. Are you providing group members everything they need to work on your action file? That is your top priority. Are you satisfied with the way your group develops a plan of action for your action file? If not, read Chapter 5. Do you want new ideas for casework? Read the Action Index. It identifies actions in Chapters 6 to 12. When your prisoner is released, read Chapter 13.

Not all actions are equally effective and efficient. Select actions that have the most potential influence on your target

government relative to the effort required to conduct them. But, if no one in your group wants to conduct an action, maybe it should be on the back burner. **The action file coordinator should not conduct all the actions that other group members don't want to do: there are far too many.**

Some actions build on others: a critical building block for special actions is an EXTERNAL case summary (such as Exhibit 6-8). With a case summary, you can request a second major building block: a letter from a credible VIP that asks your target government to resolve the human rights violation represented by your action file. This could be, for example, a letter to a leader of your target government from your group's Representative in Congress that calls for your prisoner of conscience to be released (such as Exhibit 10-2). The VIP's letter can be used to establish your credibility with all other non-AI individuals and organizations who might assist with achieving the goals of your action file.

## Campaigns

For most country and short theme campaigns, the work described in this manual's early chapters -- determining goals, identifying relevant AI resources, gathering information, producing letter-writing instructions, and developing a strategy -- has already been done for you.

For such campaigns, only Chapters 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are relevant.

For some campaigns lasting more than nine months, such as the Children's Campaign, your group may wish to conduct a strategy session (see Chapter 5) to develop more ideas for action and to involve more members of your group.

For the sake of clarity, the text of this manual usually only refers to action files. Yet most of the actions and approaches cited here are equally appropriate to campaigns.

## **Prisoner and target nomenclature**

Throughout this manual, the term **your prisoner** is used in place of **the subject of your action file**, even though your prisoner may be out of detention, dead, or more than one person. This avoids some clumsy phrases, for example, the subject of your action file's family.

The term **target country** refers to the country where your prisoner suffers or suffered from a human rights violation. The term **target government** refers to the government **or other persons** who have the ability to resolve the human rights violation described by your action file. The term **target embassy** refers to the embassy of your target government located in Washington, DC. The term **target trade office** refers to the official trade office or trade commission controlled by your target government and located in the U.S.A.

## **Titles**

Again for the sake of clarity, titles of U.S. politicians are capitalized, for example, Mayor. Titles of foreign leaders are not, except when used with proper names. Likewise, titles of AI staff and Board members are capitalized, and titles of AI volunteer leaders are not. AI staff members are located at AI offices. To find an AI volunteer leader, consult the AIUSA regional office that services the volunteer leader's region (see Appendix I).

## **Actions and ideas**

This manual includes hundreds of specific actions and ideas. Actions taken or initiated by AI groups, members, and staff are identified with a. Ideas for actions or examples of actions by other organizations are identified with l.

## **Country identification**

When known, the target country of any action is provided. In a few cases, notably the USSR, Yugoslavia,

Czechoslovakia, and East Germany, the target country as a political entity no longer exists. However, this manual uses the name of a country at the time an action was taken, as this information may prove useful to the reader.

## **Group identification**

This manual also identifies by number and/or name the AIUSA group that reported an action. Actions are for prisoner of conscience cases unless otherwise noted. You can reach any open group by contacting the group's regional office and requesting the name and telephone number of the group coordinator (use Appendices XIX and I). For cluster and high school actions, request from the regional office the name and phone number of the area coordinator. Finally, many of the group actions cited here took place several years ago, and current group members may be unaware of an action. In that case, the co-group may have more information.

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# The Role of an Action File Coordinator

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## Priorities

Your priorities as an action file coordinator are, in order, to --

- assist your group's members in effectively and efficiently accomplishing the goals of your action file.
- maintain regular contact with your country coordination group (co-group), to prevent your group from wasting time in ineffective actions, or worse, taking actions that might be dangerous for your prisoner.
- maintain a good filing system so that you can keep track of the actions of group members and so that anyone who might replace you as the action file coordinator can be as effective as possible.
- report on your actions so that other groups may become more effective based on what you have learned.
- do casework yourself.

Unfortunately, many action file coordinators put their own casework first, and this leads to under-utilization of the group and burnout of the action file coordinator.

## Country actions and group level actions

Sometimes the International Secretariat or AIUSA decides to increase the pressure on your target country for a limited time by generating many more letters or other actions. This pressure may be called a ***country action*** or a ***group level action***. Usually your group will not be asked to do any strategy development. However, your group will be asked to write more letters or take other actions, and it will be part of your role as the action file coordinator to pass those requests on to your group.

## Assisting group members

### The action file coordinator as manager

An action file coordinator is, in essence, a manager whose primary role is to facilitate the effectiveness of others. **An action file coordinator should not do all the work on an action file.**

In many groups, casework has been limited to letter writing, and the action file coordinator has been limited to preparing letter-writing instructions, keeping track of letters written, and serving as a liaison between the group and the co-group. However, for most action files, letter writing by the group alone does not pressure the target government to resolve the human rights violation.

An advanced strategy is usually necessary. To effect such a strategy, you need to --

- ensure that group members have enough information to develop a strategy.

- organize a strategy session.
- recruit group members to take more advanced actions, such as writing petitions, organizing public events, or contacting non-AI organizations or individuals.

This manual can help you accomplish these tasks. Further, you may photocopy sections of this manual for members of your group so they can implement actions without further training.

## Motivation

When a group first gets an action file, motivation is high. However, months or years without apparent success can sap that motivation.

AIUSA groups use many methods of strengthening casework motivation, such as --

- dividing responsibility for the action file.
- holding regular celebrations to reward group members for their difficult work, such as parties serving the cuisine of the target country and/or hailing the release of another prisoner. Prisoner releases are listed in each issue of the AIUSA Monthly Mailing, which is received by your group coordinator.
- holding a demonstration, perhaps at the target consulate or embassy (see p. 228).
- participating in a parade and carrying signs about the prisoner (see p. 102).
- recognizing the effort that members have made, by announcing how many letters have been written and other actions taken.
- giving awards to the group member(s) who write the most letters every year or who manage major actions. One high school group gave awards to students who had written more than 400 letters in one year.
- (if approved by the co-group) writing to the prisoner.
- holding meetings in coffee houses or cafes.
- reading at each meeting the testimony of former prisoners, from sources such as Appendix XIII, Voices (see p. 43), or Conscience Be My Guide (see p. 249).
- lighting a candle at each meeting for the prisoner.
- reserving a chair at each meeting for the prisoner.
- posting a photograph or a black "shadow" of the prisoner at each meeting.
- calling out the name of the prisoner at each meeting and having the group respond "Present" (or, for a Spanish-speaking prisoner, "Presente").

## Case sharing

In the early 1980's, each AIUSA local group worked for up to three prisoners of conscience at a time. Each prisoner

could potentially be released. This potential success provided considerable motivation for group members.

In the early 1990's, however, each group has only one action file, and that one action file may involve a person who is known to be dead. Without the potential for measurable success, group members can lose motivation and drop away from the group. In this situation, consider a **case share** (see pp. 90-91) with a group that has adopted a live prisoner. Such an action file may motivate members of your group to stick with human rights work and therefore continue efforts on behalf of your group's difficult action file.

## Avoid burnout

Burnout is a considerable hazard to action file coordinators, especially those who feel they must --

- spend every free hour on the action file.
- attempt every type of action in this manual.
- God forbid, try both of the above.

Your burnout is **not** in the best interests of your prisoner. Don't work at a level that is too high to maintain: sustained and slowly escalating pressure is what wins the battle against human rights abuse.

For inspiration and the opportunity to swap ideas with your fellow action file coordinators, consider attending a regional conference or the AIUSA Annual General Meeting (see p. 12).

Be honest with yourself and your group if you begin to become overwhelmed. Ask group members to join your action file committee (for possible roles in such a committee, see p. 6). If any task is becoming too much for you, turn it over to someone else. If burnout is still a problem, consider rotating the position of action file coordinator with another group member.

## Group burnout

Be realistic. Your group can burn out, too. If you feel that your group can no longer work effectively for your prisoner, discuss with your co-group the possibility of sharing the action file with another group or having it reassigned entirely. Your prisoner's fate may depend on AI's efforts: do not ignore stagnation.

## Maintain contact with your co-group

You need to maintain contact with your co-group, ideally on a monthly basis. Your co-group can provide you valuable information and invaluable direction. Before taking any action not explicitly recommended in your dossier or in other mailings, you should consult with your co-group.

## Maintain a good filing system

**Keep a written record of what actions have been taken, what actions are in progress, and who is responsible for what action.** Otherwise people will join the group, volunteer for an assignment, and leave without reporting on their progress.

Further, you will need this record, including a count of letters written, for strategy development (see "actions already taken" on p. 42).

Should you ever need to leave the group or reduce your commitment to the action file, your files need to be in enough

order that someone else can discover what has and has not been done. If you turn over the action file coordinator role to another person, be sure to notify the following of the name, address, and telephone number(s) of the new coordinator:

- the International Secretariat research team.
- (for action files, cases, and dossiers) your co-group.
- (for action files, cases, and dossiers) the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office.
- (for campaigns) the Campaign Director in the Campaign office.
- your area coordinator (or regional office, if you have no area coordinator).

Finally, the record of your group's activities will prove extremely useful when you write a press release following the release of your prisoner (see Chapter 13). And this record may prove invaluable to another group (see Appendix XIV).

## **EXTERNAL and INTERNAL information**

Information from Amnesty International is marked either INTERNAL (for AI members only) or EXTERNAL (for general distribution).

INTERNAL documents must be securely stored. Under no circumstances should they be given to journalists, government officials, or other organizations. They must not be sent to contacts within your target country. Letters from the International Secretariat -- even if they do not contain confidential information -- are INTERNAL documents, and they should not be circulated outside the membership.

Be careful not to mix internal and external information in your files so you don't accidentally hand out internal information to a non-AI member. If you get an AI document that has internal and external parts, separate the document into two parts.

## **Report on group activities**

Group members may ask you, "Why does AI (or the co-group) believe that a particular action will be effective?" The answer usually is that in the past AI has observed that the action has been followed by prisoner releases and other signs of success. To help learn what works, AI asks you to fill out an annual report (Appendix XII).

"[Alice said] 'Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?'

'That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,' said the Cat."

-- Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

## Chapter 1

### Goals of Action Files

#### Table of Contents:

1. [Mandate](#)
2. [Goals of action files](#)
3. [Action file goals versus other goals](#)

**Summary: In order to develop a strategy, members of your group must understand the goals of your action file. Beware of confusing intermediate objectives (like obtaining press coverage) or group goals (like building group membership) with the action file goals. When considering any action, ask: Can this action help achieve our goals for the action file?**

**If you choose just one action from this chapter --** Telephone your country coordination group (co-group), and clarify the goals of your action file.

#### 1. Mandate

Amnesty International has four overarching goals, collectively called the ***mandate***. Amnesty pressures governments to

--

- release all prisoners of conscience -- people confined because of their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, color, or language, who have not used or called for violence.
- give all prisoners whose cases have a political aspect a fair trial within a reasonable time.
- abolish the death penalty, torture, and other cruel treatment of all prisoners.
- end all extrajudicial executions and "disappearances."

#### 2. Goals of action files

Long-term tasks that groups carry out to implement the mandate are called ***action files***.

Goals of action files vary depending on the focus of the action file. Not all the goals listed below will be appropriate for every action file.

#### Prisoner of conscience

In a prisoner of conscience action file, your group's goal is usually the immediate and unconditional release of your prisoner (which may take days or years). However, if your prisoner's medical condition deteriorates dramatically, your primary near-term goal may change to the delivery of adequate medical care. Other goals you might have involve --

- the restoration of the civil rights of the prisoner.
- seeking better treatment in prison for the prisoner.
- seeking access to his or her family and legal counsel for the prisoner.
- the prevention of torture and/or execution of the prisoner.
- supporting the prisoner's morale.
- gathering assistance for the prisoner's family.
- supporting the morale of the prisoner's family.
- getting the prisoner out of his/her country (into exile).

- working to change laws in the target country that led to the detention of the prisoner.
- confirming the location of the prisoner, especially if he or she has been moved.

### **Investigation**

In an investigation action file, your group's goal is usually either --

- to collect enough information so that the AI International Secretariat in London can determine whether or not your prisoner is a prisoner of conscience.
- to seek a fair trial, when your prisoner has been detained for a long period without trial or has been sentenced on the basis of an unfair trial.

Many goals listed at left for prisoners of conscience may also apply, especially access to legal counsel, prevention of torture, and establishing the place of detention.

### **Group action file**

AI may take up the cases of several prisoners at the same time (or a whole prison) and consider this group of prisoners a single action file. This is normally done --

- if it is believed unsafe to adopt or investigate individual prisoners in the group.
- if it is believed that this will be a more effective technique to secure the protection or release of all of them.

Goals for group action files will be those of either prisoner of conscience or investigation action files.

### **Refugee**

Amnesty International works on behalf of asylum-seekers who are at risk of being returned to a country where they might be held as prisoners of conscience, "disappear," or suffer torture or execution. With a refugee action file, your group usually seeks to --

- influence policy decisions that could lead to refoulement (involuntary repatriation).
- prevent refoulement in individual cases.
- promote access to adequate asylum procedures, including legal counsel.

### **"Disappearance"**

In the case of a "disappearance," your group's goal is usually the reappearance of the prisoner. However, for long-term "disappeared" in some countries, this may not be a realistic goal. Your goals may include --

- the government's acknowledgment of the person's "disappearance."
- the government's impartial investigation into the "disappearance."
- the government's acceptance of responsibility for the person's "disappearance."
- the government's prosecution of those directly responsible for the person's "disappearance."
- the prevention of future "disappearances."
- the government's providing adequate compensation to relatives of the victims in cases where members of the security forces are found to be responsible for the "disappearance."
- providing moral support and relief to the families of the "disappeared."

### **Extrajudicial execution**

In an extrajudicial execution action file, the subject of the action file is dead. The goals of the action file may include --

- ensuring that exhaustive and independent investigations are carried out to make known the full facts of the case.
- pressuring the government to identify and bring to justice those responsible for the killing.

- pressuring the authorities to take steps to ensure that extrajudicial executions do not continue to occur.
- providing moral support and relief for the relatives of the victim of extrajudicial execution.

#### **Death in detention**

In a death in detention action file, many of the goals of an extrajudicial execution action file also apply. In addition, your group may pressure your target government to --

- act to prevent future torture, including the introduction of legal safeguards.
- provide the family access to the prisoner's burial place or remains.
- pay adequate compensation to the relatives of the victim(s).

#### **Death penalty**

In a death penalty action file, your group seeks the abolition of the death penalty in a particular country. This includes, as an intermediate measure, working for a reduction in the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty or working for the elimination of the death penalty for specific population groups, including children and the mentally retarded.

#### **Torture and ill-treatment**

The goals here are similar to those for an extrajudicial execution action file. Your group seeks to pressure the authorities to carry out a thorough and impartial investigation of the allegations of torture or ill-treatment and to take steps to provide effective safeguards against future occurrences.

#### **Other action files**

In some action files, groups are asked to assist other persons who have been or might become a victim of a human rights violation covered under Amnesty's mandate. Goals for these action files are explained in the action file dossier.

### **3. Action file goals versus other goals**

Your group's strategy and actions on your action file depend on your goals: different goals call for different strategies and different actions. Beware of confusing goals for your action file with other goals your group may have, such as building group membership through outreach. Informing the public (via outreach) about a government's human rights abuses may be a tactic you use to gather petition signatures, which eventually will be used to pressure the government. However, the goal is the release of the prisoner, not the action of outreach.

This manual includes hundreds of ideas for casework action. When considering any action, ask: Can this action help achieve our goals for the action file?

If you are not certain about what your group's goals should be for your action file, call your country coordination group (co-group) now.

*"Speak now and I will answer;*

*How shall I help you, say"*

-- A.E. Housman

## Chapter 2

### Amnesty International Resources

#### Table of Contents:

1. [Overview](#)
2. [Group members](#)
3. [Groups sharing the same action file](#)
4. [Other AIUSA groups working on your target country](#)
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7. [Country coordination groups \(co-groups\)](#)
8. [Area coordinators](#)
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12. [Media coordinators](#)
13. [Board of directors](#)
14. [Trainers](#)
15. [Conferences](#)
16. [Area and cluster meetings](#)
17. [Washington, DC office \(Government Program office\)](#)
18. [Regional and satellite offices](#)
19. [Publications and videos](#)
20. [Translation network](#)

**Summary: Volunteer leaders (especially country coordination group members), other volunteers, and AIUSA staff can assist you with your action file. Consider forming a committee to handle the action file coordination function. AI also has publications and videos to educate you.**

**If you choose just one action from this chapter --** Telephone your area coordinator, describe your action file, and ask about the AI resources in your area that could assist you and your group.

## OVERVIEW

Coordinating an action file may seem to be an immense responsibility. Do not panic; there are resources available to help you.

This chapter focuses on the following AI resources:

- other current and former members of your group.
- groups sharing the same action file, in the U.S.A. and in other countries.
- other AI groups working on your target country.
- other AI groups.
- national section members.
- country coordination groups (co-groups).
- regional refugee coordinators.
- area coordinators.
- student area coordinators.

- legislative coordinators.
- media coordinators.
- members of the Board of Directors.
- trainers.
- AI conferences.
- area and cluster meetings.
- regional offices.
- satellite offices.
- Washington, DC office.
- publications and videos.
- Translation Network.

Other AI resources are covered elsewhere:

- AIUSA mailings and letter-writing and professional networks in Chapter 7.
- the Ivan Morris Fund in Chapter 12.
- the Special Initiatives Fund in Appendix IV.

## Group members

You are not alone in responsibility for your action file. The more your fellow group members assist, the more effective your group's work on behalf of your prisoner will be.

Many (usually larger) groups have an action file committee, not just an action file coordinator. Such committees generally meet at least once a month, separately from the rest of the group.

Such a committee might have --

- one member in charge of information gathering and copying.
- one member in charge of developing **quantity actions**, when such actions are appropriate.
- one member in charge of **special actions**.
- the action file coordinator in charge of **direct actions** and overall coordination, including contact with the co-group. Co-group members generally prefer one main contact person in the local group.

Above is just one idea of how to break down roles in an action file committee. In choosing such a division of roles, take into account the interests and confidence level of all members of the committee, including yourself.

Many members of your group may have knowledge about your target country, contacts with resources in your community, or ideas for actions not included in this manual. One excellent vehicle for exposing these is a training workshop (see Chapter 5). If it is not feasible to have a training workshop on your action file, then an informal strategy session is useful, at about six-month intervals. A formal or informal strategy session has the advantages of --

- increasing group commitment to the action file.
- improving the quantity and variety of prisoner work.
- spreading the workload.

## Groups sharing the same action file

Sometimes more than one group works on the same or a similar action file. If your action file is shared, this fact will be noted in your dossier, and contact information should be provided. The other group may be in AIUSA or in another country, called an **AI section**.

Any action initiated by one section that would involve members and groups in other sections must not be undertaken without prior consultation with the International Secretariat. Advise your co-group if you would like to take a joint

international action, and your co-group will consult with the International Secretariat.

Some action files are shared informally within an area, especially with campus groups, and if this is the case, you should work with your area coordinator on this association.

Wherever that other group might be, it is a valuable resource. Members of that other group may have language skills, funds for relief, expertise in media relations, an active and friendly Representative in Congress, and so forth. Stay in close contact with the other group, and keep its resources in mind when designing joint actions.

## **Other AIUSA groups working on your target country**

Action file coordinators from other AIUSA groups working on your target country can share their ideas and actions, what has been successful for their groups, and what has been less successful. They can provide you with information on your target country. They can participate in joint actions, such as placing an advertisement in a national publication.

You can obtain the telephone numbers of action file coordinators working on your target country from your country coordination group (see below).

## **Other groups**

Members of certain other local and campus groups can also assist your group in your prisoner work. These groups include --

- local and campus groups in the Washington, DC area, who can
  - visit embassies and deliver actions such as petitions (see p. 104).
  - hold demonstrations at embassies (see p. 228).
  - visit Members of Congress (see Chapter 10).
- local and campus groups in other major U.S. cities, who can
  - visit or demonstrate at consulates (see pp. 104 and 228).
  - demonstrate at U.S. offices of companies headquartered in your target country (see p. 230).
- groups in the districts or states of key Representatives or Senators in Congress (see pp. 194 and 202).
- groups in cities hosting conferences of target sector organizations.
- groups in cities hosting a visit of a leader of your target country (see p. 240).
- campus groups whose alumni could influence your target government (see p. 135).
- groups in Maine, which observe Banned Books Week each September. Groups with an action file of a writer, journalist, editor, or publisher should contact the area coordinator for Maine by August 1.

To locate groups in major metropolitan areas or in specific congressional districts, call the appropriate regional office for those areas (see Appendix I) and ask for the name and telephone numbers of the local area coordinator. He or she will be able to tell you if there is a group in the area that might be able to conduct a proposed action. The area coordinator will also be able to provide you the name and phone numbers of such a group's coordinator. To locate the coordinator of a specific campus group, call the regional office serving that group and ask for the name and telephone numbers of the campus group coordinator.

In 1993, there were more than 350 local groups in the U.S.A. and more than 4,000 worldwide, and more than 2,000 campus groups in the U.S.A. Usually groups will help other AI volunteers conducting actions in their city by providing advice, temporary housing, or other assistance. For example, when Group 19 invited a released prisoner of conscience to come to the U.S.A. via Frankfurt, Germany, members of the Frankfurt group assured that he made his travel connections.

## **National section members**

National section members are the more than 400,000 dues-paying supporters of AIUSA. The National office maintains the mailing list of these individuals.

You may wish to use the local portion of this list --

- to identify local lawyers, professors, physicians, or supporters of elected officials.
- to recruit people to participate in demonstrations and other media events, attend fundraising events, or join your group.

It is not cost effective to use this list only to distribute requests for help with your action file. However, if your group will be using the mailing list for some other purpose, you may wish to include photocopied letters or pre-printed postcards with the mailing (see Chapter 6).

You can obtain your local portion of the list in the form of mailing labels. Each group is entitled to one free set of labels each fiscal year (October 1 to September 30) and will be charged \$25 for each subsequent set. To order the labels, call or write the Direct Mail Department of the National office (see Appendix I). Each order must provide --

- your local group number or campus group name.
- the name and address of the person ordering the labels (no delivery to P.O. Boxes).
- the zip codes for the area for which labels are requested.

If you are planning a large mailing, it may be cost effective to obtain a bulk mail permit. Request the [Bulk Mail Guide for Local Groups and Clusters](#), available free from the National office.

## **Country coordination groups (co-groups)**

For every country or region with human rights violations addressed by AIUSA groups, there is an expert or group of experts on both AI and that country. Referred to as country coordination groups, or *co-groups*, these experts represent your most valuable resource for casework. They also act as liaisons between you and the International Secretariat in London.

The name, address, and phone number of your co-group contact should arrive with the prisoner dossier. If this information is not present, contact the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office (see Appendix I).

Your co-group can provide --

- up-to-date details on your target country and the political situation affecting your prisoner.
- advice and suggestions on actions.
- help in using AIUSA mailings.
- specifics on how to contact your prisoner.
- specifics on how to resolve translation problems.
- contacts within the U.S.A. who may help with your action file.
- addresses of non-AI organizations that have assisted in the past.
- addresses of exiles and solidarity groups.
- suggestions on other organizations to approach for help on the action file.
- possible AI resources in other countries.
- resolution of disagreements arising in your group that are based on lack of experience in dealing with prisoners from your target country.
- relay of information to the International Secretariat and from the International Secretariat specific to your action file.

- library resources on your target country.
- advice on how to send money or packages to your prisoner's family.
- useful publications, articles, movies, and so forth.
- resource people, who can assist or educate you.
- guidelines for embassy or consulate visits, if appropriate (see p. 104).

You should provide your co-group --

- speedy notification of changes in the status quo of your action file.
- copies of all correspondence received from your target country and government.
- specific information regarding your successes and failures in communicating and sending relief.
- notification of problems as they occur.
- complaints as they arise.
- suggestions for other groups working on your target country.
- any information you have been able to gather about your target country.
- information on local media successes and failures.
- action file reports as required.

It is most strongly recommended that you keep in close contact with your co-group, calling for advice and updates every month or so. Before conducting any new actions, including actions presented in this manual, consult with your co-group to determine their appropriateness.

An action that seems to be a good idea to your group or which has worked for other groups may be inappropriate for or actually harm your prisoner. For example, writing to your prisoner can be an effective and useful action. However, in some countries prisoners who receive mail are abused. Your co-group will know or be able to find out which actions are inappropriate, and he or she will be able to evaluate actions your group plans to conduct for their safety and effectiveness. Your co-group may recommend or reject actions in order to maintain a consistent approach to your target government or to avoid duplication of efforts by groups.

Also, your co-group may be able to recommend actions unique to the current situation in your target country that would be especially valuable.

Some co-groups have a member responsible for interactions with influential persons in Washington, DC. This member is called a DC representative, or ***DC rep***. A DC rep can

assist --

- in your interactions with the U.S. government officials, including with State Department officials, Members of Congress, and others.
- with contacting your target embassy.
- in identifying DC-based foreign correspondents.
- in briefing the DC press.
- with research.

Most co-groups publish a newsletter with current information, newspaper or magazine clippings, and action ideas.

If you are coordinating a refugee action file, the co-group can be a useful resource on your prisoner's country of origin. Your regional office can put you in touch with the appropriate co-group.

Should you face continuing difficulty in reaching your co-group by telephone or electronic mail (E-mail), or if your co-group is unhelpful, contact the co-group steering committee. If the steering committee cannot solve your problem, contact the Ombudsperson of the AIUSA Board of Directors. Your regional office can give you their phone numbers (see Appendix I).

## **Area coordinators**

Area coordinators are experienced, long-term volunteers who provide support and assistance to all AIUSA groups in an area, including local groups, college groups, high school groups, and church groups. In the absence of media or legislative coordinators, area coordinators frequently act as the official AI contacts with the local media and local politicians.

Before 1989 area coordinators were known as regional membership coordinators (RMCs), and you may still find this term in AI literature.

Your area coordinator may be aware of resources located within other groups that your group may need. These may include language skills and community contacts. For these reasons, it can be valuable to invite your area coordinator to a strategy session.

Because your area coordinator has contact with a large number of groups, he or she may be able to find other groups willing to assist with your prisoner work, particularly in quantity actions and special actions. Also, your area coordinator (or student area coordinator, see below) may be able to team your group with a campus group(s) for the purpose of conducting actions. As campus groups are not permitted to have exclusive responsibility for an action file, and as campus groups outnumber local groups by more than six to one, cooperation has a lot to offer both sides. Students have a great deal of energy and enthusiasm.

"Case sharing" with students can result in high-quality and high-volume actions (see p. 92).

Even if a campus group does not have the time, resources, or inclination to "share" your action file, the group may nonetheless agree to assist with quantity actions such as petitions and postcards or participate in joint special actions.

Finally, your area coordinator will usually be able to locate a trainer for your group.

Your group coordinator should know the name and telephone numbers of your area coordinator. If not, contact your regional office for that information (see Appendix I). Should you face continuing difficulty in reaching your area coordinator, or if your area coordinator is unhelpful, contact the chair of the area coordinator steering committee. If the steering committee cannot solve your problem, contact the Ombudsperson of the AIUSA Board of Directors. Your regional office can provide their phone numbers.

## **Student area coordinators**

In some areas, area coordinators are joined by student area coordinators, who assist the area campus groups. Ask your area coordinator if you should be in contact with any student area coordinators.

## **Regional refugee coordinators**

Regional refugee coordinators assist coordinators of action files and campaigns focusing on refugees. They serve as liaisons with the Refugee office and the International Secretariat, conduct research, and provide advice to groups with refugee action files. In some areas the INS district coordinator serves in the same role as the regional refugee coordinator. The name and phone numbers of the appropriate coordinator should have come with your first mailing. If they did not, contact your regional office.

## **Legislative coordinators**

AIUSA encourages each group to designate a legislative coordinator, a person responsible for the group's relations with Members of Congress. Your legislative coordinator should be able to --

provide insight on what support your action file or campaign might get from your Representative in Congress.

- assist in requesting the support from your Representative.

If there is more than one local group in your congressional district, the groups should have chosen a district legislative coordinator, who coordinates all requests made of your Representative. Also, your state may have a state legislative coordinator, who coordinates approaches to Senators.

## Media coordinators

Many groups or areas in AIUSA have a media coordinator (also known as a media liaison). A media coordinator can assist you in planning a media event or in getting press coverage for your action file or campaign. Your area coordinator will know if there is a media coordinator in your area.

## Board of Directors

A 24-person **volunteer** Board of Directors oversees the staff of AIUSA. Many Board members have considerable experience as AI volunteers at the grass roots level, including activity as members of co-groups, local groups, or campus groups.

As Board members, these volunteers have access to corridors of power unavailable to the average group member, for example, in the State Department or in other arms of the U.S. government. And having a Board member participate in a public event may make that event more attractive to the media.

You should therefore obtain from your regional office the addresses and phone numbers of Board members who live near your group and contact them to discuss what these Board members could do to assist you with your action file or campaign. Board members represent the volunteer membership and as such should be willing to listen and help in any situation. If Board members themselves cannot assist you, they likely will know the people who can.

## Trainers

Trainers are experienced AI volunteers who visit groups on request to lead workshops aimed at improving the effectiveness of the group's human rights work. There are many workshops on developing a strategy for action files: five are presented in Chapter 5.

If none of those workshops suits your action file or the time period available, a trainer can develop a workshop for your group. Be sure to let the trainer know --

- what your group's needs are.
- how much time will be available for a training.
- how many people will attend.
- what actions your group has already taken on the action file.

It is often better to hold a curtailed strategy workshop during a group's regular meeting period than to have a special training session at which attendance might be substantially lower. Goals of the strategy workshop include identifying group resources and motivating the members of the group.

Training workshops are also available in other action-related areas, such as media relations and approaching Members of Congress. As these activities will likely be conducted by a subset of your group, a workshop outside your regular group time may be more efficient. Such workshops may be available at AI conferences.

## Conferences

Every spring or late winter each region of AIUSA holds a regional conference; every June there is a national conference called the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Among many other benefits, attending a conference permits you to --

- exchange casework ideas with others.
- exchange quantity actions.
- attend action-oriented workshops.
- attend workshops that focus on your target country.
- meet released prisoners.
- meet a member of your co-group (sometimes at regional conferences, always at the AGM).
- meet human rights activists, journalists, or other nationals from your target country (sometimes).
- meet members of other groups working on action files from your target country (usually).
- get inspired and reinvigorated.
- engage in some serious partying, which you deserve.

Your group coordinator should know by November of the dates of the upcoming regional conference and AGM and should receive sign-up forms for these conferences. Ask him or her to let the group know when one is approaching.

Should your group need a specialized workshop at a regional conference, such as "Holding a Media Event," request it from your regional office at least two months in advance of the conference. Should your group need a specialized workshop at the AGM, request it from the regional office hosting the AGM before January 1 of the year of the AGM, and the earlier the better.

## Area and cluster meetings

Some area coordinators organize area or cluster meetings, where members of many local and/or campus groups come together, as well as specialized coordinators (media coordinators, legislative coordinators, action file coordinators, campaign coordinators, and group coordinators). To find out if such meetings are held in your area, ask your area coordinator.

These meetings provide an opportunity for --

- training workshops.
- distribution of quantity actions.
- finding help for special actions.
- some of the other benefits of attending conferences.

## Washington, DC office (Government Program office)

AIUSA maintains two offices in the District of Columbia: the Mid-Atlantic Regional office and the Government Program office. These two offices are in different buildings, have different telephone numbers, and their staffs perform different work.

The Government Program office, usually referred to as the *DC office*, serves as a second national office (after the AIUSA headquarters in New York City). Its staff interacts with the U.S. Federal government and tracks the human rights activities of the Executive Branch and Congress. The staff also supplies AI information to the Executive Branch

and to Members of Congress.

The office has four Government Program Officers, each covering a different area of the world. These staff members meet with U.S. ambassador-designates before they are sent abroad and maintain contact with State Department desk officers. Go through your co-group to contact a government program officer.

## Regional and satellite offices

There are five regional offices and four satellite offices located across the U.S.A. (see Appendix I). Among other activities, regional offices serve the volunteer membership of AIUSA. Your area coordinator is your liaison to your regional office. Your regional office can provide you --

- publications, videos, and photograph exhibits.
- media contacts and advice. Some regional offices have a press officer.
- contacts with some local target sector organizations and members.
- a list of speakers, including former prisoners of conscience and human rights activists, who may be able to speak to your group.
- addresses and phone numbers of
  - local groups.
  - campus groups.
  - country coordination groups.
  - area coordinators and student area coordinators.
  - death penalty abolition coordinators and student death penalty abolition coordinators.
  - trainers.
  - other volunteer leaders.
  - members of the AIUSA Board of Directors.

Satellite offices provide some of the services of regional offices. Some satellite offices publish newsletters.

## Publications and videos

All AI publications and videos are listed in the [Human Rights Library](#), a catalogue that is available free from your regional office. If your group does not have a copy, request it and review it. Your group may choose to purchase certain reference materials, although it is often possible to borrow materials (especially videos) on a short-term basis from your regional office.

Every action file, campaign, media, or legislative coordinator should obtain the 1992 [Amnesty International Handbook](#), an extremely useful book available to AIUSA groups for \$5 plus postage from the National office (see the order form at the end of this manual). The Handbook contains information on the mandate, guidelines for AI activity, group management, AI structure and history, and success stories. While the Handbook also includes action suggestions, all of those suggestions also appear in this manual.

Each July, Amnesty International publishes its [Annual Report](#), which covers human rights violations in more than 120 countries during the previous calendar year. In the past each group and area coordinator received one free copy of the [Annual Report](#), so your group coordinator and/or area coordinator should have copies and back copies that you can borrow in order to photocopy the section on your target country. If not, call or write your regional office and ask for such a photocopy to be mailed to you. Obtain the [Annual Report](#) section for your target country from each of the past five reports, or if your prisoner has been imprisoned for more than five years, for as long as the prisoner has been imprisoned. Many libraries have back copies of the [Annual Report](#).

If your group does not already have one, consider the designation of a "group librarian" responsible for reports and other AI publications.

AI also publishes reports on human rights violations in specific countries. Your co-group or regional office will know if one is available for your target country. Such a report is always produced for a major country campaign. A report includes extremely useful background information for your casework. If a current report is available, request it from your regional office. When you request a copy of the publication, inform the staff member that you are an action file or campaign coordinator working on the country and that the report should be sent to you without charge. Each member of your action file or campaign committee should receive a copy.

For major country campaigns, AI frequently produces a short video. If your group will be participating in the campaign, consider showing this video to your group before any strategy session.

If your target country is French-speaking, obtain the "Guide to French Letter-writing," available from the Casework office.

If your action file is a "disappearance," obtain [Disappearances: A Workbook](#), which is available from your regional office.

Groups with refugee action files should obtain [Refugee Guidelines](#) and two addenda: [Restriction](#) and [Detention](#), as well as basic information available from the Refugee office.

## Fundraising publications

Your group may have insufficient funds to conduct some actions. The handbook [Funds for Freedom](#) was distributed with the February 1994 [Monthly Mailing](#): ask your group coordinator for it. Your regional office can provide [Fundraising for Human Rights](#) (AIUSA, 1993), [Fundraising: Adoption Groups Tell their Stories](#) (AIUSA, 1980), and the [Fundraising and Events Handbook for Campus Groups](#). Your group might need the [Bulk Mail Guide for Local Groups and Clusters](#), which is available from the National office.

If your group is considering selling merchandise to raise funds, obtain the booklet "Merchandise with a Message," available from your regional office.

AIUSA staff also recommends the following non-AI publications for information on fundraising:

- [The Grass Roots Fundraising Book: How to Raise Money in Your Community](#), by Joan Flanagan (The Swallow Press, Inc., P.O. Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14851, 800-666-2211, 1982, \$12.95).
- [Securing Your Organization's Future: A Complete Guide to Fundraising Strategies](#), by Michael Seltzer, a former AIUSA staff member (The Foundation Center, 78 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003, 800-424-9836, 1987, \$24.95).
- [Fundraising for Social Change](#), by Kim Klein (Chardon Press, P.O. Box 101, Inverness, CA 94937, 415-663-8562, 1988, \$20).

## Translation Network

Some co-groups can arrange for translators. In addition, a translation network is handled out of the DC office.

The services of the Translation Network are available to members who need letters or other short documents translated to and from French, Spanish, and Arabic. To utilize this service, send the following to the AIUSA Translation Network (c/o the DC office):

- the document to be translated. The document should be no more than three pages; call the DC office for

longer projects.

- a note stating the language into which the document should be translated.
- a stamped envelope addressed to the document recipient.
- a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a copy of the translation or the original document returned to you. Make copies of all documents before you mail them, and send the copies.
- five extra copies of any special letterhead upon which the document should appear.

Allow three weeks for the work to be completed.

When sending out material to be translated be careful to delete sources. Your group must be **very careful** with any correspondence from your prisoner's family. If you receive any letters from your prisoner's family, check with your co-group before sending the letter to be translated. If you have no co-group contact, send letters from families to the International Secretariat for translation. For policy on using non-AI translators, see p. 27.

*"The great aim of education is not knowledge, but action."*

-- Herbert Spencer

## Chapter 3

### Gathering Information

#### Table of Contents:

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**Summary:** In order to develop a strategy to meet your action file's goals, your group needs to discover who or what can influence the people who can resolve the human rights violation. You can get valuable information from publications, on-line services, and individual experts.

**If you choose just three actions from this chapter --** Ask your country coordination group (co-group) for information. Obtain the [Europa World Yearbook](#) description of your target country. Invite a local expert on your target country to address your group.

## OVERVIEW

**Knowledge is power.** The more you know about your target country and government, the more effective your group's work can be.

However, as many in AI know, it is possible to drown in information. In all your information-gathering, **keep your eyes on the prize!** Ask yourself if, with the information to be gathered, your group can develop strategies to achieve your action file's goals.

**The key questions you need answered are these: Who has the ability to resolve the human rights violation? Who or what can influence these people? Or, who or what do the country's leaders care about?**

### Who can resolve the human rights violation?

In most countries, the people who can resolve the human rights violation are the official leaders of the government.

However, sometimes the military, security, or police establishment holds the reins of real power, including the power to free or account for your prisoner.

Other individuals may have great influence. In Thailand, for example, the king and queen have intervened to end human rights violations and have granted amnesties to prisoners.

Throughout this manual the term **target government** refers to the persons who have the ability to resolve human rights violations, even though not all of those persons are officially part of the government.

Your co-group should be able to identify the individuals who can resolve human rights violations in your target country.

## Who or what does the government care about?

Understanding what motivates your target government requires some knowledge of your target country's --

- politics.
- economics.
- trade.
- religion.
- philosophy.
- human rights policies and practices.
- ethnic composition.
- media.
- relations with other countries.

With that understanding, you can determine how best to influence that government.

Money and power motivate many leaders. Look especially for how your target country gets money from the U.S.A. and from other countries, including revenue from trade.

Does the country get U.S. aid? Is it trying to get or keep Most Favored Nation trading status? Does it have trade and development agreements with the U.S.A.? If so, your target government probably cares about the opinions of Members of Congress, the State Department, and about stories in the press (see Chapters 10 and 11 for actions).

Does the country get loans from U.S. banks, the World Bank or International Monetary Fund, or other banks? Export products to the U.S.A. or seek investment from U.S. firms? Seek U.S. tourists? Take part in cultural or scientific exchanges? Your group could express its concern about the human rights violation in letters to the appropriate banks, corporations, newspaper travel editors, and arts or scientific organizations, respectively. Each of these letters could be copied to the country's ambassador to the U.S.A. and to the country's head of government. For more on such actions, see Chapter 9.

What Americans have been honored by your target country or are members of prestigious societies linked to your target country? Their letters or the renunciation of their awards and memberships can attract the attention of your

target government. For example, Bertrand Russell returned the Carl von Ossietzky peace medal awarded by the East German Peace Council, because the East German government refused to release prisoner of conscience Heinz Brandt.

For more questions that might help you develop a strategy, see Appendix XVIII.

Estimates on the dollar amounts of aid, trade, loans, U.S. tourism, and so forth can help to determine priorities for actions during a strategy session.

Be alert to the sensitivity of your target government to influential non-governmental leaders, including newspaper editors and religious leaders in your target country.

## Finding others who can help you

During your information search, try to identify other organizations or people who might assist you in --

- gathering information.
- influencing your target government to meet the goals of your action file.

## Gathering information

Your dossier probably does not contain enough information on your target country for your group to develop an optimal strategy. Your group will have to search for more information. Indeed, a group may not receive all the information on a prisoner that is available from human rights sources such as Human Rights Internet (see p. 145). The norm is that the International Secretariat only sends out basic information on a prisoner, and the group will have to search for other information. It is rare that a group will be told how the International Secretariat originally learned about its prisoner.

You cannot halt activity on your action file while you read all available information on your target country and your target government. However, information gathering is an important concurrent action and is essential to developing an effective strategy. **You may wish to obtain a volunteer or volunteers within your group or action file committee who will seek out information for the group.**

The search for information need not involve reinventing the wheel. Co-group members receive information from --

- the research team at the International Secretariat responsible for your target country.
- co-groups in other Amnesty sections, via the International Secretariat.
- other groups working on action files involving your target country.
- a clipping service.
- their own research and network of contacts.

**Your co-group, therefore, will have much of the critical information you need for developing a strategy.**

The remainder of this chapter describes other sources of this information.

If your group collects information that might be of use to other groups working on your target country, send copies of that information to your co-group.

Local libraries may have different specialties. Just because a book or resource is not available at your community's library does not mean that your librarian cannot obtain it via an interlibrary loan. Call and ask before you spend serious

money on the reference books described in this manual. Book prices were checked in 1992 and may have changed.

Also, don't forget your Representative in Congress. Any Representative has direct access to Library of Congress researchers, who do a very thorough job. Don't identify yourself as AI; ask as a private citizen needing information. Students write in to their Representatives with term paper requests all the time. It will take four to six weeks for a response.

### Catalogs of information sources

You may save yourself time and identify more excellent information sources if you order the free catalogs of publishers frequently cited in this manual. Contact --

- the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, 202-783-3238. The federal documents catalog is also available at many public libraries on microfiche.
- Gale Research, 800-877-4253.
- Human Rights Internet, c/o Human Rights Centre, University of Ottawa, 57 Louis Pasteur, Ottawa, Ontario K1N6N5, 613-564-3492. Request "publications and subscription information."

## COUNTRY INFORMATION SOURCES

### Reference books

Reference books provide a quick way to gather important information you will need for developing a strategy (see Chapters 4 and 5). You seek information on your target country's --

- population.
- languages spoken.
- type of government.
- history of government, including causes of past government changes.
- major exports and imports.
- religion.
- ethnic and cultural groups.
- political activities, parties, and groups.
- government leaders.
- international alliances.
- treaties signed.

- role in the United Nations.

You will want to summarize this information on one or two pages for distribution to your group prior to a strategy session.

The best source is the Europa World Yearbook (distributed by Gale Research, 800-877-4253, \$580 for the 1993 edition), which is available at some public and university libraries. The yearbook provides information on a country's --

- language.
- religion.
- recent history.
- government.
- economic affairs.
- public holidays.
- principal trading partners.
- constitution.

The yearbook also provides addresses of a country's --

- major religious organizations.
- newspapers, with circulation figures.
- English-language newspapers.
- radio and television stations.
- commercial banks, with telephone numbers and the name of an executive.
- foreign (including U.S.-owned) banks, with telephone numbers and the name of an executive.
- the Chamber of Commerce.
- industrial and trade associations.
- trade unions.
- tourist boards.

Europa also publishes reference books covering regions, including Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Africa South of the Sahara, Middle East and North Africa, Far East and Australasia, and South America, Central America, and the Caribbean (distributed by Gale Research, 800-877-4253, \$220 to \$375). These books include articles on current issues as well as statistics.

The Statesman's Yearbook (St. Martin's Press, 800-288-2131, \$85 for the 1993-94 edition) provides information on a country's --

- history.
- area and population.
- constitution.
- defense policy.
- international relations.
- economy.
- energy and national resources.
- industry and trade.
- communications.
- justice system.
- religion.
- education and welfare.
- diplomatic representatives.

Finally, every library has encyclopedias and almanacs.

## Other books

Your co-group will probably have a long list of country- or region-specific books to recommend to you. Also, check your public or university library or local bookstore for books on the history of the country, its politics, and any biographies of current leaders.

The International Monetary Fund publication Direction of Trade Statistics (IMF Publication Services, 700 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20431, 202-623-7430, \$20 per quarterly issue) identifies the value of exports and imports between your target country and other countries in the world, including the U.S.A. This enables your group to identify the key trading partners of your target country.

The U.S. government funds the preparation of Area Handbooks by the American University. These handbooks are sold by the U.S. Government Printing Office and have titles like Guatemala, a Country Study (\$7.50) or Thailand, a Country Study (\$18). Because any handbook is updated infrequently, check if its copyright date is after the last major change in your target government before purchasing one. These handbooks are widely available in libraries.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars may publish books on your target country. Write the Woodrow Wilson Center, Smithsonian Institution Building, 1000 Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20560, or call 202-287-3000, extension 218, to obtain a free catalog.

*"I can't remember whether I was writing a subversive novel or reading a subversive novel."*

## Newspapers

Newspaper articles provide up-to-date information on a country and its relationships with the U.S. government and U.S. businesses. Also, citing recent articles in your letters shows that you are aware of the situation in your target country. However, anyone writing as an AI member should not repeat newspaper allegations that are not within the AI mandate or that are within the mandate but have not been confirmed by AI.

Ask for assistance from your group's members in finding newspaper articles (see p. 43). Make an indexed clipping file.

At least one member of each co-group receives newspaper articles on the area covered by the co-group. You can request copies of pertinent articles.

The National Newspaper Index (Information Access, 800-227-8431) covers the past two years for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and Los Angeles Times. This index will enable you to find references to your target country quickly. It is available in major libraries and on DIALOG and Knowledge Index (see p. 24). DIALOG and Knowledge Index also offer the full text of more than 30 major U.S. newspapers on-line.

### Finding influential individuals in newspapers

Even small, local newspapers carry stories, feature articles, and wire service reports that identify influential individuals whom you can ask to write high-impact letters (see p. 115). For example, if a travel writer praises tourist attractions in your target country, you could write and ask him or her to make an inquiry to the minister of tourism about your prisoner. Most governments are eager to attract foreign tourists, and the ministry of tourism just might want to oblige the travel writer by bringing the high-impact letter to the attention of the appropriate officials.

To cite another example, suppose a letter to the editor of your local paper praises your target country. You might inform the author of your prisoner's case and ask the author to express concern to your target embassy, enclosing along with it a copy of the letter to the editor.

People in many towns and rural areas subscribe to regional or national newspapers that contain valuable leads for seeking high-impact letters. Major newspapers often print petitions, public statements, and letters to the editor from lobbying groups. For example, Arab-American organizations frequently make statements on foreign policy issues that support or conform

with the foreign policy of Syria. Amnesty International, of course, never takes a stand on any foreign policy issue, but your group is free to ask lobbying organizations to take a humanitarian interest in your prisoner's case. The Syrian government would be in an awkward position if it ignored a prisoner appeal from an organization that is a supporter or tacit ally of Syria.

### Émigré newspapers

Many small newspapers published in the U.S.A. are aimed at an émigré population; there may be one for émigrés from your target country. Such a paper may offer valuable insights, provided you know someone who can read it. Your co-group may be able to identify such a publication (also see p. 219). Be aware that émigré newspapers are much more likely than U.S. papers to take a strong political position, which may or may not be that of your target government. Therefore, be wary of either citing an article in an émigré publication or considering its information authoritative.

**USSR**, Group 24, Cambridge, MA. To get information on its prisoner, the group placed an ad in a Russian-language daily published in the U.S.A. The editor printed the ad at no charge.

## Magazines and journals

The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, available at nearly every main library, provides an index to articles published in magazines. This reference will enable you to find recent articles on your target country. A reference librarian can assist you.

The Magazine Index (Information Access, 800-227-8431) is a microfilm index of articles that have appeared in more than 500 magazines over the past three years. It is available in many libraries and on DIALOG (see p. 24). Some libraries have a similar index available on a computer system or on-line, which dramatically increases the speed of an information search. You may wish to call local libraries to determine which ones have magazine indices on a computer.

Your co-group may be able to recommend magazines and journals that focus on your target country or region, for example, Africa Confidential.

## U.S. government periodicals

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) produce publications with foreign political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information. All information is obtained from foreign radio and TV broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items from foreign language sources are translated.

These publications can be extremely helpful in identifying --

- who the major players are in your target country and what they care about.
- prominent Americans, including politicians and government officials, who are planning to visit or have recently visited your target country, especially on trade missions.
- current issues of importance in your target country.
- aid decisions by governments around the world.
- newspapers and other media outlets in your target country and their political biases.

With the permission of your co-group, you could even send letters to the editor with a mention of your prisoner in response to articles that appeared in foreign publications (see p. 268).

The FBIS Daily Report contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. A subscription is \$625 per year for the first volume and \$100 per year for each additional volume. In 1993, certain segments of the Daily Report were posted on PeaceNet (see pp. 79-80). The FBIS also publishes the Index to the Foreign Broadcast Information Service Daily Reports. Each co-group receives a copy of the Index.

**Vietnam**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. In the January 1993 Index for East Asia, under the heading Vietnam-Vietnam/USA-political visits, a group member found an article titled "U.S. Academics Arrive for Cooperation Seminar." Other useful articles were found under headings such as economic relations and foreign investments.

JPRS publications generally contain less time-sensitive information than FBIS reports and are published periodically. For information on all of these publications, request Government Reports Announcements from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, 703-487-4630.

Copies or microfiches of the Daily Report and JPRS publications are available at federal document libraries and at many public and university libraries.

## On-line services

Gathering information by computer is extremely efficient, but it can be expensive. At your strategy session, ask if any members of your group have access to on-line services at their homes, businesses, or at a major university. If not, a group member with a computer and a modem may be willing to sign-up with an on-line service.

Such services offer up-to-date as well as historical news and information from thousands of news organizations and periodicals published around the world. The news and information are accessed in individual databases and other files provided by the services.

On-line services include companies such as those listed below. Service fees were checked in 1993 and may have changed substantially.

- DIALOG, 800-3DIALOG, \$295 initial fee includes a search guide, \$100 usage credit and training, no monthly fee, and a connect rate that averages \$1.60 per minute for access to 400 different databases.
- America OnLine, 800-827-6364, no initial fee, free software, ten free hours in first month, \$9.95 per month includes five hours free per month, and a connect rate of \$3.50 per hour for additional hours.
- CompuServe, 800-848-8199, \$39.95 initial fee includes \$25 usage credit, \$8.95 per month for 35 "basic" on-line services including wire services, and a connect rate of \$8 to \$16 per hour for more than 1,700 "extended" services. CompuServe also offers 100 "premium" databases through the Knowledge Index, which is available evenings, nights, and weekends only, with a flat connect rate of \$24 per hour including connect charges. Prices for other premium services vary.
- Prodigy, 800-PRODIGY, initial fee varies, \$14.95 plus tax per month, and no connect fees.

*Gathering information by computer is extremely efficient, but it can be expensive. On-line services offer up-to-date as well as historical news and information from thousands of news organizations and periodicals published around the world.*

The person with access should log in to the system to get information on your target country once a month or more often, depending on how long news stories remain on-line on a particular service. CompuServe has the ability to capture news on a given topic as it comes across a wire service and set it aside for you to read or retrieve the next time you log-on. You just enter a keyword, such as Thailand, and then any article that contains that word will be set aside for you.

In addition to general news or business news databases, there exist country-specific and subject-specific on-line databases that may contain useful information. To identify those databases and learn how to access them, check your local public library for the Directory of On-line Databases (Gale Research, 800-877-4253, \$210 for a two-issue one-year subscription in 1994). This directory identifies more than 5,000 databases available on more than 700 on-line services. Also, the customer or member services department of the on-line service you are using now may be able recommend databases for you.

Additional country information may be found on computer bulletin boards and on computer networks, especially PeaceNet (see p. 79).

# HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION SOURCES

## Government publications

Consider obtaining the same human rights information that your Member of Congress might have or would respect. These reports are extremely useful to cite in letters to any politician. They include --

- the newsletter of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus (see p. 196).
- the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (Organization of American States, Attn. Publications, 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202-458-3000, \$20 for the 1992 edition).
- The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for (YEAR) Submitted to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, by the Department of State (U.S. Government Printing Office, 202-783-3238, \$35 for the 1992 edition). This document is available by April of each year for the previous calendar year, and your co-group should have a copy.
- other relevant documents produced by the federal government, which are available at government document libraries at major universities and at federal bookstores in large cities across the country.

## Human rights publications

AI publications are described on p. 14. Many other human rights organizations also produce useful publications (see Appendix V).

## Books

Human Rights: A Directory of Resources (Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 10545, 800-258-5838, 1989, \$12.65) lists books, articles, audiovisuals, and organizations. A more complete source of information on organizations is Human Rights Internet (see p. 145).

For those living in or visiting the San Francisco Bay Area, the authors of the directory work at The Data Center, 464 19th Street, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-835-4692. The Data Center has a library (hours are limited, and there is a use fee of \$6.50 to \$30) and an on-line database (\$75 per hour) with information on third-world countries and human rights.

Human Rights and Statistics: Getting the Record Straight, edited by Thomas B. Jabine and Richard P. Claude (University of Pennsylvania Press, P.O. Box 4836, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211, 301-338-6948, 1992, \$36.95), provides methods of developing and analyzing data on human rights abuses. The final chapter lists 29 human rights databases.

Serving Survivors of Torture by Glenn R. Randall and Ellen L. Lutz (AAAS Press, Dept. A32, P.O. Box 753, Waldorf, MD 20604, 301-645-5643, 1991, \$18) identifies treatment approaches for survivors of torture.

The Human Rights Reader, edited by Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin (NAL, Penguin USA, 800-526-0275, \$10.95), is an anthology including articles on recent events, commentaries, and documents from the Magna Carta to the Vienna Accords. It also includes an extensive human rights bibliography.

International Human Rights: Law, Policy and Process by Frank Newman and David Weissbrodt (Anderson Publishing Co., 2035 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-421-4142, \$52) covers each of the major channels for international human rights implementation. This book is available at some law libraries. Its purchase would probably be tax-deductible for any lawyer in your group.

Your co-group may be able to recommend other books that focus on human rights in your target country or region.

## Magazines

Human rights magazines include: Human Rights Internet Reporter (\$60 per year) and Human Rights Tribune (\$30 per year), available from Human Rights Internet (see p. 145), and Human Rights Quarterly (Johns Hopkins University Press, Journals Divisions, 701 W. 40 Street, Suite 275, Baltimore, MD 21211-2190, 800-537-5487, \$26 per year).

Once again, your co-group may be able to recommend specialty journals, such as the South African Journal of Human Rights.

## Films and videos

Films and videos are a relatively inefficient method of information transfer, except for larger audiences like your entire group or the general public.

Your group may prefer to learn about your target country from films or videos rather than the written word. If your group is working on a campaign, look into an AI video (see p. 14).

The Human Rights Film Guide (Facets Multimedia, 1517 W. Fullerton Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, 800-331-6197, 1990, \$7.50) lists over 400 human rights films and videotapes and includes ordering information. Human Rights: A Directory of Resources (see p. 25) provides longer descriptions of fewer films and videos.

Your co-group may be able to provide you with a list of country- or region-specific films and videos.

# INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS

An efficient way to gather information on who or what would influence your target government is to consult an expert. An individual expert would probably be the best source of answers to questions in Appendix XVIII. This consultation could take place by phone, but ideally the expert would attend your group meeting and answer questions from your group **before** you hold a strategy session. If the expert is not a member of your community, check with your co-group to ensure that the expert has not already been consulted by AI. **Do not share any INTERNAL AI information with any non-AI expert.**

## Community members

If there is a university in your community, you may be able to locate students from your target country or faculty experts who could not only provide information but who could assist your group with translations and other limited action file activity.

Émigrés from your target country may live in your community. Be careful about relying upon information from émigrés as they may be partisans of the opposition or even the government. The 1983 Amnesty International Handbook noted that exile organizations "can often be of benefit to your work, but you should remember that such groups are often infiltrated by hostile intelligence agents." Verify any insights you receive with your co-group. Do not adopt any suggestions for actions without consultation with your co-group.

Human rights and other organizations that focus on the situation in your target country may be able to locate a local émigré or expert who would be willing to speak to your group. Explain to your group that the speaker's views on areas outside the AI mandate are his or her own.

According to AI policy, nationals (that is, citizens of a specific country) should not play a leading public role in AI actions, letters, or appeals to countries where they could be identified as potentially "hostile." In local and campus groups, nationals should not work on action files from or sign any letters or appeals to their country of origin. These criteria also apply to any others who may be considered non-objective by virtue of their country of birth, ancestry, or other close identification where such a relationship could lead to a perception of bias.

**Greece**, Group 73, Ithaca, NY. A Greek Cornell student who was a Jehovah's Witness, like the group's prisoner of conscience, spoke to the group at a meeting.

**Myanmar (Campaign)**, Group 73, Ithaca, NY. A speaker on the Pro-Democracy movement came to address the group.

## Translations

Your co-group will also help you decide whether to use local translations. Never use local people to translate letters to or from your prisoner's family.

For some countries, groups have been warned that a foreign national might slip a political slant into a translation -- deliberately or not. In certain languages, a letter in the handwriting of a native speaker might be offensive or easily dismissed as being from an émigré rather than from an impartial AI member.

Amnesty policy on local translations varies by language: check with your co-group for the translation approval policy for the language of your target country. In less than ten percent of action files, the National Casework Coordinator will require that a group member speak the language. French letter writing requires a command of formal diplomatic language. Spanish, in contrast, is more straightforward, and someone who has studied the language in school may be able to draft a letter. To approve an Arabic translator, your group should have two letters translated and send them to your co-group for checking.

**China**, Group 73, Ithaca, NY. The group was able to use the resources of Cornell University to obtain translations for petitions and letters.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The group used special typewriters for the Cyrillic alphabet made available by the local university's Russian department.

## Released prisoners of conscience

Your co-group may be aware of a former prisoner of conscience, political prisoner, or exile from your target country who is now living in the U.S.A. and could give you valuable advice. A list of potential speakers, called the "National Campaign Office Speakers List," includes some former prisoners of conscience residing in the U.S.A. The list is available from your regional office.

The AIUSA Board of Directors has determined that former victims of human rights violations that fall under AI's mandate have the right to be compensated for their services at meetings or speaking engagements. The payment is to be negotiated between the speaker and the group. Responsibility for the payment rests with the group that requests the individual's services.

**Morocco**, Group 30, San Francisco, CA. The group met with the parents of its prisoner of conscience, which not only provided information for the group but also built motivation for casework. The group also contacted the prisoner's sister in France.

## Citizens of your target country

You should not try to develop contacts in your target country without prior consultation with your co-group, as this action could seriously endanger the contact and may have a very negative effect on AI's work in your target country or for your prisoner. Your co-group will contact the International Secretariat on your behalf.

Also, you may not ask any AI member, AI group, or the AI section in your target country for information about human rights questions or prisoner cases there.

However, working closely with your co-group, it may be useful to contact citizens of your target country for information.

**Morocco ("Disappearances")**, Group 271, Boise, ID; Group 142, San Rafael, CA; Group 153, Hamilton, OH; Group 195, Oneonta, NY. Four U.S. groups and many European groups participated in a poster campaign designed to elicit some response from townspeople or authorities as to the whereabouts of some "disappeared" persons. "Missing" posters in French, giving the name of the "disappeared" and the address of AI in case of response, were shipped to the home towns of the "disappeared" persons. The Maghreb co-group has a five-page write-up on this action.

## Returned Peace Corps volunteers

Former Peace Corps volunteers have a national organization called Returned Volunteers. Your local or regional Peace Corps office can give you a local Returned Volunteers contact name and phone number. A returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in your target country may have language skills as well as insights into who or what your target government cares about.

**Central African Republic**, Group 156, Huntington, NY. The group contacted a Peace Corps volunteer who had just returned.

**Mauritania**, Group 18, Chicago, IL. The group had a returned Peace Corps volunteer speak at their meeting.

## Foreign correspondents

Before writing to foreign correspondents about an **action file**, check with your co-group, then contact the Director of Communications in the National office or your regional press officer. Do not contact foreign correspondents about a **country campaign**, because the correspondents will have learned about the campaign on its opening day.

Major newspapers, such as the Baltimore Sun, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, and Washington Post, as well as newspaper groups like Knight-Ridder, have foreign correspondents. Call the newspapers (see the directories on p. 219), and ask for the names and addresses of their foreign correspondents in your target country.

If approved, alert the journalist to the human rights violation represented by your action file. Let him or her know that an Amnesty International group in your community is working for the prisoner. This information might provide a U.S. hook for an international story. In many cases the journalist will know about human rights problems in your target country but may be unaware of your action file. Ask the journalist to make inquiries of the government about your action file.

Some foreign correspondents may be willing to make such an inquiry, particularly if your prisoner is a journalist. Foreign correspondents are likely to be people your target government cares about, and this inquiry might lead to government action or information you could use. Also, foreign correspondents may be familiar enough with circumstances in your target country to provide you some important clues. But they may consider your inquiry a

conflict of interest, so do not be surprised if they are unwilling to assist.

*"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."*

-- Lao-Tsu

## Chapter 4

### Initial Action File Activities

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**Summary: Certain steps should usually be taken in the first month after receipt of your action file. These include: calling your group coordinator, country coordination group (co-group), and area coordinator; sending telegrams or telexes (when appropriate); and providing your group the materials needed to start letter writing and to prepare for a strategy session.**

**If you choose just one action from this chapter --** Determine which materials your group will need to begin work, and prepare them.

## OVERVIEW

Sometimes action file materials include instructions for initial activities. Follow those first. Read all background materials provided before reading this chapter. Those materials should include Appendix XVII of this manual.

Additional initial activities involve

(1) Contacting volunteer leaders, including --

- your group coordinator.

- your country coordination group.
- your area coordinator.

(2) Taking preliminary actions, including --

- sending telegrams, telexes, or faxes, if appropriate.
- writing the family (only if approved).
- writing co-adopting groups.
- photocopying and securing the action file dossier.

(3) Organizing your group to start work.

## **CONTACTING VOLUNTEER LEADERS**

### **Speak to your group coordinator**

Obtain an initial budget for work on the action file. Ideally, because you would like to send telegrams and photocopy a large number of materials, this would be \$50 to \$100. However, if your group is cash-poor, you will have to make do. Some member of your group (ask your group coordinator) may have access to a photocopier at work. Also, you may find a copying shop that will give a discounted rate to an AI group (try independent, internationally-oriented places). As casework costs money, consider asking the group to engage in fundraising (see p. 15).

Ask the group coordinator how many sets of materials you should make up for the group, and then add at least ten to that number, for volunteer leaders not in your group, local student leaders, and new group members.

Also, ask your group coordinator if any current or past member or supporter of the group speaks or writes the language of your target country. Ask if anyone has access to a fax machine to send an international fax. Ask for the telephone number of your area coordinator. Ask for 60 or preferably 90 minutes to hold a strategy session in the second upcoming group meeting (see Chapter 5). Finally, ask for a copy of the group's mailing list.

### **Telephone your co-group contact**

Obtain your co-group contact's home and work phone numbers, which should be in your dossier, for access in an emergency. Ask for advice on how to proceed with the action file. Your co-group may have much of the information below in some sort of introductory packet. If not, you need to find out --

- who are the best officials to write?
- which officials read English?
- which actions have been successful?
- which actions are indicated, that is, which actions should your group undertake?
- are there any limitations on actions?
- can the group write to or telegram your prisoner?

- are there any limitations on picture postcards to your prisoner?
- can the group write or phone your prisoner's family?
- can AI be mentioned in letters to your prisoner or your prisoner's family?
- can the group member designated to write to your prisoner or his or her family also write to the government and sign petitions?
- what are key dates for actions:
  - the country's national day?
  - the leader of your target government's birthday?
  - major religious holidays?
  - dates amnesties are usually given?
- what does your target government care about (for strategy):
  - U.S. treaties?
  - U.S. aid?
  - U.S. trade status (such as Most Favored Nation)?
  - U.S. tourism?
  - U.S. trade and/or investment?
  - other countries -- which ones?
  - citizen opinion in your target country?
- what is the appropriate time period for an action file strategy? Six months? If not, how long?
- how many letters per month should the group send?
- should letters be typed, handwritten, or photocopied? Some Third World officials are impressed by photocopied letters, as copying machines are rare luxuries and represent advanced technology.
- should letters be on AI stationery or some other kind of stationery or letterhead?
- is stamped mail sent to your target country usually delivered, or should the group use metered mail?
- what are the names and phone numbers of action file coordinators in other AIUSA groups with prisoners from your target country?
- are joint efforts with other groups appropriate?
- what information, if any, is too sensitive to be shared with the rest of the group except on a need-to-

know basis (for example, the family's address)?

- are back co-group newsletter copies available to provide information and ideas for actions?
- is relief appropriate? What type of relief?
- are translators available through the co-group?
- (if time permits) what are the answers to the questions in Appendix XVIII?

## **Telephone your area coordinator**

Obtain your area coordinator's home and work numbers for access in an emergency. Ask if the area coordinator can attend the group's second upcoming meeting, at which you will be holding a strategy session. If the area coordinator will not be available, describe your new action file. Ask about resources in your area, for example --

- campus groups.
- local speakers of your target country's language.
- local nationals of your target country.
- a free telex or fax location.

Ask the area coordinator if he or she can locate a trainer for your strategy session.

Your area coordinator may have some ideas as to key volunteers who should attend your strategy session, such as experienced members of other local groups and coordinators of nearby campus groups.

If there are cluster meetings (meetings of the coordinators of all groups) in your area, ask when the next one will be and attend. Solicit the assistance of other local and campus groups in "quantity actions" such as petitions (see Chapter 6).

## **TAKING PRELIMINARY ACTIONS**

### **Send telegrams, telexes, and faxes**

In his powerful autobiography, Against All Hope, former Cuban prisoner of conscience Armando Valladares wrote that once he had been adopted by AI, his torture ceased, and that this was the policy of the Cuban government at that time.

Group 19 and other groups have had the experience of an adopted prisoner being released as soon as the target government discovered that an AI group was working on the case. Other prisoners have reported improved treatment in prison once they were adopted.

Therefore, as soon as you get the action file (if your prisoner is not known to be dead), you should send a telegram, telex, or fax to the head of the government, calling for the goals of the action file to be met. For example, if your action file is a prisoner of conscience, announce that your prisoner has been adopted and request your prisoner's immediate and unconditional release.

If no member of your group has access to a fax machine, check the yellow pages in your local phone book for Facsimile Transmission Services. Also, PeaceNet (see p. 79) has a fax service. In 1993, international faxes were \$1 to \$5 for the first page and around \$1 for additional pages.

If you cannot afford telegrams, telexes, or faxes, send aerograms (in 1993, 45 cents) or air mail letters (in 1993, 50 cents postage for first half ounce, 45 cents for the second half ounce, 39 cents for each additional half ounce up to four pounds total; mark the envelope AIR MAIL). Do not use colorful stamps or stamps with American flags, as in some countries such stamps are stolen by post office employees, and your letter will never reach its destination. If necessary, use a postage meter to apply postage. If you do not have easy access to a postage meter, ask at the post office that postage for your letter be applied with a meter.

## **Sample telegrams**

Respectfully urge immediate and unconditional release of (NAME) detained in (LOCATION) adopted prisoner of conscience of Amnesty International USA Group (#) of (CITY, STATE).

Deeply disillusioned by injustice of arbitrary long term detention of (NAME) at (LOCATION). Request release based on humane considerations.

Concerned arrest of (NAME) at (LOCATION) urge human treatment all legal safeguards.

Urge public investigation detention of (NAME) ill treatment suspected in prison.

Demand adequate medical care and legal safeguards detainee (NAME).

Suspect severe mistreatment in case of detainee (NAME) held in (LOCATION) urge medical inspection.

Urge immediate investigation into medical and legal situation prisoner (NAME).

Demand stop to all prison ill treatment of detainees particularly (NAME).

Concerned "disappearance" (DATE) (PLACE) (NAME) demand full public investigation.

Respectfully urge clemency for (NAME) on humanitarian grounds.

Strongly urge protection (NAME) against forcible repatriation to (COUNTRY) where imprisonment as prisoner of conscience and torture feared likely.

Greatly disturbed "disappearance" prisoner (NAME) removed from cell at (LOCATION) (DATE). Respectfully seek assurances her safety.

## **Telegram to your prisoner**

### **Obtain specific approval from your co-group before sending a telegram to your prisoner.**

It may be appropriate to send your prisoner a telegram informing him or her of AI's interest in your action file. You cannot expect that your prisoner will receive the telegram. However, it is likely that someone in the prison administration will learn its contents, and this news might have an effect on the treatment your prisoner receives.

## **WORLDLINK**

WORLDLINK offers telegram, telex, and fax services to Amnesty International at special rates. For information on rates, call 800-827-2830.

To send a telegram, call WORLDLINK North America at 800-827-2831. Telegrams and telexes dictated over the phone are billed in blocks of 50 words, at a maximum rate of \$8.50 for 50 words, of dictated text.

If a group faxes the text for a telegram or telex, the charge is a maximum of \$6.50 per 50 words. WORLDLINK's fax

number is 800-827-2833. If text comes in by modem, the charge is \$5.50 per 50 words. WORLDLINK's modem number is also 800-827-2833.

WORLDLINK will also fax material for you, at a maximum of \$8.50 for 50 words of dictated text, \$6.50 per 50 words of text faxed to them, and \$5.50 per 50 words of text sent by modem. It will usually be cheaper for a group to fax letters from a member's fax machine. However, if many AI members start bombarding government officials with faxes (as in response to an Urgent Action), the officials may change or temporarily disconnect the fax number. If you encounter this problem, WORLDLINK has a system that will reroute the fax to another working government number or to the government's telex number.

WORLDLINK offers two billing options: direct billing to your home address or billing to your Visa or MasterCard, which gives you a \$2 discount on the message.

Rates were quoted in December 1993 and may change, so call to check.

## **Write the family and/or lawyer (if approved)**

Your co-group or your dossier will inform you whether it is appropriate to write your prisoner's family or lawyer. Select one member of your group to be the contact and write letters to the family or the lawyer. Perhaps this contact person should not sign his or her name on letters to government officials. For example, in USSR cases, prisoners and their families were not able to receive the letters of people who had written to the government. Also, in writing to the family, you may or may not be advised to refer to AI. You should --

- express your concern for and solidarity with your prisoner, but not with his or her "cause," if any.
- ask if there is anything your prisoner or the family needs.
- ask for a photograph of your prisoner.
- ask if your prisoner has an attorney, and request his or her address.
- ask for family's telephone number.
- include your return address and telephone number.
- ask for the family to telephone you collect if any news of your prisoner is received.
- ask for your prisoner's address in prison and the phone number of the prison.
- ask about your prisoner's medical condition.

For some countries, it may be equally appropriate to try to telephone your prisoner's family. You will need a fluent speaker of your prisoner's language, at least for the first call.

## **Contact co-adopting groups**

Your dossier should also indicate if your action file is co-adopted with another group in AIUSA or another section. If it is, write the other group(s), but do not be discouraged if they don't reply. Provide your address, telephone number(s), and good hours to call. Ask --

- what actions they have taken on the action file and if they have any suggestions for your group's actions.
- whether they are in contact with your prisoner and/or his or her family.

- whether they are sending financial relief and, if so, how often and how much.
- whether they have had any replies from government officials and if so, which ones.

Provide the same information to them. If relief is being sent, arrange to alternate months or to pool the money into one monthly contribution so no one group carries the entire burden.

## **Photocopy and secure your dossier**

Your action file dossier should always be kept in a secure place. However, as fires or other disasters can happen, you may wish to photocopy the entire action file dossier and give the second copy to your group coordinator for safe-keeping. If any prisoner dossier or its contents is lost or stolen, **immediately** inform the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office. Explain in detail the circumstances under which the information was stolen and the steps taken to retrieve it.

# **ORGANIZING FOR GROUP WORK**

## **Before Your Next Group Meeting**

In advance of the first group meeting following the receipt of your action file, you may wish to --

- purchase folders for the distribution of action file information sets.
- purchase picture postcards to send to your prisoner (if your co-group approves).
- prepare action file information sets to be distributed to group members.
- photocopy information sets.
- locate inspiration.

## **Purchase folders**

If possible, provide action file information sets in a folder for each group member. Manila folders are cheap; folders with pockets are preferable but more expensive. Encourage group members to add any new action file materials to the folder.

Group 96, Santa Monica, CA. The group sells blue Amnesty International USA folders. Printed on a folder are sample letters, background on AI, and brief descriptions of different types of volunteer activities. Folders are available from AIUSA Group 96, P.O. Box 2682, Venice, CA 90294-2682. Price including shipping: 3-9 folders, \$2 each; 20 or more, \$1 each.

Group 186, Augusta, GA. A group member purchased portfolio folders from a discount department store and a drugstore. Some had a roaring lion the front; she labeled them "Justice for (NAME OF PRISONER)." Others had a sunset, and she labeled them "Help free (NAME OF PRISONER). He wants to watch a sunset." Others had a colt in a pasture; she labeled those "(NAME OF PRISONER) wants freedom too." Others had an air balloon and were labeled "Lift (NAME OF PRISONER) to freedom." The prisoner's name and prison address were taped to the inside. On the back was taped the list of target government officials, and inside was kept updates, copies of letters, and a check-off list for members to keep track of letters. New members also received in their folders AI stationery, stamps, pen, envelopes,

"how to" letter-writing tips, and a sample letter.

#### Purchase picture postcards

**If your co-group specifically approves sending postcards to your prisoner,** buy a number of picture postcards, to be sent by members of your group. Picture postcards from the U.S.A. are likely to be a rarity at your prisoner's location and may be shown around to the prison staff. Even illiterate guards will learn that Americans care about your prisoner.

Be sensitive to different cultural and religious values. Postcards of men or women in very revealing swimsuits or references to alcoholic beverages could be considered offensive. Pictures of still-life art or landscapes may be OK, but in the USSR, junta-led Argentina, and Pinochet's Chile anything that suggested the outside world or freedom, including scenery, was banned. Air mail postage on international postcards in 1993 was 40 cents.

#### Prepare action file information sets

The following information will allow groups to start letter-writing activity immediately:

- a condensed or edited case sheet or case summary.
- instructions for letter writing to officials, including addresses of officials in your target country.
- guidelines on letter writing.
- a sample letter.
- instructions for letter writing to your prisoner if appropriate.

The following information will allow group members to prepare for a strategy session at the following meeting:

- background on the action file or a prisoner situation analysis.
- general country information like that found in encyclopedias.
- goals of the action file.
- a list of actions that have already been taken.
- a list of actions that have been rejected or are not permitted.
- a copy of the Action Index from this manual.

#### Condensed case sheet information

Condense the information on the case sheet, or make a copy of the case sheet with the family's address or other confidential information edited out. [Exhibit 4-1](#) provides condensed case sheet information and other background information for use by group members. Alternatively, you could distribute a case summary (see p. 74).

#### Instructions for letter writing to officials

Prepare a one-page set of letter-writing instructions specific to the action file for use by AI members only, such as [Exhibit 4-2](#). The instructions should include the --

- name and location of your prisoner.
- date of detention or imprisonment.

- - reasons for your prisoner's detention.
  - requests to make in a letter.
  - addresses of key government officials with appropriate salutations (for example, Dear General).
  - address of your target ambassador.
  - instruction to send a copy of each letter to your target ambassador.
  - instruction to date each letter and include a return address.
  - instruction to keep a copy of the letter on paper or computer disk or a log of letters written. If your group writes letters during your meeting, ask that envelopes not be sealed so that the letters can be copied.

When asking for action on behalf of a prisoner and mentioning AI, it is often a good idea to point out AI's recent actions in regard to your target country's "enemies." For example, when writing Syria, point out AI's concerns in Israel.

Advise group members against using brightly colored stamps (which might be stolen) or putting anything on the envelope that would identify it as coming from AI. Some years ago, for example, groups with Syrian cases learned that letters mailed in Amnesty International envelopes were being stopped at the Damascus post office.

#### **Guidelines on letter writing**

Reproduce general guidelines on letter writing. You can use [Exhibit 4-3](#) or [Exhibit 4-4](#) on the previous two pages [Electronic edition: pdf versions for [Exhibit 4-3](#) and [Exhibit 4-4](#) for downloading and printing] or pp. 82 and 83 from the 1992 [Amnesty International Handbook](#).

#### **Sample letter**

Depending on the experience level of your group's members, you may wish to provide sample letters such as those in [Exhibit 4-5](#) and [Exhibit 6-7](#).

#### **Letter writing to prisoner instructions**

### **Writing letters to your prisoner requires a thorough consultation with your co-group.**

In some cases, a prisoner is limited strictly as to how many letters he or she can receive from all sources, so if your prisoner receives too many letters from AI supporters, he or she will not be allowed to receive letters from relatives. Also, sometimes prisoners get suspicious, paranoid, and overwhelmed by too many letters from "outside" coming in, and they think it's some kind of trick by the government. Finally, unfortunately, in some countries prisoners are abused simply because they receive mail.

However, in some cases it is recommended that the group send letters to the prisoner, understanding that the prisoner will usually not receive them. Every now and then a letter does get through, and many prisoners have reported how important these letters were to their mental and physical health. In addition, prison officials are reminded of your group's concerns. Some released prisoners have reported that this results in superior treatment in prison.

If your co-group approves letter writing to your prisoner, prepare one page of letter-writing instructions. This should include --

- the name and address of your prisoner.

- ideas of what to write in a letter.
- cautions about what not to discuss, for example, politics.

Sometimes instead of having many group members write, it is preferable to have just one person write your prisoner "on behalf of AIUSA Group (#)" or "on behalf of your many friends in (NAME OF CITY)."

#### **Background to the action file**

The dossier may include one- to four-page background information. If so, distribute it. Sometimes background information may be much more extensive. If so, summarize it, preferably into one page. If possible, use only EXTERNAL information, so this summary can be given to non-AI members also. The second column of [Exhibit 4-1](#) provides background information.

For your strategy session, consider writing up a prisoner situation analysis, based on the answers to the questions for strategy development in Appendix XVIII. This is an advanced activity; you may not have time for this early in your efforts on an action file.

#### **General country information**

Gather the type of information provided by encyclopedias and other general reference books, and present it in one or two pages. Include information on population size, languages spoken, type of government, history of government, and so forth (see p. 20).

#### **Goals**

On one sheet of paper, list the goals of the action file (see Chapter 1). Be brief.

#### **List of actions already taken**

List and if necessary, describe briefly the actions that have already been taken on the action file and the results of the actions, if any. This list could include, for example --

- 100 letters sent by group members (about 10 each month for 10 months). Two letters in response received from the Ministry of Justice.
- ten telegrams sent by group members (one each month to your target country's president).
- one telegram sent by a dean of a local university to your target country's president.
- 600 signatures collected on petitions --
  - original petitions sent to your target ambassador.
  - copies sent to your target country's president.
- petition sent to AIUSA for the Monthly Mailing to group coordinators, still in process.
- U.S. Representative Smith contacted and asked to write a letter, still in process.
- sample letter sent for inclusion in the Freedom Writers Network monthly bulletin, still in process.

#### **List of actions rejected or not permitted**

The list of actions rejected or not permitted would include --

- actions that have been previously rejected by the co-group or the International Secretariat.

- actions that have been done by others working on your action file.
- actions that the group has decided not to attempt, although this need not represent a permanent decision.
- product boycotts, calling for cultural, economic, or diplomatic sanctions, and acts of civil disobedience, all of which are prohibited by AI policy.

A sample list could include --

- the group should not write your prisoner's family members due to concerns for their safety.
- U.S. Representative Jones has been contacted, and he is not willing to write a letter for your prisoner.
- the group should not send a package to your prisoner, who can only receive one kilogram of goods per year. His family sends this package.
- the group should not write your prisoner, who can only receive five letters per month. The co-adopting AI group in Belgium is writing him.

#### **Copy of the Action Index**

The Action Index is a list of actions described in this manual. Group members may wish to conduct some of these actions; the list may also trigger ideas for new actions.

#### **Photocopy information sets**

Photocopy the number of information sets that you and your group coordinator have determined are required. Put each information set into a folder.

#### **Locate inspiration**

Human rights work can be daunting. Consider calling your regional office to request a copy of Voices. This is a pamphlet irregularly published by AIUSA that includes stories about and quotations from released prisoners and other victims of human rights abuse. These stories and quotations can be used to inspire your group. Appendix XIII also includes a large number of quotations from released prisoners. Or invite someone from a nearby group with a successfully concluded case to share the story or a letter of thanks.

### **At Your Next Group Meeting**

At your next group meeting --

- motivate the group with inspirational stories (from the other sources described above). Avoid unrealistic expectations, such as swift results.
- briefly introduce the action file.
- pass out the folders.
- ask for volunteers to join an action file committee. Describe the possible roles (see p. 6).
- (if approved by the co-group) ask for volunteers to write a picture postcard during the meeting. Members should not mention AI in the postcard and should keep the message brief and personal. An example might be: "Hope you are well and that this card helps to bring you some comfort. We are thinking of you." Let group members apply the stamps -- then they know the task is complete. Collect the

postcards for immediate mailing.

- ask members of the group to write to the government, following the letter-writing instructions.
- ask members to prepare for a strategy session at the next meeting by reading the materials in the folder and by bringing the folder to the next meeting.
- survey the members of your group to find out which newspapers and relevant magazines they read. For each different publication represented, assign one person to clip articles about your target country.
- ask that any responses from any officials be given to you. Group members should understand that receiving a reply to a letter is very rare and that the information in the reply is valuable to AI.

Be prepared for questions. Make a list of questions you cannot answer, and call your co-group.

Any member of your group may receive a reply letter from --

- a target government official.
- a U.S. government official.
- your prisoner.
- your prisoner's family.
- your prisoner's lawyer.
- another source that gives significant new information on the action file.

Send copies of the reply letter to --

- your co-group.
- the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office or (for campaigns) the Campaign Director in the Campaign office.
- the International Secretariat researcher in London.
- co-adopting groups.

*"In all bodies, those who will lead, must also, in a considerable degree, follow. They must conform their propositions to the taste, talent and disposition of those whom they wish to conduct."*

-- Edmund Burke

## Chapter 5

### Developing a Strategy

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**Summary: Develop a strategy for your action file as soon as possible. As early as the second meeting after the receipt of your action file, your group should hold a strategy session to develop a plan of action. Try to get an Amnesty trainer to lead the session. It is valuable but not essential for all members of your group to participate. Before proceeding with your plan, consult with your co-group. Strategy sessions should be held at regular intervals until your action file has been closed.**

**If you choose just one action from this chapter** -- Invite a trainer to conduct a strategy workshop for your group.

## OVERVIEW

Short of actually taking action, devising an effective strategy for your action file is the single most important element in good prisoner work. Ideally, you should set your strategy within two months of receiving your action file.

The earlier you develop plans, the better the implementation is likely to be down the line and the less frustrating the experience of an initial lack of progress.

Creating an action file strategy involves the following:

- (1) Gathering enough information for the group to develop a strategy (see Chapters [3](#) and [4](#)).
- (2) Distributing this information to the group a month before the strategy session and asking group members to review it (see Chapter [4](#)).
- (3) Preparing for the strategy session by --
  - if at all possible, locating a trainer to conduct the session.
  - inviting key local volunteers to the session.
  - purchasing the required materials.
  - developing an agenda.
  - making up charts.
  - bringing to the strategy session extra copies of the action file information sets distributed the previous month.
- (4) Holding a strategy session to develop a plan of action for the next six months or other time period. Depending on the particular circumstances of the action file, your country coordination group (co-group) may advise a time period of between three months and one year. If your co-group recommends another time period, simply substitute that period wherever "six months" appears in this chapter. Also, if your group attracts many new members, you may wish to hold strategy sessions more often.
- (5) Following through, including --
  - contacting your co-group for approval of the strategy.
  - following up with group members who volunteered to carry out aspects of the strategy.
  - evaluating the success of the strategy with your group and co-group after six months.
- (6) Repeating steps (1) through (5) every six months until such time as the goals of the action file have been met.

## **PREPARING FOR THE STRATEGY SESSION**

Your strategy session should almost always involve the entire group. However, some groups, for example groups in large Canadian cities, have 150-250 members. If your group generates this kind of attendance, then strategy development on a sub-group level might be advisable.

### **Locating a trainer**

Try to get a trainer to conduct the strategy session, especially if your group has not held a strategy session in some time. Your area coordinator or regional office should be able to locate a trainer for you.

Try to give the trainer as much notice as possible. Let the trainer know if you would like to use the strategy workshop described in the text of this chapter; one of the workshops outlined in Exhibits [5-1](#), [5-2](#), [5-3](#), or [5-4](#); or if you would

prefer the trainer to develop a new workshop. Tell the trainer how much time is available for the workshop. If you are in doubt, consult with your co-group about which training formats might be best for your group and your action file.

Try to send the trainer an action file information set in advance. Be sure to speak with the trainer a couple of weeks before the strategy session, both to confirm the date, place, time, and duration of the session and to review your objectives for the session.

Trainers are reimbursed by AI for their travel and materials (paper, markers, and tape), so these will not be expenses for your group. Your group pays no fee for the services of a trainer.

## **Inviting key volunteers**

Volunteer leaders in your area may prove especially valuable at your strategy session. They will have resources and contacts that can contribute to the identification and performance of excellent actions. These volunteers include your area coordinator, co-group (if nearby), local members of the AIUSA Board of Directors, media coordinator, and district legislative coordinator. Your group coordinator or area coordinator should know how to locate these people.

Also, your group mailing list may include former case coordinators, action file coordinators, and other veteran group members who no longer attend meetings regularly. You may wish to telephone those members and ask them to attend the strategy session. Also, invite local or area AI members or supporters known to have contacts or connections with your target country, local religious organizations, trade unions, professional associations, politicians, and the media.

## **Materials for a strategy session**

You will need the following materials:

- action file information sets (see [p. 36](#)).
- a large pad of 2' by 3' paper, dark magic markers, and masking tape.
- a sign-up sheet for group members, with spaces for group members' names and phone numbers.

Using a large pad of chart paper has the advantage of unlimited space for writing; also, the pages can be taken home and copied at your leisure. This chapter assumes that you will use large pieces of paper; you could substitute blackboards or whiteboards if these are large and available.

## **Agenda**

If your group will be having a trainer, that person will arrive with a prepared agenda. If not, you should develop an agenda for the workshop and photocopy it for distribution to your group. This agenda should include the estimated time to be spent on each phase of the training.

The following agenda matches the strategy session described in the text of this chapter:

- (1) The strategy development process (2 minutes).
- (2) Introducing the prisoner (5 minutes).
- (3) Goals of the action file (5 minutes).
- (4) What or who your target government cares about (10 minutes).

- (5) Contacts (10 minutes).
- (6) Access to resources (10 minutes).
- (7) Actions already taken on the action file (5 minutes).
- (8) Introduction to the quantity action, direct action, and special action categories (5 minutes).
- (9) Brainstorming on actions (15 minutes).
- (10) Selection and timing of actions (15 minutes).

If your group can spare more than an hour or so on training, then a great deal more time can be spent in examining (4) what or who your target government cares about and (9) brainstorming on actions. If your group does not have enough time at one meeting to do all of (1) to (10), consider a couple of options:

- fill out the charts in (6) the meeting before you hold your strategy session.
- work through (1) to (8) in one meeting, then at the next meeting review those charts quickly and go on to (9) and (10). This method gives group members a month to ruminate and come up with ideas for actions.

## **Charts to make before the strategy session**

Making some of your charts in advance permits more efficient use of the group's time. If you will be using a trainer, confer with him or her about what charts, if any, you should make up.

The following charts would be needed for the strategy session described in the text of this chapter:

- chart of goals.
- chart of important dates.
- chart of actions already taken.
- chart of actions rejected or not permitted.
- chart of recommended actions not yet taken.
- chart of who or what does the government care about.
- chart of resources.
- several "blank" charts.

Some of these charts will present information from the action file information sets.

### **Chart of goals**

On one large sheet of paper, list the goals for the action file.

### **Chart of important dates**

On another large sheet of paper, list important upcoming dates (month, date, and day of week) around which events

could potentially be organized. These dates could include --

- Human Rights Day (December 10).
- the anniversary of the founding of AI (on May 28, 1961).
- the anniversary of the founding of your group.
- your prisoner's birthday.
- the anniversary of your prisoner's arrest or "disappearance."
- the anniversary of your prisoner's conviction.
- your target country's national day (July 4, in the U.S.A.).
- major religious or other holidays in your target country (such as Christmas or May Day).
- the day(s) in your target country on which amnesties are frequently given.
- the birthday of the leader of your target government, especially if this day is a national day of celebration.
- International Women's Day (March 8), if your prisoner is a woman.
- International Labor Day (May 1), if your prisoner is a trade unionist.
- other (be creative).

By organizing a public event to coincide with an important date, you give your event "timeliness." This improves the odds of your getting media coverage of the event. For more on what it takes to attract media coverage, see [p. 224](#).

Also, a day on which amnesties are given in your target country may provide a focal date for members of the Freedom Writers Network to write letters for your prisoner (see [p. 82](#)).

### **Chart of actions already taken**

If the number of different actions that have already been taken on the action file is small, list them on a chart. If many actions have already been taken on the action file, refer group members to the list in the information set you passed out previously.

*"Pretty soon we're going to have to tell him he's adopted."*

### **Chart of actions rejected or not permitted**

Make up a chart listing actions rejected or not permitted (see [p. 42](#)).

### **Chart of recommended actions not yet taken**

Make up a chart listing recommended actions not yet taken.

### **Chart of who or what does the government care about**

Make up a chart listing who or what your target government cares about.

From your information-gathering phase ([Chapter 3](#)) and in discussions with your co-group, you should have begun to determine who or what your target government cares about, which might include anything that could influence --

- aid from the U.S.A., such as
  - military aid.
  - economic assistance.
  - investment, including loans or credit.
  - humanitarian aid.
- aid from other countries allied to the U.S.A.
- aid or loans from U.N. organizations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and other international development banks.
- defense treaties with the U.S.A.
- other international treaties and conditions that the country has agreed to, signed, or ratified.
- Most Favored Nation trade status with the U.S.A.
- trade with the U.S.A.
- investment from U.S. businesses.
- travel of U.S. tourists.
- travel of German, Japanese, Australian or other tourists.
- voter or citizen opinion in your target country.
- opinions of other persons the target government cares about.
- "image" of your target country or government.

Provide some dollar estimates, if available, on the amount of money going into your target country from each of these sources, to give group members an idea of priorities within this area.

### **Chart of resources**

Include on your resources chart other AIUSA local and campus groups and volunteers, your co-group, your area coordinator, co-adopting groups, the Freedom Writers Network, relevant professional AIUSA groups such as the Legal Support Network, and so forth. More will be added to this chart during the strategy session. However, most group members will be unaware of AIUSA entities like the Legal Support Network.

### **"Blank" charts**

Make up some charts with only titles, to be filled in during the strategy session. These otherwise blank charts should be titled --

- contacts.
- who has or where can the group obtain language skills. If the language needed is French, Spanish, or Arabic, list the AI Translation Network (see [p. 16](#)).
- access to photocopiers, fax machines, and telex machines.
- access to commercial information databases and on-line networks.
- access to computers
  - with mail-merge software.
  - with PostScript-quality printers.
  - with modems for database or network access.
- access to inexpensive sources of buttons, badges, bumper stickers, T-shirts, or other merchandise (see [pp. 100-101](#)).
- information gathering.
- quantity actions.
- direct actions.
- special actions.

## HOLDING THE STRATEGY SESSION

Before the strategy session, pass around a sign-up sheet to obtain the names and phone numbers of the members in attendance.

With any luck you will have a trainer to run your strategy session. If not, what follows is an **example** of an acceptable strategy session. Your group may choose any of the other workshops presented in this chapter or develop still another format for a strategy session instead.

A designated assistant to the trainer can be extremely helpful. This person posts completed sheets of paper around the meeting room so that all participants can see all sheets at once. Ask for a volunteer.

### The strategy development process

Explain the goal of the session: to develop a six-month plan of action for the action file. The process is to give the members of the group all available information about --

- the prisoner.

- the goals of the action file.
- who and what the government cares about.
- what has been done in the past on the action file.
- what cannot be done on the action file.

The group members then identify the resources they can bring to the action file and brainstorm to develop actions for the action file. Make clear from the start that during brainstorming, no criticism of ideas is permitted, as this slows the process and may make some members reticent. Finally, group members decide which actions to carry out and who will do them.

## **Information on the prisoner**

Information on the prisoner should be given orally by the action file coordinator. Group members generally need to know everything you know about your prisoner, even if this is not much.

A prisoner situation analysis can be valuable (see [p. 42](#)).

Information about the prisoner is essential to good casework. Ask if any member of the group could think of any way to generate more information on the prisoner through friends of friends, businesses, contacts with other organizations, and any other connections. Naturally, all such contacts would have to be cleared with your co-group.

## **Goals of the action file**

Refer group members to the list of action file goals posted on the wall. Remind group members that while there are thousands of actions that can be taken on any action file, the group needs actions that will effectively and efficiently achieve the action file's goals. Ask group members if they believe that any goals should be added to the list, and add any new ones. Do not list goals such as outreach or community education, which can be a byproduct of prisoner work but are not action file goals such as freedom for your prisoner, survival of your prisoner, a new trial, and so forth.

*Ideally, your strategy should involve advanced actions building on basic actions*

## **What does your target government care about**

Review the prepared chart. Solicit more suggestions on what your target government cares about, and add them to the list. Solicit sources of information on more suggestions. Ask for suggestions on U.S.-based individuals and organizations that your target government cares about.

Your group is not limited to writing directly to your target government. With co-group approval, your group can write and ask for assistance from --

- Members of Congress.
- managers or members of the boards of directors of businesses operating in your target country.
- the State Department.
- travel editors.
- newspaper columnists.

- stars of films that are popular in your target country.
- other persons or organizations with influence.

Actions that involve individuals or organizations outside AI are described in Chapters 9, 10, and 11 and are listed in the Action Index.

## Contacts

Ask the group what contacts members might have with individuals or organizations that your target government cares about. Systematically go through every person, organization, group, profession, or country on the list of what the government cares about and ask what contacts or potential contacts the group has.

**Thailand**, Group 64, Berkeley, CA. The group held a strategy workshop for an action file involving religious persecution in Thailand, a predominantly Buddhist country. The co-group had noted that religious leaders and communities would have particular influence. A group member had a contact with a local Buddhist organization. The co-group had also reported that academics who specialized in Southeast Asia and Thailand would have particular influence. The group had no existing contact, but a group member suggested the group would be able to find a professor at the local university with such a specialty, who might then have contacts with other such academics. The co-group felt that Members of Congress would have special influence; group members had contacts with four different Representatives in Congress.

### Actions already taken on the action file

For a new action file, the list of actions already taken will be short, and the list can be posted. For an action file your group has had for a longer period, a handout should be used.

### Actions rejected or not permitted

There is no need to spend much time on actions rejected. The purpose is to save time later in the session by avoiding suggestions and discussions of actions that are not appropriate.

*Compile a list of contacts -- you'll be surprised how long the list can get*

### Access to resources

Fill in the charts on --

- local contacts and connections with individuals and organizations that may be willing to work on the action file but who do not have special influence with the target government.
- who has or where can the group obtain language skills.
- access to photocopiers, fax machines, and telex machines.
- access to commercial information databases and on-line networks.
- access to computers
  - with mail-merge software.
  - with PostScript-quality printers.
  - with modems for database or network access.

- access to inexpensive sources of buttons, badges, bumper stickers, T-shirts, or other merchandise.

Often the simple availability of a resource triggers an idea for an action.

#### Introduction to quantity actions, direct actions, and special actions

Quantity actions, like postcards, petitions, and photocopied letters (see [Chapter 6](#)) demonstrate that a large number of individuals have some concern about your action file. Direct actions, such as sending letters and telegrams to your target government (see [Chapter 8](#)) demonstrate that some individuals are actively concerned about your prisoner.

Special actions (see Chapters [9](#), [10](#), and [11](#)) show that individuals and organizations the government cares about, such as journalists, politicians, organizational leaders, and VIPs, have been informed about or are willing to act on behalf of your prisoner.

**For some action files, the International Secretariat or the co-group recommends a "low-key" approach to prisoner work. In these types of action files, quantity actions or special actions may not be appropriate. See [Exhibit 8-2](#) for a strategy that involved just letter writing.**

However, usually the best casework involves all three types of actions. See [Appendix XIV](#) for examples from three cases.

#### Brainstorming on actions

Refer group members to --

- the chart of recommended actions not taken.
- the contacts chart.
- the charts of access to resources.

Ask group members to pause for five minutes to think of and write down ideas for actions. Then ask for **brief** action suggestions in all three categories: quantity actions, direct actions, and special actions. As ideas are raised, write them on the appropriate chart. Sometimes a group member may come up with an action that is really information gathering; in that case, post the action on the information-gathering chart. Recall that information gathering over the next six months will make your next casework strategy session more effective. If necessary, remind group members that no criticism or discussion is permitted during brainstorming.

If one of the goals of the action file is overlooked in suggestions for actions, point this out to the group.

#### Selection and timing of actions

When the brainstorming is over, explain that an action plan should --

- escalate over time (see [box](#)).
- be spread out over the six-month period.
- be reasonable, and take into account competing demands on the group's energy and resources.

With these factors in mind, ask the group: Which actions should be taken first? Which actions promise to be the most effective relative to the effort required to conduct them? Put an asterisk (\*) next to those actions. Then ask for volunteers to carry out actions. Frequently the person who originally suggested an action would, if asked, be most likely to carry it out. If group members are reticent, go around the room and ask each group member what he or she would like to work on. Some group members will only want to write letters to your target government. That's fine. New members may be unwilling to take on an action because of their inexperience. In such a case, ask if the new member would be willing to undertake an action with the assistance of a veteran member. If no one volunteers to

manage an action, then it probably is not such a good idea.

For each action, obtain a time frame from the volunteer as to when the action will be carried out. If too many actions are scheduled at the beginning, middle, or end of the six-month period, ask who would be willing to change the timing of his or her action. Some actions may require fundraising (see [p. 15](#) for publications that can assist you).

Some ideas, especially public events, require more than one person to carry them out. For these actions form a steering committee to conduct the action. Again, if there are not enough volunteers to form a steering committee, then either it is not a good enough idea to attract volunteers or it is beyond the resources of the group (see [p. 216](#) for a discussion of planning public events).

## Casework escalation

Ideally, your strategy should involve deliberate, timed escalation: going from, for example, an initial barrage of letters from the group itself, to a letter from your Representative in Congress, to target sector involvement, to meetings with consular or embassy officials, to appeals to businesses planning to invest in your target country, to demonstrations and press coverage, and so forth. Keep this concept in mind when planning to enlist others in your work. A state legislator might be much more inclined to help if he or she sees that your town's mayor has already joined the effort: your mayor has established your credibility (see [p. 114](#)).

## FOLLOW THROUGH

After planning a strategy, call your co-group to ascertain that none of your proposed actions are inappropriate for the action file. No actions except those specifically approved in mailings to your group should begin without co-group approval. Complete a Casework Strategy Plan form ([paper edition: you can photocopy [Exhibit 5-5](#) on the following two pages][electronic edition: you can print the PDF file [exh0505.pdf](#)]), and mail it to your co-group. Mail a copy of the plan to any co-adopting groups.

Add the names of those who volunteered to conduct actions to the form, make copies of the form, and distribute the copies to your group at the next meeting.

In the months between strategy meetings, check regularly with the volunteers who are conducting actions. Ask about their progress, and determine if they need additional help.

After six months or the appropriate time period, review the plan with your co-group to see which goals have been attained and how best to achieve those that have not. Hold another strategy session with the group. Continue this process until the goals of the action file have been met.

*"Many strokes overthrow the tallest oaks."*

-- John Lyly

## Chapter 6

# Quantity Actions

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**Summary:** A government that receives large numbers of petitions, pre-printed postcards, photocopied letters, computer-generated letters, and so forth, will understand that many people are aware of and oppose the government's human rights violations. Quantity actions are not appropriate for all action files or under all circumstances.

**If you choose just two actions from this chapter** -- Produce a petition, which provides the easiest and cheapest way for a large number of people to express an opinion. Write a case summary, which is a basic tool for all special actions.

## OVERVIEW

If your target government cares about U.S. public opinion, you can apply pressure by demonstrating that a large number of Americans are concerned about your prisoner. This concern is demonstrated through quantity actions. This chapter will describe both types of quantity actions and methods of getting many people to join in the actions. Quantity actions involving AI networks are discussed in Chapter 7.

Quantity actions include --

- (1) Petitions.
- (2) Pre-printed Postcards and Other Cards.

- (3) Holiday Cards.
- (4) Photocopied Letters.
- (5) Computer-generated Letters.
- (6) Case Summary Flyers.

## PETITIONS

Petitions can demonstrate that thousands of people know of your prisoner and agree that the violation of his or her human rights should be ended.

To save time later, draft your petition, then call and review it with your country coordination group (co-group). Co-group approval is required for a petition to be circulated through the Monthly Mailing. Once a draft has been approved, type up your petition.

A petition should be printed on one side of a sheet of paper only. The text should be brief and to-the-point, as this will make it easier for signers to understand it (see [Exhibit 6-1](#)).

A petition should contain --

- the name and location of your prisoner.
- why AI is interested in the action file.
- a call for the action file goals to be met, for example, immediate and unconditional release of a prisoner of conscience.
- space for names, signatures, and addresses.

Petitions should be directed by name to a specific government official. Sometimes groups add the address of the official. A filled petition is then mailed directly to the official. For other petitions, groups omit the address of the official and request that the petition be returned to the action file coordinator. The latter has the following advantages:

- the total number of signatures can be tracked and reported to officials and to the media.
- the filled petitions can be photocopied and sent to other officials.
- photocopies of large numbers of petitions can be shown to the media.
- petitions that are not completely filled can be filled at other times.
- filled petitions can be mailed in large, impressive blocks.
- filled petitions can be faxed or mailed on a daily or weekly basis to your target embassy or a target government official.
- filled petitions can be delivered to the embassy
  - by your Representative in Congress (see p. 169).

- by an AI delegation (see p. 104).
- during a demonstration (see p. 230).

Your co-group may be able to recommend one form of petition over another.

Another option for a petition is to include a translation into the country's language (see [Exhibit 6-2](#)). Your co-group may be able to locate a translator if your group does not have one, or you may be able to use the Translation Network (see p. 16).

**Proofread your petition carefully.** Because of the high cost of duplication and mailing, try to put as many lines for signature on the page as possible up to a maximum of about 18 lines; 10 or 15 lines per page makes counting signatures easier.

#### **Oversized petitions**

An option for a petition is to use one extremely large piece of paper or other material to collect all your signatures.

**USSR**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group made a weatherproof petition (out of Tyvek, donated by Dupont) that was three feet wide by 150 feet long. [See Exhibit 6-3](#). It took more than one year to complete; more than 3,500 Maine residents signed it. Among the signers were the Governor of Maine and the four members of Maine's Congressional Delegation. The group attempted to deliver the petition to the Soviet Embassy in Washington. "The door was literally slammed in our faces," said a member of the group. "Voice of America reported the incident, and the broadcast may have reached [the prisoner's] area." Later, the petition was carried by a group member to the Belgian co-adopting group, where (with more publicity, welcoming ceremonies, and so forth) it was signed by Belgian officials and citizens. While arrangements were being made for someone to carry it into the Soviet Union or to the border, the prisoner was released.

**Colombia (Campaign)**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group used Tyvek (see action immediately above) to make a giant "life list" petition as a counter to death squad hit lists, as recommended for the campaign.

#### **Methods of Distribution**

Extensive distribution beyond your group is the key to getting thousands of signatures on your petition.

Send one blank copy of your 8.5" by 11" petition to your co-group, which must approve it before it can appear in AI's Monthly Mailing. The National office produces this newsletter, which is received by all AIUSA local groups, area coordinators, co-groups, trainers, staff, and board members. A petition submitted to the Monthly Mailing will also be sent to all campus groups in the Inter-SAY Mailing (see p. 87). The National office needs one month lead time; your co-group needs one to two weeks.

Send one blank copy of your petition to: SMU AI, 121 Clements Hall, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275-0272. SMU AI circulates 8.5" by 11" petitions, photocopied letters, newspaper clippings, and pre-printed postcards to a list of over 800 AI groups and activists in ten countries.

Send one blank copy of your petition to your nearest AIUSA Board Member (see p. 11).

Ask your area coordinator and group coordinator to keep you informed of any AI presence at local concerts or events. Any such event is an opportunity to gather petition signatures. Even if you are not interested in attending a concert, your area coordinator will usually know of an AI campus group member who would be glad to go and gather signatures for your petition.

If your prisoner is under 18, send a copy of your petition to the Children's Network (see p. 85). If your prisoner is a teacher, student, or school administrator, contact the Educators Network (see p. 85) about creating a customized petition for educators.

Your regional office may make petitions available to walk-ins. Call and ask.

Buy four or five clipboards. Tape your name and phone number on the back, as clipboards tend to disappear. Tie a pen to each clipboard with a long piece of string. Attach two large rubber bands to each clipboard. Rubber bands can keep petitions lying smoothly on a clipboard and prevent their being mutilated during transport or blowing around at an outdoor outreach table.

Give one clipboard and fifty blank copies of your petition to your area coordinator, who can distribute them to other groups in the area. High school groups in particular are amazingly effective at gathering petition signatures. Your area coordinator also speaks frequently on behalf of AI and has the opportunity to pass the clipboard through an audience.

Give one clipboard and fifty blank copies of your petition to the member of your group responsible for handling booths at fairs or public events. At a fair, consider setting up an easel and attaching clipboards to the easel. This method attracts more attention than clipboards on tables. The posting of large banners and posters near your booth will also attract attention. Set up such a booth at any AIUSA media event.

Give one clipboard and fifty blank copies of your petition to any group member who will be attending an AIUSA conference (see p. 12). Clipboards can be passed during a plenary session, and your group can get hundreds of signatures in a matter of hours.

At fairs and concerts a member of your group can carry a petition clipboard while wearing a T-shirt or sandwich board featuring a photograph of your prisoner. Check event regulations, as some prohibit "wandering."

Consider approaching businesses that support AIUSA, such as Tower Records and the Body Shop, and asking if you can leave a petition at the front desk for people to sign.

**Czechoslovakia.** In an 18-month effort led by high school students in the San Francisco Bay Area, more than 15,000 signatures were obtained on petitions for a prisoner of conscience. The original set of petitions was sent to the ambassador in the U.S.A., and three sets of copies were sent to high-ranking government officials. A fourth set of copies was shown to the media during case actions and given to the prisoner after he was released.

**South Africa,** Group 21, Davis, CA. The group collected over 4,000 signatures for its prisoner of conscience at one of the Human Rights Now! concerts. The group sent 80 signatures a week for a year to both the government and its ambassador to the U.S.A.

**USSR,** Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group arranged "Free (NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE) Day" with the local post office. The group collected petition signatures at tables outside the post office. Near the end of the day, the group ceremonially turned over a "heap" of petitions (in a big envelope) to a post office official.

**Syria,** Group 204, Carmel, CA. The group had a large number of petitions signed during a concert. The group photocopied them and sent them (accompanied by a cover letter signed by a distinguished person) registered mail to all cabinet members.

**Yugoslavia,** Group 373, Hastings, NY. The group held a six-week multi-city petition drive focused around a "Freedom Banner." For each set of petitions filled with signatures, a small felt flame of brilliant yellow or gold was appliquéd to the deep blue 4' by 6' banner (the small flames added up to create one large flame). The group provided all materials, and Greyhound shipped the banner for free. The kickoff of the petition drive attracted press attention as a major community project. After completion of the project, the petitions were sent to Washington, DC, for presentation to the Ambassador of Yugoslavia. A few months after the petitions were delivered, the prisoner was

released.

#### **Distributing your petition to organizations**

Consider sending copies of your petition to organizations that might actively support the goals of your action file. For more on such organizations, see Chapter 9.

**Philippines**, Group 125, Ossining, NY. The group sent copies of the petition calling for the release of its prisoner of conscience, a carpenter, to the local carpenter's union.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The group sent copies of a petition for an imprisoned carpenter to a national carpenters' magazine. The magazine, which was sent to every carpenter's union member in the U.S.A., printed the appeal.

**Philippines**, Group 87, Columbus, OH. The group circulated copies of their petition with the Ohio Coalition for Philippine Concerns.

#### **PRE-PRINTED POSTCARDS and other cards**

Governments that violate human rights regularly receive letters of protest. Pre-printed postcards or other cards offer the opportunity to spice up the old mailbag, and their distinctiveness and quantity demonstrate the concern of thousands for your prisoner.

Postcards should be printed on card stock. To meet U.S. postal regulations, they must be --

- no larger than 4.25" by 6"; anything larger will require extra postage.
- no smaller than 3.5" by 5".
- no thicker than .25".
- no thinner than .007".

It is cost-effective to design a postcard so that four or five can fit on an 8.5" by 11" sheet (with four, each card would be 4.25" by 5.5"; with five, three cards would be 3.67" by 5" and two cards would be 3.5" by 5.5"). This gives a group the option of having four or five different postcards sent to one official, or postcards sent to four or five officials, and so forth, in only one print job. Your local printer or photocopy center should be able to cut the stock to postcard size for a minimal fee. If not, some member of your group probably works in an office that has a paper cutter.

Postcards should include --

- the name and location of your prisoner.
- why AI is interested in your action file.
- a call for your action file's goals to be met, for example, requesting an investigation into and public accounting for a "disappearance."
- the name and address of the official to whom the card will be mailed.
- the amount of postage necessary, printed where a stamp should be placed (in 1993, 40 cents).

While [Exhibits 6-4](#) and [6-5](#) show two pre-printed postcards that employ translations, text for a postcard can be short, simple, and only in English.

Like petitions, postcards can be distributed through the Monthly Mailing (postcard texts must be approved by the co-group in order for the postcard go out with the Monthly Mailing). Send a draft to your co-group. After the text is approved, have the postcard printed.

Consider producing your card in a variety of colors. However, check with your co-group, as colors may have special meaning in your target country. In some countries, political parties have a color. You do not want to send postcards printed on stock the color of the opposition party. Also, some religions have a color; green, for example, is the color of Islam.

Consider the following options for the "back" of a postcard, where the "front" has an official's name and address as well as the text of the appeal:

- a photograph of your prisoner. The best method is to have a "velox" made, which is a copy of the photograph suitable for printing. When ordering a velox, it is usually best to specify 85 lines per inch. You can have the photo reduced or enlarged to fit the size of the postcard. Note that photographs made from photographs become fuzzy when they are enlarged, while photographs made from negatives do not.
- a photograph or drawing of items that belonged to your "disappeared" prisoner.
- the AI candle. Group 134, Richmond, VA, sells a copy of the candle scanned in on 3.25" or 5.5" IBM-compatible disks. The candle comes in .TIF, .GIF, and WordPerfect files. Send a check for \$7.95 (this fee includes postage) to AIUSA Group 134, P.O. Box 4813, Richmond, VA 23220.
- a photograph of a group event (see Group 129's South Korea action on p. 237).

**Syria**, Group 191, Brockport, NY. A card was designed for President Assad on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as president, which coincided with the tenth anniversary of the prisoner's arrest. The artwork was donated. The text was a special appeal for the prisoner's release. More than 450 cards were mailed, with help from local churches. The action generated publicity.

**Sudan**, Group 174, Portland, ME. The group produced an 8.5" by 11" handout on card stock. The "postcard" was printed in one corner; elsewhere on the handout was a case summary (see p. 74), background on the human rights situation in the Sudan, background on AI, group contact information, and instructions to detach and mail the postcard.

**Syria**, Group 191, Brockport, NY. A former group member contributed part of a poem as a message to the prisoner. An artist used the poem as part of an original woodcut, which she donated to the group. Postcards featuring the woodcut on the back were mailed to the prisoner, in care of the Syrian Embassy, because there was uncertainty about his place of detention. Several hundred cards were sent. The project received attention in a local newspaper.

Group 113, Chicago, IL. The group put a drawing of their "disappeared" prisoner on the back of its postcard.

**USSR**. The group used a simple line drawing of shaking hands on the back of its postcard.

**Yugoslavia**. The group used its prisoner's name, printed in many different typefaces, as a graphic taking up the back of its postcard.

**USSR.** The group used its prisoner's name in large type in both the Cyrillic and Roman alphabets as a graphic taking up the back of its postcard.

## Methods of Distribution

Send postcards to the National office for the Monthly Mailing and the Inter-SAY Mailing. Ask your group coordinator to check the second page of the Monthly Mailing, which provides the number of postcards that can be distributed in that newsletter. Call the SAY Editor in the National office to find out how many postcards can be distributed in the Inter-SAY Mailing.

If your postcard will fit inside a 4" by 9.5" envelope, send 1,000 or more postcards (for distribution in the SMU mailing) to: SMU AI, 121 Clements Hall, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275-0272.

Postcards can also be distributed by your area coordinator to nearby local and campus groups. Postcards can be made available at AIUSA conferences and at fairs, concerts, and media events.

Your regional office may make pre-printed postcards available to walk-ins. Call and ask.

## HOLIDAY CARDS

Holiday card actions involve soliciting members of the public to send holiday greeting cards to your prisoner.

**As with any mailing to a prisoner, consult with your co-group before beginning your action.**

Write one-half page instructions suitable for someone who has never written any letters for AI. Include --

- a headline, for example: "The Holiday Season - A Time for Compassion and Remembering."
- a one-paragraph description of the action file, with mention of your group's involvement.
- a request that the reader send a card to the prisoner, with acceptable greetings only. Send a non-denominational Season's Greetings card, unless your co-group advises differently.
- a list of acceptable greetings, which your co-group can provide, such as "thinking of you," "your friend," "best wishes," "hope that you are well," "hope this card brings you some comfort," and so forth.
- the address of the prisoner.
- a statement of how much postage is necessary.

## Methods of Distribution

Print about 200 sheets with the holiday card instructions, with two sets of instructions per 8.5" x 11" page.

In August or early September, send the instructions to the Casework office for the AIUSA Holiday Card Action (see p. 88).

Give your area coordinator and student area coordinator as many copies as they request, for distribution to campus groups, at fairs, public events, and so forth.

Cut sheets in half. Distribute them to group members in November. Ask group members to enclose the half-page holiday card instructions in the holiday cards they will be mailing to their friends and family members.

**USSR**, Group 77, Falmouth, MA. See [Exhibit 6-6](#).

**Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group set up a "Tree of Hope" in December at a large shopping mall. Shoppers donated \$1 and received a stamped, pre-addressed card on which shoppers wrote personalized messages. The completed cards were placed on the tree and were mailed at the end of the day. Each shopper received a candle with a ribbon; 300 cards were sent.

Group 163, Riverside, CA. A friend of the group designed a card, and the group printed 400, which substantially reduced the cost of the action. During Human Rights Week, the group set up several tables with a case summary for each prisoner, pre-addressed envelopes with a blank card inside, and AI literature. Members of the public simply wrote a few words on a card and put it back in the envelope. The group requested donations for postage. The group sent about 250 cards and covered expenses.

## PHOTOCOPIED LETTERS

When a person with little or no AI background receives a photocopied letter, all he or she needs to do is add a return address, date the letter, sign it, address an envelope, put it in the envelope, stamp it, and mail it. The letter should be printed on one side of a piece of paper only.

A photocopied letter should include --

- the name and address of a government official.
- a salutation (for example, Your Excellency).
- a complete letter with enough background on the action file that the signer will feel confident of the facts.
- (if your action file is a prisoner of conscience) a statement such as "Amnesty International, a worldwide human rights organization, considers (NAME) a prisoner of conscience."
- a closing (for example, Respectfully).
- space for a signature.
- no date.
- margins on the top and bottom of at least 1.8", so the letter can be photocopied onto letterhead.

**Proofread photocopied letters carefully.** [Exhibit 6-7](#) is an example of both a photocopied letter and a Freedom Writers Network (see p. 82) letter.

A photocopied letter can also serve as a sample letter in folders distributed to new members (see p. 35).

Photocopy the authority's name and address on the back of the photocopied letter, so that the letter can be folded, stamped and mailed, without any need for an envelope or for copying the address on the envelope. This option has the disadvantage of alerting the authority to the contents of all letters except the first even before a letter is opened.

### **Methods of Distribution**

Print 200 copies of the letter. Give 100 to your area coordinator and/or student area coordinator, with the request that one copy be given to each campus group in your area. The area coordinator can also give away copies of the letter at speaking engagements.

Take copies of the letter to AI tables at fairs, concerts, media events, and so forth.

Take copies of the letter to AIUSA conferences.

Send one copy of the letter to SMU AI, 121 Clements Hall, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275-0272.

Members of your group may have friends, friends of friends, colleagues, and/or relatives with letterhead. If such a person is willing to send a letter, request that the person photocopy the letter onto the letterhead.

Your letter can be posted on computer networks or bulletin boards (see p. 78).

**University of California at Davis.** The Amnesty-O-Matic is a vending machine on the UC Davis campus that dispenses a letter asking for the release of a prisoner of conscience. Each appeal costs 50 cents; the vendee simply copies the letter, signs it and pops it into another slot. The group applies postage and mails the letter. For further information on this device, contact the National Student Program Coordinator in the Mid-Atlantic office.

**Myanmar**, Group 471, Vista, CA. The group has made 40 variations of a prepared letter. The group sets up information tables at street fairs and concerts and asks people to sign these letters and to address an envelope. The group requests a donation for postage. The group gets about 60 letters signed each time this is done.

**Syria**, Group 422, West Alexandria, VA. The group distributes photocopied letters via chain letters such as: "Dear (), I am writing to ask a favor on behalf of the continuing campaign for human rights everywhere. Enclosed is a letter written in the interest of an unfortunate individual who has been imprisoned simply for exercising the freedoms we enjoy and, all too often, take for granted. Please make two copies of that letter, sign the original, and mail it to the address in the upper left-hand corner (the correct postage is \$.50). Then send a copy to two friends with a cover note just like this. Together we can turn a trickle of concerned letters into a tide of persuasion that will improve the human rights picture in a small but very concrete and personal way. Thanks for caring! Your friend, ()."

**Syria**, Group 355, Yarmouth, ME. The group sends monthly packets of photocopied letters to other Maine groups with a large, stamped return envelope. The members of the other groups simply sign the letters at their regular meetings and send them back to Group 355 for mailing.

**Myanmar**, Group 471, Vista, CA. The group keeps a list of all groups who have returned their petitions. The group mails them two different photocopied letters and asks them to photocopy and distribute them to members of their group. Each group receives different letters. Group 471 mails to 30 groups each month.

### **COMPUTER-GENERATED LETTERS**

The arrival of PostScript and other high-quality printers, in combination with word processors with mail-merge capability, has given one person the power of a letter-writing army.

Someone in your group has a computer with simple word processing capabilities. With only this, a computer user can write one letter, print it, change only the address, print a new letter, enter another address, print a new letter, and so on.

If the computer user's word processor has mail-merge capability, then he or she can create one text file (the body

of a letter), and another file with a set of, say, 30 authority addresses and salutations. The computer can then merge the text file and the authority addresses file to create 30 letters, all to different people. The advantage of a mail-merge system is that the authority addresses file can stay the same when the writer changes the text of a letter. So, sending 30 letters each month (each with the same text but to 30 different officials) requires roughly the same effort as sending one letter per month.

High-quality printers generally come with more than one typeface, called a font. For most word processing programs, changing the font of an entire letter is very easy. So after the first set of 30 letters is produced, the computer user can make some minor changes in the text of the letter, change the font, and produce another 30 letters that appear to come from a different machine.

PostScript-quality printers can also be used to create near-typeset quality letterhead. Letterhead increases the apparent importance of the writer and therefore perhaps the influence of the letter. A computer user could create individual letterhead for each of the 10 people in your group and store each letterhead in a different file. Then a text file can be joined with a letterhead file to create a new text-on-letterhead file.

***The arrival of PostScript and other high-quality printers, in combination with word processors with mail-merge capability, has given one person the power of a letter-writing army.***

A text-on-letterhead file can be merged with the authority addresses file to create 30 letters on letterhead. For each new letterhead, the computer user should make some minor changes in the text.

Thus, one member of your 10-member group, armed with a computer, a word-processing program with mail-merge capability, and a PostScript-quality printer, can, in one free evening a month, produce 300 different letters to 30 different officials by each of the 10 members of your group. A computer-generated letter action may have the side benefit of building commitment to the group by marginal members, who, if letters are being generated for their signatures, may stay with the group even if they can accomplish little else for the group just now.

Ideally, one person would not draft the text for the letter month after month, because soon all the letters would sound the same. Ask group members to provide photocopies of their old letters so the computer user can incorporate text with a different style and content from time to time.

More than one member of your group may have easy access to computers. However, only one person needs to create an authority addresses file. This file can be exported to an ASCII file and given to other computer users on a diskette. Some members of your group may also have access to a DOS/Mac System converter; if not, the address file would need to be prepared once for DOS and once for Mac System.

If you are ambitious, like Group 452, Ventura, CA, you can generate letters for several months at a time and distribute them to your group's members.

**Benin and Peru ("Disappearance")**, Group 452, Ventura, CA. Using Microsoft Word's "Print Merge," a group member made each other member a batch of letters to sign and to send. Each letter in the batch had the name, address, and proper salutation for a different official. Each batch was dated in a different sequence, so no official was sent all of his or her letters simultaneously. Each batch carried the member's "letterhead." The hard part is to put different dates on the letters and to use different dating sequences for each batch; a helper makes this easier.

Consider buying Changewater Letters, which is recommended by AI's Urgent Action Network. Changewater Letters is a personal computer program that combines a database of world and U.S. leaders with a very easy word processor. You type in your letter, then using the pull-down menus, you select everyone you want the letter addressed to. When you hit the print key, the program prints a separate letter, properly addressed, to each leader. It also prints mailing labels and a list of letters sent. You can add new names and addresses to the database. Changewater Letters runs on any IBM compatible with a hard disk and 380K RAM. Send check or money order for \$29.95 to:

Changewater Computing  
P.O. Box 4468  
Warren, NJ 07059

Specify 3.5" or 5.25" disk.

Photocopy or produce computer output on paper of assorted colors and textures.

#### **Methods of Distribution**

Your group may have members and supporters who do not attend meetings regularly but who nonetheless would be willing to sign and mail computer-generated letters. Call these members. Explain that you would like more letters going out on your action file. Volunteer to send them computer-generated letters each month with the monthly group newsletter. Ask if they would be willing to sign and mail the letters. This practice could easily double the number of computer-generated letters your group sends out.

When your group has any type of public event or even staffs an outreach table, consider bringing along a computer and printer. Offer persons attending the event the opportunity to produce computer-generated letters. A member of the public could personalize a letter on the spot, and the computer could produce, again, up to 30 letters with the person's name and address printed on them.

### **CASE SUMMARY FLYERS**

#### **Case summary**

A one-page EXTERNAL sheet of information about your prisoner, called a *case summary*, can be used for delivering information to non-AI organizations or individuals. This delivery of information is a pre-requisite for action by non-AI organizations or individuals. [Exhibit 6-8](#) is an example of a case summary.

#### **Determining what can be used in a case summary**

How do you know what information you can use in a case summary and what you cannot use? Occasionally action files will come with an EXTERNAL document published by the International Secretariat on the particular case. Anything taken from such an EXTERNAL document can be used in your group's case summary.

If no such external document exists, you can take some information from the INTERNAL action file material and use it in your case summary. The basics of an action file are usually not confidential. You generally can state --

- the victim's name.
- his or her age.
- where he or she is from.
- the date of the incident or arrest.
- where it occurred.
- the place of detention.
- any related arrests, "disappearances," or killings.
- the charges and legislation involved.
- the health of a detainee.

- his or her treatment in prison.

You should never use --

- anything marked "Confidential."
- the names or phone numbers of AI staff or co-group members.
- the names or addresses of family members of your prisoner.

Some background on the human rights situation in your target country is often useful in the summary to place the action file in its proper context. This information can normally be found in your dossier.

While creating a case summary is usually straightforward, it can sometimes be tricky knowing what to say and what not to say. For this reason, send a draft copy of your case summary to your co-group. Your co-group can offer advice and flag any potentially problematic items.

#### **Case summary guidelines**

Your case summary should be --

- no more than one page long.
- up-to-date, with the date it is written printed on top.
- typed on your group's letterhead.
- revised whenever new developments occur in the action file.

Also, include the name and phone number of the action file coordinator. Include your group's regular meeting place and time on case summaries to be distributed locally.

When completed, send your case summary and separate letter-writing instructions, along with a contact name and phone number(s) to --

- your co-group.
- the DC office (see Appendix I).
- other human rights organizations. Check with your co-group on which ones; many addresses are in Appendix V.
- the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office (see Appendix I).

AI offices and co-groups are often approached by non-AI organizations and individuals looking for information and letter-writing instructions on behalf of particular types of prisoners: teachers, union activists, workers, or persons imprisoned due to their religion. Often the information is needed immediately, so what do the offices and the co-groups do? They contact the Casework office and request current case summaries.

#### **Making posters from your case summary**

One way to find people to help with your action file is to put the case summary into poster form and post it around your community. Your group can photograph the posters in locations around your community and send them to your target government as part of a direct action (see p. 101).

Washington, DC cluster. Groups made up catchy, one-page, printed-on-color flyers and posters regarding the groups' work and action files. Group members were encouraged to post the flyers and posters on bulletin boards in shopping centers, supermarkets, or wherever handbills were posted. The flyers included case summary information and the phone number and name of the action file coordinator to call for more information or to get involved in the group and its work. Some flyers also included an authority's address. The groups reported good response.

**China**, Group 112, Philadelphia, PA. The group printed up posters on their case and posted them in Philadelphia's Chinatown.

#### **Case summary flyers**

A case summary flyer includes both a case summary and letter-writing instructions. This information can take up one side or both sides of an 8.5" by 11" page (see [Exhibit 6-9](#)).

The flyer's letter-writing instructions should be appropriate for individuals who have never written an AI letter before and should include one or two addresses of authorities. You may wish to include a sample letter on the flyer.

Case summary flyers can be more complex. You can add a photograph of your prisoner, graphics, or a catchy headline. You can produce an 8.5" by 11" sheet folded into thirds (any printer can do this easily). The folding provides six "sides" on which you could place --

- a headline (for example, You Can Help!).
- a photograph or drawing of your prisoner, or a symbol of his or her occupation, if appropriate.
- a brief case summary.
- relevant excerpts from your target country's constitution, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is available from your co-group, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Appendix X), and other documents.
- what AI does, how to join AI, and how to join your group.
- letter-writing instructions.

**Morocco**, Group 29, Kalamazoo, MI. The group printed a booklet about its prisoner. It contained background on AI, a case summary, a photograph, background information on the situation in Morocco, a request for action, and sample letters. The booklet, together with a personal letter, was sent to prominent people whose names would be recognized in Morocco. The group also sent it to sympathetic non-AI friends. The group's prisoner was released about a year later.

## **Methods of Distribution**

Print 200 or so case summary flyers at a time; give them to your area coordinator and/or student area coordinator, to persons who staff AI booths at fairs, to your regional office, and to anyone else who might be able to find non-AI organizations or individuals to write on your action file. Distribute a flyer to anyone who attends a media event.

Case summary flyers generally contain all the information necessary for a newspaper op-ed column (see p. 254).

## **Write-a-thons**

Case summary flyers also contain all the information you need to hold a write-a-thon for your prisoner. Many, many groups hold write-a-thons as fundraisers, but obviously they offer the opportunity to get letters out on your action file. Each participant in the write-a-thon gathers pledges for each letter written during the event. See [Exhibit 6-10](#), an EXTERNAL write-a-thon pledge sheet. For more on write-a-thons and obtaining some press coverage, see p. 239.

University of Michigan. Each term the group holds a write-a-thon, during which students entering the student union are asked to write for prisoners of conscience. Also, group members collect pledges and write letters during the write-a-thon.

#### **Computer networks and bulletin boards**

A computer equipped with a modem gives you the ability to post your case summary flyer where thousands of people can read it and potentially respond by sending letters to your target government.

You can post your flyer via --

- electronic mail.
- bulletin boards.
- networks such as Internet or PeaceNet.

#### **Electronic mail**

Electronic mail (E-mail) is the sending of messages by computer. If you know an individual's E-mail address (see below) and have access to an E-mail gateway through services such as CompuServe, PeaceNet, or Internet, you can send the individual your case summary flyer or another action request. [!%@: A Directory of Electronic Mail Addresses and Networks](#), by Donnalyn Frey and Rick Adams (O'Reilly and Associates, 800-338-6887, \$27.95), is a reference that answers the problem of how to address E-mail to people you don't know on a network you've never heard of. It covers 130 different networks.

#### **Bulletin boards**

A computer bulletin board is an electronic meeting place where information is exchanged. Bulletin board systems are usually free. They may provide E-mail for their members or access to networks. They may offer discussion groups, called conferences, which allow users to send messages to a subject-area group such as human rights. Everyone who looks at the group can read all the messages.

There are more than 60,000 bulletin board systems in the U.S.A. Some are "read only," and on others anyone can post messages. You can obtain a list of bulletin boards and their phone numbers in magazines like [BBS Caller's Digest](#), [Computer Shopper](#), and others available free in your community. Just dial into a bulletin board and leave your case summary flyer as MAIL to ALL. About 10 million people are regular callers to bulletin boards.

Your co-group may be aware of bulletin boards that focus on your target country or region. These may be excellent vehicles for --

- finding people interested in writing for your action file.
- getting more information useful for strategy development.

#### **Internet**

In letters to your target ambassador, tell him or her that information about your prisoner has, say, "been posted on the worldwide network Internet for professionals around the world to see."

"Rise like Lions after slumber

In unvanquishable number --

Shake your chains to earth like dew

Which in sleep had fallen on you

Ye are many -- they are few"

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley

## Chapter 7

### AI Networks, Mailings, and Case Sharing

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**Summary:** Amnesty networks can generate hundreds or thousands of individual letters on your action file. For prisoner cases, consider the Freedom Writers Network. Other networks focus specifically on health workers, legal professionals, conscientious objectors, students and educators, lesbians and gays, and persons in immediate danger. Network members may provide contacts with non-AI organizations. Certain AI mailings can bring your action file to the attention of women, campus groups, and local groups. Working on your action file with another U.S. group, called **case sharing**, can multiply the number of actions generated for your prisoner. Also, all the groups in one area, called a **cluster**, can informally share an action file.

**If you choose just one action from this chapter --** Submit your prisoner case to the Freedom Writers Network.

# OVERVIEW

One of the most efficient ways to generate many letters and other important actions for your action file is to invite other AI activists to help with your effort. They do not need to be educated about AI and the value of its work.

AI activists can be mobilized through --

(1) Networks, including the

- Freedom Writers Network.
- Urgent Action Network.
- Health Professionals Network.
- Legal Support Network.
- Educators Network.
- Children's Network.
- Conscientious Objectors Support Network.
- Government Action Network.
- AI Members for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.
- Voices for Freedom (Religious Affiliation Network).

(2) AIUSA Mailings, including

- the Monthly Mailing sent to local groups (see pp. 63 and 67).
- Interact sent to women.
- SAY sent to campus groups.
- the Inter-SAY Mailing sent to campus groups.
- the Death Penalty Bi-Monthly Mailing.
- the write-a-thon mailing sent to local and campus groups.
- the Holiday Card Action sent to local groups.
- the Summer Postcard Action sent to local groups.
- campaign or country action mailings covering your target country sent to some local groups and some campus groups.

(3) the Southern Methodist University mailing (see pp. 63, 67, and 70).

(4) Regional and Local Newsletters.

## (5) Case Sharing with

- local groups.
- campus groups and clusters.

Most network liaisons and mailing editors can be located at an AI office. Addresses, telephone numbers, and fax numbers of all AI offices are listed in Appendix I.

# NETWORKS

## Freedom Writers Network

Each month, members of the Freedom Writers Network receive a bulletin containing three appeal cases written in the form of a sample letter. Letters focus on **individual** victims of human rights violations, usually prisoners of conscience, other political prisoners, or "disappeared" individuals.

To submit your action file to the Freedom Writers Network, send your country coordination group (co-group) and the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office the

following --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary (see p. 74).
- a sample letter (see Exhibit 6-7).
- addresses of officials, including the address of the ambassador to the U.S.A. from your target country (your target ambassador).

The case summary and sample letter should contain the latest information and EXTERNAL material only. If your letter-writing action has time value, be sure to note this in a cover letter. For example, you may want letters to arrive the month before a national holiday on which amnesties frequently occur. Freedom Writers appeals must be geopolitically balanced, so there can be no guarantee that a particular appeal will be used at a particular time or that all submitted appeals will be used. The Freedom Writers Network is more appropriate if your prisoner is expected to be detained for some time.

In the beginning of 1993, the Freedom Writers Network had 32,000 members, so using this network is an extremely efficient way of getting a large number of letters out on your action file.

While Amnesty can rarely know if one of its actions was responsible for a release, history has shown that concerted public attention on a given case can have an impact. Between the beginning of the Freedom Writers Network in 1986 and March 1993, members had written on behalf of 300 individual victims of human rights violations. As of the same date, 145 of those victims had obtained their freedom.

## Urgent Action Network

This worldwide network is made up of individuals and groups committed to write immediately on urgent cases. The U.S. office is run by Scott Harrison and Ellen Moore in Nederland, Colorado.

Immediately call your co-group if your prisoner --

- suddenly becomes ill and is not given medical attention.
- is tortured or mistreated in prison.
- is held incommunicado.
- goes on a hunger strike.
- is scheduled to be executed.

If your co-group is unavailable and the situation is **urgent**, fax your target country's researcher at the International Secretariat (see Appendix I for the fax number). Request that the researcher issue an Urgent Action (UA) or a Worldwide Accelerated Response Network (WARN) action for your prisoner. Provide the reasons why a UA is necessary. Ask if you may call or fax the Colorado Urgent Action office and request that telegrams be sent by that office.

About 900 telegrams per month are sent out through WARN. In response to a UA, 200 to 400 appeals go out to UA members and groups in the U.S.A. alone. In addition UA appeals are posted on several computer networks, including PeaceNet and BitNet (see p. 79).

Again, your situation must be **urgent**. For long-term legal or medical problems, the Legal Support Network or Health Professionals Network are preferred.

## **Health Professionals Network (HPN)**

This network, with 530 members in 1993, focuses on human rights violations involving --

- detained medical professionals.
- prisoners with chronic or sudden medical problems in prison.
- psychiatric abuse.
- torture, death penalty, and other ill-treatment issues.

Before submitting an action to the Health Professionals Network, get approval from your co-group. Then send the following to the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office:

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary.
- a discussion of the current medical situation of your prisoner.
- a list of issues to be raised in a letter.
- addresses of officials.

Members of the HPN can introduce broad resolutions dealing with AI issues in local and national professional societies and perhaps specific resolutions regarding your prisoner, if he or she is a health worker or has a health problem. Members of the HPN can also write letters to the editor to scientific and professional journals.

## Legal Support Network (LSN)

This network, with 820 members in 1993, focuses on human rights violations involving --

- lawyers and judges.
- legal problems of prisoners, such as an unfair trial, lack of a defense lawyer, a coerced confession, or trial irregularities.

If your action file fits in either category, send the following to your co-group:

- a case summary.
- a list of issues to be raised in a letter.
- suggested target officials.

The co-group will check it, discuss the proposed actions with you, and forward it to the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office. The action will then be included in the LSN newsletter, which is published three times a year. Like the Freedom Writers Network, only a limited number of actions can be used, and they must be geopolitically balanced. Actions therefore should have a "shelf life" of 3 to 6 months.

The action may also be included in the bi-monthly mailing to the 100 legal support groups. The action must relate to a major legal concern or be on behalf of a legal professional who is the victim of a human rights violation.

The LSN can assist in ways other than letter writing. Members of the LSN can --

- provide advice on international rights standards, international human rights conventions, human rights legislation, the death penalty, exile, and political asylum.
- file amicus briefs when domestic appellate courts touch on AI concerns, such as refugee and political asylum issues.
- provide liaison for your group to state bar associations, other organizations of lawyers, and to other attorneys and law professors.
- introduce resolutions at bar association meetings mentioning your prisoner and requesting action by members of the bar.

## Conscientious Objectors Support Network (COSN)

The Conscientious Objectors Support Network (COSN) works for the release of imprisoned conscientious objectors, for a cessation of "press gang" style conscription and its accompanying violence, for an end to retribution practices against military service resisters and deserters and their relatives, and to help refugees fleeing abusive conscription.

The COSN has developed educational materials and workshops on conscientious objectors that may be useful for your group. The COSN has also developed contacts with other organizations and with religious groups interested in helping the victims of conscription abuse worldwide. These organizations may be willing to conduct some of the actions described in Chapter 9.

In addition, the COSN has a quarterly mailing to about 100 members as of 1993, which includes letter-writing actions. The COSN also plans outreach mailings to the general public. If your prisoner is a conscientious objector or has been

the victim of another conscription-related human rights violation, send the following to Don Gecevicz, 3454 North Bosworth, Chicago, IL 60657, 312-477-2156 --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary.
- letter-writing instructions.

The case summary and letter-writing instructions should take up no more than two sides of an 8.5" by 11" page.

The leaders of the COSN have developed information and expertise on conscientious objection not unlike the information and expertise your co-group has on your target country. To reach the COSN, contact Carol or John Dickensen, 8 Albany, Irvine, CA 92714, 714-559-8571, or the National Co-group Coordinator in the DC office.

## **Educators Network**

The Educators Network had about 1,000 members in 1993. The network publishes newsletters for each region, which include letter-writing actions. Also, the network puts out special mailings for educators in each region. If your action file is that of a student, teacher, or school administrator, get approval from your co-group for the Educators Network to work on your action file. Then send the following to the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a sample letter.
- letter-writing instructions.

The newsletters reach teachers in the U.S.A. and, through a newsletter exchange, teachers in Canada.

Also, the network maintains a list of about 2,000 individuals, including the faculty advisors of campus groups. These individuals can be sent mailings of actions of major importance involving educators. Your group may need to contribute to the cost of any special mailing. Contact the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office for information. Exhibit 9-7 was a letter-writing action sent to all individuals on this list.

As part of their AI work, members of the Educators Network attend two or three major educational conferences each year. These conferences offer groups the opportunity to obtain several hundred signatures on petitions for prisoners who are students, teachers or administrators. For such conferences, revise your petition to begin: "We, the undersigned educators, . . ." Be sure to omit the government leader's address and put your group address on the bottom of each page, so that the petitions will be mailed to you.

## **Children's Network**

The Children's Network, formed in 1992, addresses human rights transgressions against persons under the age of 18.

Letter-writing actions are distributed to members in a special mailing. Before submitting your letter-writing action to the Children's Network, get approval from your co-group. Then send to the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary.

- letter-writing instructions.

The network can also distribute requests for actions other than letter-writing, including special projects to promote children's rights.

Network members staff booths and offer workshops at conferences, both of which may provide an opportunity for petition-signing on behalf of your action file. The network also conducts outreach to organizations addressing children's concerns and therefore may be able to identify sympathetic organizations (for actions that organizations might take, see p. 122). Contact the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office for more information.

## **Government Action Network**

Members of the Government Action Network, which was started in 1992, work to place human rights issues before U.S. Government officials, including the President, Congress, the State Department, and Immigration and Naturalization Service Adjudication Officers. Members receive a monthly mailing with suggested activities for addressing refugee issues, participating in AI campaigns, and taking legislative actions.

These activities may include calling, writing, or sending telegrams.

Members of the Government Action Network might assist your group, for example, by asking their Representatives to

--

- become co-signers of "Dear Colleague" letters (see p. 173).
- become co-sponsors of resolutions (see p. 178).

Should your group desire the assistance of this network, call your co-group to obtain approval. Then call the DC office.

## **Voices for Freedom (Religious Affiliation Network)**

In the Voices for Freedom program, local religious communities of all faiths (170 communities in 1993) are affiliate members of AI and join in its ongoing campaigns. Membership is \$250 per year. Affiliates receive quarterly action packs including postcards, petitions, AI reports, poster displays, videos, bulletin inserts, and educational materials.

If your action file has a religious angle and if your target country will be the subject of an upcoming campaign, contact the National Campaign Director in the Campaign office. Ask if your group might provide postcards, petitions, or other actions for inclusion in a Voices for Freedom mailing.

## **AI Members for Lesbian and Gay Concerns**

This network publishes a quarterly newsletter, which includes letter-writing actions. In 1993, this newsletter was sent to some 400 members. If your action file involves a lesbian or gay person or if the person's arrest involves advocacy of homosexual rights, send the following to the Staff Liaison for AI Members for Lesbian and Gay Concerns in the Mid-Atlantic office --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary.
- letter-writing instructions.
- a sample letter.

The case summary, letter-writing instructions, and sample letter should take up no more than two sides of an 8.5" by 11" page.

The network can also provide --

- training and workshops.
- outreach brochures.
- a list of resource materials.
- background on human rights violations against gays and lesbians.
- contacts with national gay and lesbian organizations.

## AIUSA MAILINGS

### **SAY**

**SAY** is the bi-monthly magazine sent to over 2,000 AIUSA campus groups in both high schools and colleges. **SAY** is also sent to individuals by subscription. For a one-year subscription, send \$15 to the Mid-Atlantic office.

An article including letter-writing instructions for your prisoner can appear in **SAY**. Requests for actions other than letter-writing may be included. Action files involving a professor, teacher, or student are particularly appropriate for **SAY**. Action files shared with campus groups may also be appropriate.

If you are interested in having an article in **SAY**, obtain a go-ahead from your co-group. Then, telephone the **SAY** Editor 2 to 4 months in advance of the publication date. **SAY** is published in September, November, January, March, and May.

**SAY** must be geopolitically balanced and cannot frequently use actions from the same country, so there can be no guarantee that your action file can be used.

For an article, send the following to the **SAY** Editor in the National office --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary.
- background on the action file (see p. 42).
- a description of any actions by students on behalf of your prisoner.
- a list of issues to be raised in a letter.
- two target officials and their addresses.

Your co-group must approve any article before publication.

### **Inter-SAY Mailing**

Petitions, pre-printed postcards, AIUSA Board minutes, the member publication **Policy Forum**, and some other

materials cannot be distributed in a magazine. The SAY Editor compiles these materials and sends them to campus groups in the Inter-SAY Mailing, which is mailed for receipt in October, December, February, and April.

Any petition submitted to the Monthly Mailing (see p. 63) is automatically included in the Inter-SAY Mailing. If your group would like to send out pre-printed postcards via the Inter-SAY Mailing, contact the SAY Editor in the National office to determine the number of postcards that you will need to submit. No letter-writing actions are included in the Inter-SAY Mailing.

## **Death Penalty Bi-Monthly Mailing**

The Death Penalty Bi-Monthly Mailing is sent to death penalty coordinators at the group, state, and regional levels, as well as to about 100 other death penalty activists. The mailing includes one domestic and one international letter-writing action in each issue. If your prisoner is sentenced to death, contact your co-group about including a letter-writing action in the Death Penalty Bi-Monthly Mailing. Then send the following to the Death Penalty Program Assistant in the National office --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary.
- letter-writing instructions.

The case summary and letter-writing instructions should take up no more than two sides of an 8.5" by 11" page. Submissions should be as close as possible to what your group wants to appear in the mailing.

If your prisoner is facing execution in the very near future, do not use this mailing. Contact the Urgent Action Network instead (see p. 83).

## **Interact**

Interact is a quarterly newsletter produced by AIUSA to promote local action on behalf of women. In 1993, 3,000 people received Interact. If your prisoner is a woman, contact your co-group for approval to include a letter-writing action in Interact. Then send the following, with a cover letter containing your address and phone number(s), to the Interact Editor in the National office:

- a case summary.
- a sample letter (best to prepare a new one).

## **Write-a-thon**

Every fall, the National office develops a write-a-thon package that is mailed to all groups. This package includes, for each of several prisoners --

- a brief case summary.
- issues to be raised in a letter.
- addresses of officials.

To have your action file included in the write-a-thon package, send the above with a cover letter containing your address and phone number(s) to the Casework office by the beginning of September. This package must be geopolitically balanced, so there can be no guarantee your prisoner can be included.

## Holiday Card Action

**Check with your co-group to make certain that a mass card mailing to your prisoner is appropriate.**

Every fall the Casework office develops a Holiday Card Action. In this action, all groups are provided a list of prisoners to whom to send holiday cards, as well as brief descriptions of their situations. To submit your prisoner for consideration, contact the Casework office before the middle of September. Actions must be geopolitically balanced, so there can be no guarantee your prisoner can be included.

## Summer Postcard Action

**Check with your co-group to make certain that a mass card mailing to your prisoner is appropriate.**

In late spring the Casework office develops a summer postcard action. In this action, all groups are provided a list of prisoners to whom to send picture postcards, as well as brief descriptions of their situations. To have your prisoner considered, contact the Casework office before the middle of March. Again, there is no guarantee your prisoner can be included.

## Campaign or country action mailing covering your target country

In a campaign or a country action, all the Amnesty International sections around the world focus their efforts on one country or region or on a particular issue, such as the death penalty or human rights violations against women.

In the U.S.A., both local groups and campus groups participate in campaigns and country actions.

Campaigns and country actions are generally announced three months in advance in the Monthly Mailing, which your group coordinator receives. Ask your group coordinator to alert you immediately if your target country will be the subject of a campaign or a country action. Your co-group should also be able to alert you.

As soon as you learn of the upcoming campaign or country action, send to the Campaign Director in the Campaign Office --

- a cover letter including your address and phone number(s).
- a case summary.
- letter-writing instructions.

Your prisoner could then be featured in campaign actions for U.S. groups. Actions could involve members of groups writing letters, asking VIPs visiting the country to bring up the situation of your prisoner, or any other activity that is part of the campaign.

The campaign staff will consult with your co-group to ensure that no inappropriate actions are recommended for your action file.

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

Some regions and areas produce their own newsletters.

For example, the Texas satellite office produces a newsletter called Write for Rights, which includes letter-writing actions. This newsletter is sent to 250 groups and individuals in and out of Texas. To have your letter-writing action included in Write for Rights, submit to the Texas satellite office a case summary and letter-writing instructions or a

case summary and sample letter. Your submission should not be longer than two sides of an 8.5" by 11" page.

Many local groups send a monthly letter to all members of their group, not all of whom go to meetings regularly. You can contact the coordinators of nearby groups by getting their phone numbers from your area coordinator. Ask if they would be willing to include letter-writing instructions for your prisoner in their mailings. Your group should be prepared to reciprocate.

## CASE SHARING

Joint work on behalf of a prisoner by two or more AIUSA groups, called ***case sharing***, has long been encouraged as a means of increasing the pressure on a government and raising the visibility of a given prisoner case.

### Local groups

As the number of local groups worldwide has increased and patterns of repression have changed so that there are fewer detentions of prisoners of conscience, groups have faced a "shortage" of new prisoner cases. In this environment, case sharing becomes an option that benefits the needs of AIUSA's volunteers and the needs of the prisoners for whom they work. Many groups are sharing their resources and experience to benefit a prisoner who years ago would have been assigned to only one AIUSA group.

Benefits to case sharing include --

- more letters written on the action file.
- more congressional influence.
- more ideas generated by strategy development, leading to more original actions taken on the action file.
- more opportunities for press coverage.
- more contacts with organizations and more information-gathering activities.
- more enthusiasm or support if your group becomes discouraged.

Drawbacks include --

- the risk of reducing your group's sense of particular responsibility or commitment to the action file.
- the need to keep the other group informed of your activities, usually by telephone, and to stay informed of the other group's activities. This probably cannot be delegated to another member of your action file committee.
- the need to photocopy materials and mail them to the other group.

Either the co-group or one group's coordinator must coordinate information flow, including the number of active members in the sharing groups and who has copies of internal materials.

If your group would like to share your action file with another local group, contact the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office. The National Casework Coordinator will consult with you and your co-group contact about the sharing.

## Campus groups and clusters

Campus groups are not permitted to be the sole group for responsible for an action file, because they are usually inactive during the summer months. However, campus groups can usually benefit from a long-term commitment to a prisoner through a case-sharing arrangement.

Campus groups already receive many letter-writing actions through the Urgent Action Network and SAY. Consequently, students may benefit most from opportunities for actions other than letter-writing. Many campus groups, however, appreciate the opportunity to bond with an individual prisoner and write on his or her behalf every few weeks.

Relative to local groups, campus groups find it easier to --

- put on special events, especially at their schools.
- gather signatures on petitions.
- attract the attention of the media. They usually lack media skills, however, and need considerable assistance from your local media coordinator, area coordinator, or another media-experienced volunteer.

If your action file strategy would benefit from these abilities, then case sharing with campus groups can be an excellent course of action. Students in the San Francisco Bay Area have shared prisoner of conscience cases since 1986.

Not all action files are suited to sharing with campus groups. Also, some area coordinators prefer to have all campus groups in their area work as a cluster on one action file, for ease of coordination and for more effective media work. Ten campus groups on one action file attract more press than ten campus groups on ten action files.

As with case sharing by local groups, case sharing with campus groups will require the copying and distribution of much material. Consider recruiting a student to assist you. In the San Jose, California, area, one high school student serves as the action file coordinator for all the area high schools. She works closely with the local group's action file coordinator.

If you would like to have nearby campus groups share your action file, call your area coordinator.

*"Just keep writing letters. Even if you don't hear from prison officials or the person, keep writing those letters, because they make a difference."*

-- Vladimir Lifshits, released prisoner of conscience from the USSR

## Chapter 8

### Direct Actions

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**Summary: The most common actions are those where a group acts without intermediaries or assistance from outside the group (or co-group). Group members communicate directly with members of the target government and/or with the prisoner (if appropriate) by writing letters, sending telegrams, telephoning, mailing packages, and so forth.**

**If you choose just one action from this chapter -- Write letters to your target government every month.**

## Overview

With direct actions, your group contacts your target government, its embassy, or your prisoner directly. These actions usually have a shorter lead time than actions that require the efforts of persons not in your group.

Direct actions may be easier to organize, but they are not always more effective than actions that require the efforts of persons outside AI. Those are described in Chapters 6, 9, 10, and 11.

Meetings with government officials visiting the U.S.A. and marches and demonstrations at embassies and consulates are covered in Chapter 11.

Direct actions fall into the following categories:

(1) To Government or Embassy

letters.

- telegrams and telexes.
- cards and postcards.
- faxes.
- symbols.
- photographs.
- audio tapes.
- videotapes.
- telephone calls.
- embassy or consulate visits.

## (2) To Prisoner

- letters, cards, and postcards.
- packages, including
- relief (see Chapter 12).
- gifts.
- telephone calls.

### Check with your co-group

An action that is appropriate for one action file may not be appropriate for another. Be sure to check with your country coordination group (co-group) before initiating any actions not explicitly recommended in your dossier.

### Travel to your target country

If a group member is traveling to your target country, it may appear to be an opportunity for direct action. But by AI policy the group member cannot meet with any official of your target government. Nevertheless, let your co-group know of the group member's impending visit. On rare occasions, and with the explicit permission of the International Secretariat (ask your co-group to approach them) the group member may be able to meet with your prisoner's family, your prisoner's lawyer, or with human rights organizations operating in your target country. Such meetings are not Amnesty International missions and group members are not empowered to speak or act in the name of Amnesty International.

Your co-group may be able to approve visits to foreign correspondents of U.S. media who are also American citizens, or visits to the U.S. embassy. If your target country has an AI section or AI groups, the group member may be able to visit the section office or attend the meeting of an AI group. As discussed in Chapter 3, you may not ask an AI member, group, or section in your target country for any human rights information. Again, ask your co-group. In most situations group members are not encouraged to do any AI work in a target country.

## Direct Actions to Government/Embassy

### Letters

Letter writing is the most basic and essential activity taken on an action file. Letter writing should be a routine activity. The way in which this routine letter writing is organized is for each group to decide. The essential point is that **the stream of letters must never stop**. No one should postpone action to wait for a response, unless this is explicitly recommended in your dossier.

If your group sends 600 letters in one year, and then basically stops, your target government will observe that its policy of stonewalling on your action file has worked. Therefore, regardless of what other actions your group is taking for your action file, continue writing steadily to your target government.

Although state officials fail to acknowledge most of the appeals that are sent to them, you should never be discouraged. Governments take note of the sheer volume of letters, and they receive the repeated messages that the letters contain. AI has seen striking examples of the effect of letter writing in achieving improvements in human rights, even though the letters were never acknowledged.

Date all letters -- a memorable response letter from the South African embassy began "In response to your undated letter . . . ."

## **Sample letters**

The International Secretariat prefers that photocopied letters (see p. 70) or letters based on a prepared "sample letter" be sent by the general public only, not by AI group members. Sample letters result in many letters that look the same coming to the same official. Group members should be encouraged to write their own letters in their own words. Nevertheless, a "boilerplate" letter is preferred to no letter at all.

## **Stationery**

Depending on the advice of your co-group (see the questions on pp. 30-31), your group can send some mix of hand-written, typed, and photocopied letters on a variety of stationery and letterhead.

If it is appropriate, send some letters on AIUSA group stationery. Your regional office can provide you a standard sheet of AIUSA stationery with the candle in barbed wire logo. Your group can then make stationery by adding your group's name (for example, Group 322) and address in the upper right above the horizontal rule (use nine point helvetica regular type).

**Never send a letter on AI stationery saying something like "how nice a leader you are . . . I know you would never condone Joe Smith's imprisonment . . . ."** These letters can be and have been manipulated, in some cases to imply AI endorsement of the target government. Send this type of letter on private, non-AI stationery instead.

Ask group members to write letters on their professional stationery. This stationery could include any kind of "official" letterhead group members might have in their professional capacities as doctors, lawyers, teachers, or whatever. Someone with access to a high-quality personal computer printer could design letterhead for group members who do not currently have their own letterhead (see p. 72).

## **Keep a record of letters**

Ask group members to keep track of which government officials they have written and when, preferably by making copies of all their letters or keeping copies on computer disk. If these options are too cumbersome, ask group members to keep a written log. Group members can then write letters that include "Why have you not responded to my letter of June 3?" Sometimes this provokes a response from the official. Another advantage of keeping copies is that in the event the group member receives a response, AI can learn what triggered it. And copies of previous letters can be enclosed in a future letter to a higher official (see the box on p. 100).

## **Remain diplomatic**

Regardless of how frustrated group members may become at the lack of response by your target government, they should not abuse the government's officials in their letters or use political jargon. It is better to write well-informed

letters that either touch on sensitive areas of the government's foreign relations such as trade or which play upon the rhetoric or self-image of the government. Turn your frustration into the design of special actions that will make your target government sweat (see Chapters 9, 10, and 11). But keep writing that steady stream of letters.

Send copies of all letters to your target ambassador in Washington.

For basic instructions on letter writing, see Exhibits 4-3 and 4-4 in Chapter 4.

## Responses

As noted in Chapter 4, in the event any member of your group receives a letter from any government official, send copies to --

- your co-group.
- the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office or (for campaigns) the Campaign Director in the Campaign office.
- the International Secretariat researcher in London.
- co-adopting groups.

Use a response to establish a dialogue with the government official until the action file is closed.

- Write letters in your regular monthly meeting -- ask members to come early or stay late.
- Hold a letter-writing evening.
- Organize a letter-writing session in a library.
- Use significant dates in the country where your prisoner is held to focus appeals on his or her behalf.
- Use the anniversary of your prisoner's arrest or sentencing as an occasion for a special effort.
- Use the prisoner's or the government leader's birthday as an occasion for a special effort.
- Send 100 letters in 100 days. Circulate a sign-up sheet in your group, with a space for each date over the next 100 days.
- Send letters to unofficial advisers or counselors.
- Send letters to the minister of tourism.
- Send some copies of your letters to State Department officials (see p. 206) or to Members of Congress.
- Target lower-level officials, who may actually read their mail. Target people other than the ambassador at the government's embassy. Your co-group may have a list of embassy staff, or you may order the Diplomatic List (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325, 202-783-3238, \$4.50 for one issue, or \$8.50 for a one-year subscription). The Diplomatic List provides all embassy addresses and the names and titles of all embassy staff.
- **Highlight** the name of your prisoner so that it stands out from the text, especially if you believe that the addressee may not be able to read your language.
- Send some letters to government leaders by registered mail. In 1993, registered mail was available to all countries except North Korea and Cambodia (Kampuchea) and cost \$4.40. Registered mail carried with it an indemnity of \$32.35 (making it an especially attractive vehicle for writing to your prisoner, see p. 108). Return receipt requested was available only for registered mail or insured parcels and cost an additional dollar. Insurance was available only on parcels. Certified mail was not available for international mail items. There was an international mail weight limit of four pounds for any item of mail including personal handwritten or typewritten correspondence. Any such item was required to be sent as a letter or a letter package, not as parcel post.
- Mail letters from all over the country by having group members write letters in the names of friends and relatives in other states. These letters should be sent pre-stamped to the friends and relatives for mailing.
- Mail letters from places that members of your group will be traveling as this may also make your letters appear more unusual.
- Consider sending letters or packages via Express Mail International, which is available to more than 120

countries, Federal Express, or DHL. While these are expensive, their envelopes and package boxes are brightly colored and demand attention. They will be unusual on the desk of the average official of the average developing country.

- Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group created a "Stamp Bank," which provides stamps for those members for whom the cost of postage presents a barrier to letter-writing. The basic information flyer for Maine and the local newsletter request donations in checks or stamps for the Stamp Bank. Stamp users are asked to list their letters on a simple form (see Exhibit 8-1), with no time limit. Requests for stamps are handled confidentially by the area coordinator for Maine.
- **Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group sent one letter per day for one month to the same official.
- **China (Investigation)**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group made labels to put on letters, gifts, cards, and so forth -- "Where is (NAME OF PRISONER)?"
- **Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. Group members wrote letters and put them in European-sized envelopes, which are smaller and more square than #10 envelopes. The unstamped letters and a check to cover postage were put in a package and mailed to a former group member living in Switzerland. She mailed them from Switzerland, where the co-group had reported that a group had received a response from the Syrian government.
- **Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The translator provided by the co-group typed the name and location of the group's prisoner of conscience in Arabic in a space that would fit in a standard mailing label (2.7" by 1"). The group photocopied the name and location 33 times, then pasted them up so that they could be photocopied onto sheets of address labels. At group meetings, members were given the address labels. Members would place the address labels on letters (on the letter, not the envelope), so the reader would know whom the member was writing about, even if the letter was not translated.
- **Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The translator provided by the co-group typed the name and addresses of ten key government officials in Arabic. These names and addresses were pasted up so that they could be photocopied onto sheets of large address labels (ten labels per 8.5" by 11" page). The group had one letter translated into Arabic each month. The case coordinator added a name and address label to the letter, photocopied it, added a different name and address label to the letter, photocopied it, and so forth, for all ten labels. Each member of the group signed all ten photocopied letters.
- **Indonesia**, Group 87, Columbus, OH. Each member of the group had a "pen-pal" government official and wrote to that same official every other month (see Exhibit 8-2). Some groups prefer to give assignments to new members in the hope that this encourages them to return.
- **USSR**, Group 191, Brockport, NJ. The group made stationery with a photograph of its prisoner of conscience in the upper left-hand corner.

## Cards and postcards

Cards and postcards may be relatively rare among the mix of correspondence received by your target government's leaders. Consider sending --

- Christmas or other holiday cards.
- birthday cards.
- anniversary cards.
- picture postcards.
- **Argentina**, Group 62, Cupertino, CA. Without mentioning AI, a group member sent a Christmas card to the minister of defense. He sent a card in return. The AI member's next letter to him began "Thank you for your lovely Christmas card . . . ."
- **U.S.A. (Ratification Now! Campaign)**. As part of the push for ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and on the occasion of International Women's Day, group members were asked to send President Bush an anniversary card. Each card requested that the President "move the treaty" before another year passed.

## Telegrams and telexes

Telegrams and telexes convey urgency and importance. They are particularly appropriate when --

- beginning work on an action file (see p. 32).
- your prisoner is in imminent danger.
- a date on which amnesties frequently occur is upcoming.
- your group wants to make a special appeal.
- leaders of your target government will be visiting the U.S.A.

Some groups, including Group 19, send one telegram every month, to keep up the pressure on the target government. For information on sending telegrams and telexes, see WORLDLINK, p. 33.

## Faxes

Faxes provide a method of expressing urgency that is cheaper than telegrams and telexes. Faxes also add to the variety of communications tools with which you can pressure your target government. For information on sending faxes, see WORLDLINK, p. 33.

### **So -- they don't answer your letters?**

Try writing letters of refined dismay to an official's superiors, for example:

Your Excellency:

We are taking the liberty of writing to you at this time on a matter that we regard with deep concern. The friendship between the people of (TARGET COUNTRY) and the U.S.A. is being strengthened by the many trade and cultural links between our two countries. We were therefore surprised when your colleague, the Honorable (NAME), Minister of Justice, did not respond to our recent letter.

We are enclosing a copy of this letter to him, dated (), in the hopes that you will take the earliest possible opportunity to discuss this matter with him and persuade him to send us the reply for which we are still waiting.

Finally, may we point out that in the (32+) years that Amnesty International has worked in defense of Human Rights throughout the world, we have come to believe ever more deeply that the health of each nation depends on a fundamental respect for the freedom of its citizens. We hope that you and your distinguished colleagues share this vision and that you will do everything in your power to see this ideal carried out in practice.

Yours respectfully,

*In China, the orchid is a symbol of loyalty and unappreciated virtue*

## Symbols

Sending symbols to your target government can be effective simply because it is unusual. For example, your group could send hundreds of pens to the leader of your target government and with each pen include a note asking him or

her to use the pen to sign an order to release your prisoner of conscience.

- **China (Investigation)**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group sent orchids to the Chinese ambassador and the Chinese Consul in Chicago on December 10 (Human Rights Day). In China, the orchid is a symbol of loyalty and unappreciated virtue.
- **Cameroon (Investigation)**, Group 159, Arlington, VA. In this July action, the group sent T-shirts to several top government officials. The front related U.S. and French independence days -- July 4 and July 14, as Cameroon had been a French colony. The back asked about the prisoner's "independence day."
- **U.S.A. (Campaign)**, Western Region Campus Groups. Groups contributed 18" by 18" decorated fabric squares having the theme "Women's Rights are Human Rights." The squares were assembled into a quilt. At the center of the quilt was a larger, rectangular piece bearing the AI symbol, the women's symbol, and a brief statement to President Clinton calling for ratification of the Women's Convention. The quilt was exhibited at the Vienna Human Rights Conference and was to be presented to President Clinton in August, 1993.

### **Photographs**

A photograph is an extremely effective way of getting your message across. Numerous photogenic activities such as demonstrations or vigils that might attract the media are described in Chapter 11. Obviously your group should photograph all your public events. However, the actions below are not media actions; they were designed to be photographed only by your group.

Take both color and black and white photographs of your actions. Color slides may be the cheapest option. Color may attract the attention of your target government, but someday a newspaper may want to do a feature article on your group or a story on your prisoner's release, and the paper will want only black and white photographs.

Send copies of your photographs, along with letters, to government officials (see p. 245 for other uses of the photographs).

If your action will require the production of merchandise, obtain the booklet Merchandise with a Message from your regional office.

- Consider turning a photograph into a mini-postcard. Mail the postcards to every official on your list of government authorities.
- Print up T-shirts saying, for example, "Free (NAME OF PRISONER), Imprisoned in (TARGET COUNTRY)." Ask members of your group and/or prominent people to wear them. Take photographs and send them to government officials. Send officials their own T-shirts. If approved by your co-group, send the prisoner a T-shirt or photographs of group members wearing the T-shirt.
- When your group sets up a booth at a fair or concert, make up a poster about your prisoner, with his or her name in large letters. Photograph members of your group at the booth.
- Rent a billboard and dedicate it to your prisoner. Include AI contact information. Take photographs of the billboard and send them to the government. This action requires approval of the Campaign Director in the Campaign office or the Director of Communications in the National office (see Appendix I). This action is expensive and will probably require the donation of the billboard. The cost of the printing alone on a billboard is \$4,000 to \$5,000.
- **USSR**, Group 383, West Mt. Valley, CO. The group printed the name of its prisoner of conscience on yellow ribbons. Group members wore the ribbons as armbands and displayed them at fairs and other public events. Photograph members of your group and others wearing the ribbons.
- **South Africa**, Group 21, Davis, CA. It is often very easy and cheap to make up buttons, badges and stickers -- ask at your strategy session if someone in your group has access to a machine to make them. Photograph members of your group and others wearing them at concerts and other public events. If you can't find a local button manufacturer, try Votes Unlimited, Attention Mitchell Ross, 60 State Road, Ferndale, NY 12734, 212-995-0233.
- **South Korea**, Group 129, Stony Brook, NY. The group produced bumper stickers saying "Free (NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE)". The group took pictures of them on their cars. Then the pictures were sent with letters to the government authorities saying how many people see the bumper stickers every day. The group also sent out plain postcards to the authorities from friends and family saying they had seen the bumper stickers and hoped the prisoner would be freed.
- **Syria**, Group 191, Brockport, NY. The group sent its target embassy a photograph of the artwork dedicated to the prisoner (see more discussion of this action on p. 251).
- **El Salvador ("Disappearance") and South Africa (Death in Detention)**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. To attract media attention, the group made wreaths that were later displayed in churches, with accompanying posters and information tables. Photographs of the wreaths displayed on the town green were sent to embassies and government officials.
- **Yugoslavia, El Salvador, and East Germany**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group had a float in the parade honoring the 250th anniversary of the town of Brunswick. Each person in the float held a large poster describing a prisoner case. The group took photographs of the float. The float was also mentioned in letters to governments.
- Randolph-Macon College. The group had a float in the homecoming parade.

### **Audio tapes**

Your group can send material to English-speaking members of your target government on audio tape. This material could include, for example --

- music.
- songs.
- speeches.
- appeals.
- recordings of demonstrations.
- readings of the names of "disappeared," each by a different person.

### **Videotapes**

Videotape format standards vary around the world. Be aware that persons in other countries may not be able to watch a VHS tape. Check with your co-group or consult with the reference librarian at your local library to determine the videotape format standard in your target country. Even if your target country uses a different standard, you can send a tape and a transcript to your target ambassador in the U.S.A.

For information on how to get your videotapes on local cable public access channels, see p. 264.

- **Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group made a videotaped appeal for the release of its prisoner. The appeal was scripted; both the tape and the script were sent to the ambassador (see Exhibit 8-3).
- **Syria**, Group 355, Yarmouth, ME. The group made a videotape of its activities on behalf of its prisoner, including scenes from a candlelight march on Human Rights Day. The group sent the videotape to the Syrian Embassy.
- **USSR**, Smoky Hill High School. The group was preparing a videotaped documentary about a prisoner of conscience at the time of her release. The group had planned to deliver the tape to the embassy and to Representatives in Congress.



#### **Telephone calls**

**Be sure to coordinate with your co-group before attempting to call target government officials either in the target embassy or in the target country. Calls abroad may require the approval of the International Secretariat.**

Most useful telephone actions have involved phoning prisons (see "Telephone prisoner" on p. 110). These actions have the advantage of surprise: your group may learn things that would not be put in a letter.

- **South Africa**, Group 75, Atlanta, GA. The group called a prison and learned that the prisoner was not there.
- **Chile**. Members of the group placed person-to-person calls to General Pinochet each week. When asked by Pinochet's secretary what a group member wanted to speak with Pinochet about, the group member would say "I want to talk with him about (NAME OF PRISONER)." Once a group member actually got through to Pinochet. The group did not have to pay for the person-to-person calls that did not get through to Pinochet.
- A member of the Central African co-group was able to determine the location of a prisoner by phoning the prison director.

#### **Embassy or consulate visits**

One of the most effective ways of communicating AI concern about a particular action file is by visiting the embassy or a consulate of your target country. This action is especially appropriate for groups based near Washington, DC or near cities with consulates. **Before you request an embassy or consulate visit, be sure to speak with your co-group.** Embassy visits must also be coordinated with the DC office of AI (see Appendix I).

This section is written for an embassy visit. Simply read "consul general" for "ambassador" if your group is planning a consulate visit.

To identify consulate addresses and the names of consulate staff members, obtain Foreign Consular Offices in the United States (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325, 202-783-3238, \$6 for the 1993 edition).

**If your co-group approves your effort**, prepare carefully to have a useful meeting. You will need to --

- send a letter with information.
- choose a delegation.
- present AI concerns to the ambassador.
- prepare for the ambassador's response.
- follow up.

#### **Send a letter with information**

Write a suitable letter to the ambassador. Enclose a case summary (see p. 74) and general information on AI, such as the brochure "What is AI?" available from your regional office or the Statute of AI. The Statute of AI is Appendix II of this manual, and it is EXTERNAL. The Statute can be modified as often as every two years, so starting in the fall of 1995, get copies of the Statute from your regional office.

A sample letter might read as follows:

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to address you on behalf of Group (#) of Amnesty International, of which I am a member. As I believe you are aware, Amnesty International is an independent, non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations that works, irrespective of political considerations, for the protection of fundamental human rights that have been established in international law.

We have received detailed reports from our International Secretariat in London concerning the situation of (NAME OF PRISONER), a citizen of your country, believed to be detained under Article (#) of (.). For your information I am enclosing a copy of the Statute of Amnesty International and a summary of the information available to us in this case.

Moved solely by humanitarian concern and in accordance with the first Article of our Statute, I am writing to request you to allow a representative of our group to meet with you at your earliest convenience in order to enable us to establish better communication in discussing this case.

Respectfully yours,

#### **Choose and brief a delegation**

Should you be granted an interview, immediately get in touch with the co-group. It is often useful to send a delegation of at least two persons to meet with the ambassador or other member of the embassy staff. Your delegation should be well briefed by your co-group and the DC office. Know which major international treaties the country has signed -- your co-group can tell you.

#### **Present AI concerns to the ambassador**

On meeting the ambassador or other embassy functionary for the first time, it is useful for the delegates to introduce themselves and provide their occupations independent of AI. The delegates should then inquire if the ambassador is familiar with the work of AI and aware of the latest AI report and the entry on the country. After these introductory remarks, which should be as thorough but as cordial as possible, the delegates may refer to the specific documents already sent to the ambassador. At this time it is useful to explain the function of the Research Department of the International Secretariat from which the information came and the role of the national section in acting on it. The delegate may say:

"The particular information which we are following up has been sent to our national section by the Research Department of AI at the International Secretariat in London. This Department has an expert staff which collects information on laws, prison conditions, and prisoners and attempts to verify all such information. Our national section is requested from time to time to draw this information to the attention of various governments or to the attention of public opinion. We do not ourselves have responsibility for collection or verification of information. In this case, we are seeking your cooperation in establishing the truth, and we will, of course, report back to the International Secretariat."

The statement of AI concern should be firm and precise. At no time should the AI delegates attempt to "bully" or criticize the ambassador personally. Any critical remarks should be directed to the government that the ambassador represents. Attention should be drawn to the principles of international law with which AI is concerned and the humanitarian character of its concern. Attention should also be drawn to any relevant treaties ratified by your target country.

In this way, when you come to the issue directly at hand, it may be helpful initially to phrase all AI's concerns in terms of an inquiry. The ambassador would be asked to assist you by obtaining further information on the actual situation from his or her government. Ask the ambassador to forward a letter to his or her government. In many cases, this visit will be the first thing the ambassador knows about the action file, and it will therefore be necessary for him to request further information before legitimately saying anything specific at all. It is better to focus on one request than to propose a laundry list of actions.

#### **Prepare for the ambassador's response**

There may be various ways for the ambassador to avoid dealing with this kind of matter directly. He or she may be under instructions to criticize AI's concern in this matter.

The ambassador may say the information is political propaganda. Reply: Can the ambassador ask his or her government to supply a specific written assurance that AI's information is without basis? Is the ambassador personally familiar with the case in question so that he or she is in a position to give a first-hand denial?

The ambassador may say that he or she can do nothing. Reply: AI is not asking the ambassador to do anything beyond his or her normal duty to report matters of concern to his or her government and facilitate exactly this sort of inquiry that cannot be made directly to the foreign government except by mail, which is never answered.

The ambassador may ask what right does AI have to interfere in the internal affairs of his or her country. Reply: It is clear that his or her government accepts the role of international law within which framework AI works. Under international law human rights issues within a country are **not** considered internal affairs.

The ambassador may ask what right you have to complain about prisoners in his or her country when there are human rights violations here in the U.S.A., or in (a country that is an enemy of your target country). Reply: AI is addressing violations in the U.S.A. and in the other country. Be prepared with examples.

The ambassador may openly lie or be belligerent. Response: The AI delegation must remain diplomatic and contain their tempers.

Don't be upset if there is very little response from the ambassador. The delegates should indicate that they will confirm the substance of the discussion in writing to the ambassador for his records and submit a report to the International Secretariat. In the meantime, ask if the ambassador can suggest any alternative means of inquiry about the action file. The message should be that AI's concern is ongoing and permanent.

#### **Follow up**

Following the discussion with the ambassador, the delegates should immediately write a short letter to the ambassador thanking him or her for enabling AI to meet with him or her and confirming any suggestions for further action in the matter that arose during the discussion. The delegates should also write a full report for the DC office, your co-group and the International Secretariat.

### **Direct Actions to Prisoner and Family**

#### **Letters, cards, and postcards**

**Check with your co-group before sending any mail to your prisoner or his or her family.**

The prisoner may be under a quota on the number of letters he or she can receive, or there may be other excellent reasons to limit letter writing to the prisoner.

While it is unlikely the prisoner will receive any one piece of mail your group sends, released prisoners have reported many, many cases where prison guards smuggled in the prisoner's mail, and this receipt of mail gave the prisoner the strength to carry on.

Your group can also send mail to the prisoner's family and lawyer. Through meetings with family members or his or her lawyer, the prisoner may be able to find out about your activities, and this can have the same impact on the prisoner's morale as mail received in prison.

Consider that sending mail to the prisoner can serve as a means of locating the prisoner.

If your group receives a response from the prisoner, the prisoner's family, or the prisoner's attorney, send copies to --

- your co-group.
- the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office.
- the International Secretariat research team.
- co-adopting groups.

In the event of a response, get advice from your co-group contact on what to reply. Establish a dialogue, but do not make promises you will be unable to keep.

- Send letters via friends or AI colleagues or groups in another country. U.S. groups can find groups in, say, the Netherlands, by writing the Dutch section. Its address is in the AI [Annual Report](#). Also, co-group members should know their peers in other AI sections. Letters from some other nations are more likely to get through than letters from the U.S.A. Your co-group can learn from the International Secretariat which countries would be best.
- **USSR**, Group 17, Great Neck, NY. The group sent a semi-monthly postcard or a registered letter, return receipt requested, to its prisoner of conscience.
- **Uruguay**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The group sent registered letters, return receipt requested, to the prisoner (1993 cost: \$5.40). Registered letters carried an indemnity of \$32.35 in 1993. When return receipts were not returned, the group filed trace forms and collected the indemnity. This action raised money for the group and is legal. The U.S. government bills the foreign government for the amount due. Claims must be filed within one year of mailing. Registered mail service is not available to North Korea and Cambodia (Kampuchea).
- **Morocco**, Group 154, Westchester, NY. The group sent a registered letter to each jail where the prisoner **might** have been.
- **Pakistan (Investigation)**, Group 221, Beaumont, TX. The group sent registered letters, return receipt requested, to its prisoner and filed trace forms at the post office when the receipts were not returned.
- **Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group wrote to the prison director, included a card to the prisoner, and asked the prison director to deliver it.
- **Syria**, Group 191, Brockport, NY. Three large "greeting cards" (folded sheets of paper) were sent to the prisoner. People were asked to sign the cards at a public event. Copies were sent to some Syrian officials.
- **South Korea**, Group 575, Minneapolis, MN. The group corresponded with its prisoner of conscience and family and sent relief.

#### Packages

**Consult with your co-group before sending packages to your prisoner.** In some countries, prisoners are only permitted to receive one or two pounds of packages each year, and if this is the case, you do not want your packages supplanting those of the prisoner's family. The prisoner's family might even be charged a "tax" for the package. Also, cooperate in the sending of packages with any co-adopting group.

See the extensive discussion of relief in Chapter 12.

Consider sending small packages "AO Mail" (AO stands for *Autre Objets*, French for Other Articles). This method is cheaper than regular air mail, more expensive but faster than sea mail. It is available to all countries except North Korea and Cambodia (Kampuchea), but it is limited to two to four pounds, depending on the country. These packages cannot include typed or handwritten correspondence. In 1993, AO Mail could be registered at a cost of \$4.40, which carried an indemnity of \$32.35.

In 1993, parcel post - surface was \$6.55 for two pounds and \$2.10 for each additional pound. Parcel post - air varied by country, up to \$12.30 for one pound, \$7.00 for each additional pound up to five pounds total, and \$6.00 for each additional pound up to the maximum. Insurance on parcel post packages is available on mail to many countries.

For more information on all methods of sending packages, obtain [International Postal Rates and Fees](#), which is available free at your local post office. For information on what can legally be included in packages (this varies by country), see the [International Mail Manual](#), which is available for review at your post office.

- o **Pakistan**, Group 308, St. Peter, MN. Group members sold soap and candy bars for their prisoner for one dollar. These items were then sent to the prisoner in a "care" package. Each donor who bought soap or candy signed a greeting card that was included in the package. This event raised about \$30 for the group.

#### Telephone calls

Your co-group can provide valuable information about calling your prisoner. Your group will need to locate a fluent speaker of the country's language, and that speaker should be provided with a list of points, arranged in priority order, to bring up in speaking with any official. The speaker should be prepared to verify as much specific information as possible regarding your prisoner's situation: dates, trials, diagnosis, treatment, interviews with officials. For example, you might ask, "As far as we know he was examined on (DATE). Is this correct?"

As you will almost certainly not get through to your prisoner, a person-to-person call will cost your group nothing. However, you will dramatically inform the prison administration that your group is at work on your action file and cares about the well-being of your prisoner.

Don't give up. Continue calling regularly. Have representatives of well-known organizations sponsor some of your calls. Call on their behalf.

If you don't know the location of your prisoner, telephone calls may help you find him or her.

- o **Pakistan (Investigation)**, Group 221, Beaumont, TX. The group called the prison to verify the prisoner's location.
- o **USSR**, Group 315, Wayzata, MN. The group called the labor camp in Navoi, Uzbekistan, in 1986. It took several hours for the call to get through. The group learned that its prisoner of conscience was alive, well, and making his work quota. The guard the group's translator spoke to was friendly and promised to wish its prisoner Happy Birthday (December 5) and Happy Christmas. The call was placed on Human Rights Day (December 10).
- o **USSR**, Group 53, Fayetteville, AR. The group had a mathematics professor at a local university call the mother of its prisoner of conscience; they were able to speak together in Russian. The prisoner was later allowed to emigrate to Switzerland.P>
- o **Greece**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group learned of the release of its prisoner by calling the prisoner's family.

*"It would be difficult to overstate the importance of the work of organizations dedicated to humanitarian causes . . . Ultimately, of course, the effectiveness of organizations depend on the efforts of selfless individuals, and I would like to thank all those who have shown solidarity with and compassion for the people of Burma in their troubles."*

-- Aung San Suu Kyi, prisoner of conscience from Burma and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

## Chapter 9

### Special Actions: Organizations and Individuals

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**Summary: Businesses, professional organizations, trade unions, and other organizations, as well as certain individuals, may prove extremely influential with your target government. Coordinate with AIUSA staff before contacting national organizations, businesses, and VIPs.**

**If you choose just one action from this chapter --** Identify those corporations that do business in your target country from The Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries and other sources. With the approval of the Campaign office, send each corporation's president or chief executive officer a polite letter requesting that he or she inquire about your action file. Send a copy of each letter to your target embassy and your target trade office.

## Overview

In special actions, your group involves influential non-AI organizations or individuals with your action file. These organizations or individuals could include --

- (1) Target Sector Organizations and Individuals.
- (2) Commercial and Financial Interests.
- (3) High-level Individuals, VIPs, and Celebrities.
- (4) Politicians and Other Government Officials.
- (5) Media.

Politicians and other government officials are the subject of Chapter 10; the media are covered in Chapter 11.

There are hundreds of actions described in this and the following two chapters. Recall that your objective is not merely to recruit organizations and individuals to help you. Your objective is to pressure your target government into resolving the human rights violation represented by your action file. Select organizations and individuals with that in mind.

## Basic guidelines

As always, what is appropriate for one action file may not be appropriate for your action file, or what was effective in 1993 may no longer be appropriate or effective. **Consult your co-group before requesting the assistance of any non-AI organization or individual. Your co-group has background knowledge you may be unaware of, so it is vitally important to consult your co-group to avoid confusion, multiple contacts, and actions that may harm rather than help your prisoner.**

Some actions may benefit more than one prisoner and/or offer the opportunity to split the work across more than one group. Ask your co-group.

Also, your dossier guidelines may prohibit certain special actions, for example, "no outreach to Jehovah's Witnesses."

The basic outreach tool for any special action is a case summary (see p. 74). Your group should prepare one as soon as possible, if you don't have one already.

## Levels of influence

Individuals and organizational leaders can be arranged in three levels of influence:

- the general public.
- leaders and other people with more influence.
- people with special influence on your target government.

You can identify influential people through your co-group and through the references cited in this chapter and in Chapters 3 and 10.

### **The general public**

An average member of the public is not likely to be particularly influential, at least as far as your target government is concerned. That person's activity on your action file does not constitute a special action, and trying to recruit such a person may not represent the most effective use of the group's time. For example, during the time it may take to recruit one person on the street, or one union member if the union has no particular influence, you might have been able to write three better letters or indeed 300 (see p. 72). For some efficient ways to obtain help from the general public, see Chapter 6.

### **People with more influence**

People with more influence include --

- persons with impressive letterhead.
- leaders of large or elite organizations.
- prominent individuals of the same race, ethnicity, or religion as members of your target government.
- leaders of organizations whose members are of the same race, ethnicity, or religion as members of your target government.
- political columnists and others who take public stands on positions favored by officials of your target government.
- travel writers who praise tourist attractions in your target country.
- professors in exchange programs.

### **People with special influence**

People with special influence are those whom your target government cares about. These people include, for example --

- decision makers in corporations that do business with your target country.
- persons who decide on aid and investment in your target country.
- U.S. politicians who have visited your target country, met with officials from your target country, or who support policies that your target government favors. You will need to coordinate with other AIUSA activists before contacting them (see pp. 194 and 202).
- lobbying groups that are sympathetic to your target country or region.
- persons who are admired by leaders of your target government.
- stars of Hollywood films and television series shown in your target country.
- persons who might have some influence on whether your target government remains in power.

- the friends and former classmates of target government officials and their children who attended college in the U.S.A.

Especially powerful appeals come from Americans who are **personally** known by the official to whom the letters are addressed. For example, you can contact the friends, relatives, acquaintances, business associates, or professional colleagues of target government officials and ask them to express concern about your prisoner.

Government officials often find it relatively easy to disregard appeals from complete strangers. It is even easier to ignore appeals from political opponents, whether real or imagined. But people with special influence would be awkward, impolite, or politically dangerous to ignore. Every government, no matter how loudly it publicly scorns alleged "interference in internal affairs," wants to remain in the good graces of its supporters, allies, and other persons of influence. Likewise, individual officials value the good opinion of their friends and acquaintances. A letter written by a person of special influence on behalf of your prisoner politely but firmly reaches out and grabs the government official by the lapel. The letter commands attention; for an official to ignore it would be awkward or damaging, whether for personal, political, or financial reasons.

## Goals of actions

Groups usually approach an influential person with a letter. Consider that your letter may have two goals:

- inform your target government, through a copy to your target ambassador, that you have informed the recipient of the letter of the human rights violation represented by your action file.
- request the recipient to act.

Observe that media actions (see Chapter 11) essentially just inform the general public about your action file. Only occasionally can an action request, such as letter-writing instructions, be included in newspaper articles, op-eds, or letters to the editor. However, this mere informing of the public is a powerful action. Your target government would much prefer that the light of public attention not shine on its human rights violations.

Similarly, the sending of a letter describing a human rights violation to a person of special influence can be mainly an information action. This is a person your target government really wants to keep in the dark, on its side, or both. If you think it very unlikely that the recipient of your letter would send a letter to your target government, don't ask. Request something like "the next time you meet with an official from the (TARGET COUNTRY) government, please inquire about the situation of (ACTION FILE)." This approach has a few advantages:

- your target government will not be able to conclude that the recipient of your letter will not act, just because he or she does not send a letter.
- the recipient of your letter may be willing to bring up your action file informally, in meetings, but may be unwilling to put anything in writing (see Group 62's Malaysia action on p. 155).
- your target government may prepare for an action by an influential person by ending the human rights violation.

## Making it easy for others to help you

You will increase the likelihood of individuals or organizations assisting you if you **minimize** their work. Their work involves two tasks, both of which you must make easy:

- determining that AI, your group, and your action file are worthy of assistance: that is, establishing your credibility.

- accomplishing the action.

## **Establishing your credibility**

You should provide any non-AI individual or organization you approach enough background material to establish your credibility and the value of your proposed action. The best way to establish both is to show that a respected individual has helped with your action file. This is one reason why many groups choose as their first special action the requesting of a letter from their Representative in Congress. Copies of such a letter can be included in action requests directed at organizations and individuals.

Before approaching an organization, try to find an AI volunteer or member who might have credibility within the organization. Do not expect that the individual or organization you are approaching will know anything about AI, or that AI is not an organization of left- or right-wing fanatics. Provide AI literature. Incorporate a statement such as the following.

"Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests, and religious creeds. It has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO, and the Council of Europe; has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States; and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity. Amnesty International was the recipient of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Peace."

## **Accomplishing the action**

**Do you want organizational leaders, Members of Congress, or other VIPs to send letters for your prisoner? These are very busy people. Provide them a list of points you want raised in a letter and/or a draft letter with addresses of where you want the letter to go.** Inform them of particularly important dates for appeals, such as national days or anniversaries. Cite relevant human rights instruments, which should be in the background materials in your dossier (or see Appendices IX and X).

Do you want organization newsletters, newspapers, or other publications to print an article on your prisoner? Provide a draft. Draft articles for newspapers are called press releases (see p. 225).

Be sure to ask for help for specific prisoners or attention to a human rights violation rather than help for AI. This approach minimizes the chance that the outside individual or organization might expect inappropriate reciprocity from you as an AI member or from your AI group on an action that is outside the AI mandate or that is overtly political.

Exhibit 9-1 is a letter from an AI member that requests that an influential individual apply his influence in a letter, called a ***high-impact letter*** (see instructions on the next page). Exhibit 9-2 is a high-impact letter. Exhibit 9-3 is a response from a target government official to a high-impact letter.

## **Requesting a high-impact letter**

While an influential individual can assist with your action file in dozens of different ways, the most common way is by sending a high-impact letter.

The way you request a high-impact letter is important. Your letter should be concise, about one page long, yet cover all of the essential points. Here are some suggestions on how to request a high-impact letter from an influential individual:

- mention how you came across the person's name.
- ask to bring to his or her attention a matter involving your target country in which his or her influence may be helpful.

- establish your credibility, possibly by citing an enclosed letter sent by someone the recipient of your letter would respect.
- mention how your group's members have worked on specific prisoner cases from a wide range of countries. These need not be only adoption cases -- citing Urgent Actions, Regional Action Network actions, country campaigns, and so forth is sufficient. The person may be misinformed about AI or suspicious that its work is slanted against your target country, so the mention of AI's independence and impartiality is important.
- give a brief summary of your prisoner's case and AI's concerns.
- mention that your group's letters have received little or no response from your target country and that inquiries from prominent persons are more likely to receive a reply.
- ask the person if he or she will generously consider using his or her influence to express concern about your prisoner to a target government official. Letters to personal acquaintances have an especially powerful impact, so ask the recipient to write directly to an official he or she may know.
- provide the name and address of a specific official from your address list if the person you are writing does not know an official personally.
- mention that postage for a one-page letter is 50 cents (as of 1993) if you ask the person to write directly to your target country.
- request a copy of any letter the person sends.

Consider that someone you approach out of the blue to send a high-impact letter may be hesitant to ask officials for the **release** of a prisoner of conscience on the basis of a brief letter from AI.

It is more tactful to ask the person to "express concern" or "seek a review" of your prisoner's case. Your target government will get the message, and many of the people you approach will go ahead on their own initiative and ask for your prisoner's release.

## **Maximizing the power of a high-impact letter**

When an influential organization or individual writes on behalf of your prisoner, it is no time to rest on your laurels. Consider that the high-impact letter could get lost in the mail, improperly filed, thrown away by a clerk too overburdened to read it, or misunderstood because the person who read it had a poor command of English.

There is a lot your group can do to maximize the effect of a high-impact letter, thereby delivering a jolt to the officials who thought they could continue to calmly and quietly imprison, torture, or kill your prisoner. After waiting a decent interval for a reply, say 4 to 6 weeks, you should take further action.

Ask the writer of the high-impact letter for permission to send copies to other officials or your target government. Emphasize that the letter will only be sent to government officials and will not be made public. A telephone call to the author is sufficient to obtain this permission, but very busy people can be asked by mail. Enclose with your written request a stamped postcard with a return address. The postcard can say something like, "Yes, I give my permission . . .," which the author can sign and mail back to you.

Once you have permission to send copies to other officials, translate the high-impact letter into the language of your target country. If the language is French, Spanish, or Arabic, consider using the Translation Network (see p. 16).

Don't settle for just one high-impact letter written by a person with influence. Keep asking other influential people to

get involved. Ask the more active members of your group to take turns writing requests for high-impact letters. Keep a copy of every such request you send to persons with influence -- your co-group will want to analyze the ones that succeed in producing a response.

Send copies of the high-impact letter to your target embassy. Ask your co-group for the names of all officials accredited to the embassy, and send a copy of the high-impact letter to every official on the list. If your co-group cannot help you, the Diplomatic List (see p. 96) can provide you the names.

With the approval of your co-group, telephone target embassy officials to remind them of the high-impact letter. Tell the receptionist that you have received a letter regarding your target country from a well-known friend of that country, and it is important to discuss it with an embassy official. If a specific official you ask for is "in a meeting," then just keep going down the list of embassy staff members in the Diplomatic List. Once you're connected, express concern that the author of the high-impact letter has not yet received the courtesy of a reply. Ask the embassy official to check on the status of the author's inquiry. If your group has generated more than one high-impact letter, also mention the other friends of your target country who were also surprised and disappointed at not receiving the courtesy of a reply.

Include a copy of the high-impact letter, or preferably its translation, in your group newsletter. Ask everyone on your newsletter mailing list to send it to your target country.

Keep sending copies of high-impact letters every month to different officials until your target government responds or until your group has a more recent high-impact letter to be enclosed in your monthly letters.

If there is still no reply, continue to send copies of the letter every month to different officials. Enclose with it a cover letter pointing out that the author of the high-impact letter is a friend of your target country and sadly has not yet received the courtesy of a reply. Regrettably, you can continue, a failure to respond to this humanitarian appeal may cause serious harm to the international reputation of your target country. The cover letter can be in English because the enclosed copy of the high-impact letter is the "hook" that grabs the attention of the clerk who opens the envelope.

To insure that the high-impact letter receives special attention, send a copy with a cover letter to some officials registered mail return receipt requested.

After deluging officials with copies of high-impact letters, begin hinting that you will ask the persons who wrote the high-impact letters to publicize their concerns for your prisoner and the lack of a response from your target government. Ask the authors who wrote high-impact letters if they will agree to sign their names to a public letter on behalf of your prisoner. Have the public letter published in a newspaper -- the bigger the better, but any newspaper will do. Mail copies of the public letter to your target government.

Send copies of the high-impact letter to people in your target country who are responsible for, or sensitive to, publicity regarding their country. With the approval of your co-group and the letter's author, send copies to your target country's newspapers, magazines, national news agencies, and broadcasting stations.

## TARGET SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Organizations or associations with special interests, skills, or influence are frequently approached by AI for support and/or action. These approaches and actions are called ***target sector work***.

The organizations listed in this section have been identified in co-group newsletters and other sources as having assisted with AI cases at one time or another. Some of these are human rights organizations that, for all you know, may already be working on your case or would be if they knew about it. Addresses of human rights organizations appear in Appendix V; addresses of most other national or international organizations mentioned in this chapter appear in Appendix VI. Addresses of state and local organizations are not provided.

*"I tried to form a trade union -- and you?"*

## Contacting organizations

When AI makes an appeal to a target government, its message is usually strengthened if it arrives in different forms from many members situated all over the world.

On the other hand, when AI asks other bodies to support its work, the request is more likely to be successful if it is sent in a direct fashion by the most appropriate part of the movement.

To accomplish this, AI observes a general guideline. Any formal approach seeking to involve other bodies in the support of its work is the responsibility of the **parallel level** of AI:

- the International Secretariat and the International Executive Committee organize approaches to international or intragovernmental organizations.
- AIUSA staff members organize or coordinate approaches to national U.S. organizations.
- regional staff members coordinate approaches to regional organizations.
- local groups are responsible for approaches to local organizations.

### International organizations

AI groups should not contact international organizations, such as the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, or the World Confederation of Labor. Exceptions include approaches approved by the International Secretariat (through your co-group) and requests for publications. Approaches by AIUSA groups might create confusion, because the International Secretariat is in regular contact with these institutions. Groups would be told that they have no "standing" with the organizations.

If your action file has been presented to an international organization, the AI research team for your target country may inform you. Also, your co-group may be able to find out. However, often this information is confidential, and even co-groups don't have it.

### Foreign organizations

In the course of your research, your group may identify foreign organizations that may be able to assist with your action file. These organizations focus on one country or region but are not worldwide in scope. Before you contact such an organization, your co-group must clear it with the International Secretariat.

### U.S. organizations

AIUSA groups may approach national organizations only after coordinating with AIUSA national staff. So, before contacting national organizations, call the appropriate staff member. These staff members are --

- for organizations of lawyers, health professionals, academics, teachers, and scientists -- the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office.
- for religious and women's organizations -- the Outreach Coordinator in the National office.
- for organizations of writers, journalists, editors, and other members of the media -- the Director of Communications in the National office.

- for military, security, or police organizations, or for human rights organizations with no professional focus -- the Director of the DC office.

Since AIUSA's national staff already services many major organizations, you will avoid duplicating efforts and contribute to a coherent and credible program (that is, one where the left hand knows what the right hand is doing) by coordinating your plans in advance.

If the appropriate national staff member is not responsive to your efforts to coordinate an approach to a national organization, you may contact the Ombudsperson of the AIUSA Board of Directors. Your regional office can provide you the phone number of the Ombudsperson.

## **State or regional organizations**

Before contacting state or regional representatives of major organizations, inform your regional office.

## **Local chapters of organizations**

When you plan to contact the local chapter of a major national organization, consult with your area coordinator, who may have dealt with the organization before, and with your regional office staff, who also may have valuable contacts within the organization. Again, this will avoid confusion and strengthen your efforts. And if you check with the appropriate national staff member, you will learn what other actions the national organization has done with Amnesty. Providing this information to the local chapter will substantially increase your credibility and the likelihood of your receiving assistance.

## **Literature for target sectors**

To aid in establishing AI credibility and the value of target sector assistance, EXTERNAL AI literature has been developed for particular target sectors. Different Urgent Action brochures focus on journalists, lawyers, artists, educators, health professionals, environmentalists, indigenous peoples, scientists, union members, and religious leaders. For approaching women's groups, there is the brochure "Women's Human Rights Denied," the newsletter Interact, and the publication Women in the Front Line: Human Rights Violations Against Women. A limited number of brochures are available in Spanish. This literature is available from your regional office.

## **Identifying target sector organizations**

To find target sector organizations, go to your library. The invaluable sources for identifying target sector organizations are the Encyclopedia of Associations (1994 Edition, \$375) and the Encyclopedia of Associations: International Organizations (1994 Edition, \$490), which are cross-referenced to each other. Look for organizations for the same religion, trade, profession, academic specialty, or ethnicity as your prisoner. Look for organizations of émigrés from your target country. Ethnic Information Sources of the United States (1983 Edition, \$175) identifies organizations, media, commercial and trade bodies, and so forth concerned with ethnic groups in your target country. Newspapers in Print (1993 Edition, \$185) is a guide to more than 8,000 subscription, membership, and free newsletters: it can help you find organizations that can print articles, letters to the editor, petitions, or other appeals for your prisoner. All the references above are published by Gale Research, 800-877-4253.

Other sources include National Trade and Professional Associations of the United States (1994 Edition, \$75) and State and Regional Associations of the United States (1994 Edition, \$60), both from Columbia Books, 1212 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 330, Washington, DC 20005, 202-898-0662.

If it is not expensive, consider having a member of your group join some relevant organizations in the member's individual capacity (that is, not as a member of AI). Also, publications from organizations focusing on your target country could provide you useful information for strategy development. Your co-group or the directories above may be able to identify those publications.

Many local organizations or local chapters of national organizations also have newsletters that might feature your action file.

## What to ask of target sector organizations

Leaders of target sector organizations can --

- send letters and faxes on impressive letterhead.
- send telegrams.
- circulate specialized petitions.
- sponsor an AI speaker at a conference, who can
  - attract more people willing to assist.
  - sometimes get press coverage, as your local weekly paper might be willing to print a paragraph saying that a member of your group was a speaker at the annual convention of the National Association of Whatever.
  - be videotaped. The tape can be sent to the embassy or included in a cable TV program (see p. 264).
- sponsor a politician to speak about your action file at a conference.
- sponsor resolutions
  - calling for your target government to end the human rights violation.
  - calling on the U.S. government, especially the Congress, to put pressure on your target government.
- draw attention to your action file in newsletters, journals, or other publications, with
  - articles.
  - letters to the editor.
  - op-eds (commentaries).
  - advertising.
  - petitions.
  - letter-writing instructions
    - to your target government.
    - to Members of Congress.

- phone numbers for more information.

- send letters to the editor to mainstream publications.

- invite your prisoner to give a speech before a meeting of the organization.

- make your prisoner an honorary member.

- conduct missions, or spend time in your target country working for your prisoner by

- meeting with government officials.

- meeting with the media.

- meeting with your prisoner.

- meeting with your prisoner's family, colleagues, or lawyer. This action requires specific approvals. Consult your co-group.

- meeting with human rights groups.

- sponsor a demonstration at a conference.

- sponsor a relief effort.

- join AI demonstrations, marches, vigils, or other public events (see Appendix III).

- provide speakers for your group's demonstrations or other public events.

- join embassy or consulate visits (not always appropriate).

- lobby Members of Congress.

- provide advice about and/or contact counterpart organizations in your target country.

- sponsor telephone calls to your prisoner (see p. 110).

If you have a concern about the appropriateness of any public action with an organization, your concern is probably addressed in Appendix III. Your co-group can also advise you.

In planning any target sector activity, always ask yourself how the activity will help you achieve your action file goals. If you will be speaking to a meeting of an organization, include the name of your prisoner in the subtitle of your speech, and send a copy of the meeting program to your target government. If your action file is mentioned in a newsletter, send a copy of the newsletter to your target government. If an organization passes a resolution related to your action file, ask the president of the organization to write to your target government and to enclose a copy of the resolution.

An organization may have a human rights arm, which should take the lead in work on your action file. In your first contact with an organization, ask for the name, title, address, and phone number of the person who chairs its human rights arm.

This chapter divides target sector organizations and individuals into the following categories:

- religious organizations.
- trade unions.
- educators and students.
- legal professionals.
- health professionals.
- military, security, or police.

## Target sector-religious organizations

For some action files, members and leaders of religious groups might be particularly influential with your target government. Look especially for co-religionists of key members of your target government.

Many world religious bodies support the efforts of Amnesty International. The International Secretariat has close working relations with the World Council of Churches. The following religious organizations sent official representatives to the Paris Conference for the Abolition of Torture held in 1973: the Anglican Consultative Council, World Muslim Congress, World Alliance of Reform Churches, World Jewish Congress, Lutheran World Federation, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and Pontifical Commission of Justice and Peace.

**For simplicity, the following discussion refers to *churches*. Please understand it to apply equally to mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations.**

When seeking action from churches, start in your own community. With the approval of the Outreach Coordinator in the National office, you may approach the national structure of religious organizations.

At the local level, ask church leaders to:

- hold a special service to mobilize support for your prisoner. A service might include prayers and the singing of hymns.
- hold a memorial service for a victim of extrajudicial execution.
- circulate petitions.
- have a display table or bulletin board with information about your prisoner and actions church members can do, such as pre-printed postcards, photocopied letters, or case summary flyers (see Chapter 6).
- publish articles or appeals in newsletters or the church bulletin.
- write a letter and read it from the pulpit.
- send a letter on church stationery.
- send faxes and telegrams.
- let you speak before a group of interested individuals.
- sponsor or contribute to special fund-raising programs to provide relief for your prisoner (see Chapter 12).

- arrange to carry letters or relief packets through religious channels.
- participate in and/or provide speakers for your demonstrations, vigils, or other events.
- lobby Members of Congress.
- ask the church's corresponding body in your target country to act on your prisoner's behalf.
- contact other U.S. churches of the same denomination and request their assistance.
- contact the church hierarchy and request that church officials send letters.

When seeking action from churches, remember to find ways to translate that action into pressure on your target government. It is nice for your prisoner to be mentioned in a prayer in a church service. It is much better for your prisoner to be mentioned in a prayer that your target government learns about through receiving letters, postcards, petitions, a copy of the church newsletter mentioning the prisoner, newspaper clippings, and so forth.

## **Use your contacts**

Check with your area coordinator. There may be AI letter-writing groups operating out of churches in your area. Some local churches may be enrolled in Voices of Freedom (see p. 86). To identify them, call your regional office. Contact the coordinators of these groups; ask if they would be willing to write on your action file and to circulate your petition. Ask them about checking with the leader of that church for contact names and phone numbers in other local churches of the same denomination.

Check with the members of your group. Probably many of them are members of churches or other religious organizations; ask who would be willing to speak to their religious leader or social responsibility committee about writing on your action file.

It is usually most efficient to obtain the help of churches where you have contacts and then to approach churches where you have no contacts.

## **Approaching a church without a contact**

You can contact the churches first by phone, then with a follow-up letter. On your first call, you're likely to reach a receptionist. Identify yourself as an AI volunteer and ask to speak to either the chairperson of that church's Social Responsibility or Social Concerns or Peace and Justice Committee if they have one, or to a minister. Once you get through to one of these people, give a brief overview of your prisoner's situation. Cite the assistance of other churches in the area, particularly churches of the same denomination. Suggest ways in which the church can help.

Follow-up is essential. Ministers and church functionaries are very busy people, and your request can get lost in the shuffle. Send them a short letter thanking them for their willingness to help you with your action file and remind them of exactly what they agreed to do. Include a case summary.

You can contact the churches again after three months or so. You can send them an update on your action file and include pre-printed postcards for church members to send.

Keep the church informed on a regular and frequent basis of your action file's status. Ask church members to join your group in any demonstration, vigil, march, or other public event that your group is planning (see Chapter 11).

Quakers, Unitarians, Mennonites, and Presbyterians have shown a particular empathy with conscientious objector cases.

For any local religious organization actions, consider getting coverage from the religion section of your local newspapers (see p. 247).

Organize prayers for your prisoner. Distribute letter-writing actions; circulate a petition.

Focus a whole church service on your prisoner. Distribute letter-writing actions; circulate a petition.

Prepare special material, such as quotations, prayers, and articles, suitable for use in sermons or church publications. Distribute the material to leaders of churches when they are solicited for other actions. Quotations from the Bible relevant to human rights activity are included in Appendix XIII.

Hold a Mass for a Catholic prisoner. Distribute letter-writing actions; circulate a petition.

For a Catholic prisoner, have the prisoner mentioned as an "intention" in the Prayer of the Faithful. Other churches have a time for publicly "remembering" during certain prayers. Ask that this "remembering" be included in the church's bulletin, and send the bulletin to your target government.

Create a display on behalf of your prisoner in a church. Leave case summary flyers, petitions, and pre-printed postcards at the display.

Contact the local Council of Churches to obtain an endorsement for your efforts. This organization is sometimes called the "Ecumenical Council." Ask the council to send a letter. Offer to provide a draft letter.

If your prisoner has a religion, contact the local hierarchy, such as the local Catholic diocese or archdiocese or the local Presbyterian presbytery. Ask for a letter to the government and a letter of introduction to their churches. If approved by the Outreach Coordinator in the National office, ask for their assistance in garnering assistance at the national level of the church hierarchy.

**Guatemala ("Disappearance")**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. A large Catholic church agreed to devote a whole weekend of masses to the group's "disappearance" case and other "disappearances." The "disappearances" were highlighted in the homily, prayers, a bulletin article, announcements, an information table, and letter-writing in the church school. Banners of faces of the "disappeared" hung in the church. Exhibit 9-4 is a flyer for the mass that was the focal event of the weekend.

University groups can contact their campus ministries and request that ministers write letters on their university letterhead.

**Chile ("Disappearance")**, Group 96, Santa Monica, CA. The group held a mass in honor of two Chileans at a large Spanish-speaking Catholic church in Los Angeles, creating publicity and reaching out to an ethnic minority community. The group had a table with case summary flyers.

**Syria**, Group 355, Yarmouth, ME. The group submitted AI inserts for the Sunday bulletins of 15 churches and donated flowers for two churches in remembrance of its prisoner.

**Argentina**, Group 21, Davis, CA. A group member who was active in a Catholic church organized monthly letter-writing sessions during the break between services. The church also included special prayers for the prisoner and other victims of human rights violations during church services.

**China (Investigation)**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group set up a table with case material and sample letters at the "Seeds of Peace, Waters of Justice" Interfaith Conference.

**Ethiopia**, Group 37, Minneapolis, MN. The group contacted the Director of East African Missions of the American Lutheran Church, who was able to visit the group's prisoner of conscience. The group also enlisted the help of the Lutheran World Foundation.

**USSR**, Group 129, Stony Brook, NY. The group had an article about a Seventh Day Adventist prisoner of conscience published in a Seventh Day Adventist publication.

**Indonesia (Investigation)**, Group 26, Manhattan, NY. A representative of the office of Archbishop O'Connor sent a forceful letter to President Suharto inquiring about the group's investigation case.

**USSR.** The General Secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference sent to the Soviet ambassador a letter of "deep concern" regarding the treatment of Jews in the USSR and cited the cases of two prisoners of conscience.

Co-groups have also identified the following as being of assistance:

- National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
- National Conference of Catholic Bishops, U.S. Catholic Conference.
- President, Union Theological Seminary.
- Clergy and Laity Concerned.
- American Friends Service Committee.
- National Conference of Christians and Jews.
- American Academy of Religion.
- CREED (Christian Rescue Effort for the Emancipation of Dissidents).
- Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.
- Church Committee for Human Rights in Asia.
- the Maryknoll organization (Catholic).

## Target sector-trade unions

Unions are sometimes excellent allies in the struggle to free prisoners of conscience. However, consider whether union members are likely to be particularly influential with your target government. If not, would they be helpful in getting the assistance of some U.S. politicians with your action file, for example, by lobbying for passage of a House Concurrent Resolution (see p. 178)?

Do not begin your union contacts with the expectation that of course the local union will assist you. Obtaining this assistance may require educating and developing credibility with a union leadership that is very busy with other concerns. As always, make it as easy as possible for them to hear your message and to assist you.

Due to budget cuts, AIUSA no longer has a staff member responsible for trade unions, nor is it possible to search old files on unions to determine what has been done in the past. Therefore, groups do not have to coordinate with national staff before contacting unions.

Unions can --

- publish an appeal with letter-writing instructions for your prisoner in its newsletter.
- circulate a petition on your prisoner's behalf.
- send members to attend your demonstrations, vigils, marches, or other public events.
- supply speakers for your public events.

- invite Amnesty representatives to speak at union meetings and congresses.
- pass a resolution for your prisoner (see Exhibit 9-5, the result of efforts by Group 184, Lafayette, IN).
- make inquiries about your action file to the ambassador, trade commission, minister of labor, and other officials of your target government.
- approach the ambassador or consul of your target country.
- put pressure on Members of Congress.
- ask its fellow union in your target country to act on your prisoner's behalf.
- provide money for relief for the family.
- provide money for special telegrams.
- collect clothing and other goods for your prisoner (see Chapter 12).
- give advice on trade unions in the U.S.A. and abroad that might help with your action file.
- distribute materials at training institutes.

Further, unions may operate their own low-cost printing presses and may be willing to print flyers or other items for your action file.

Groups should consider outreach to local trade unions to enlist their support on behalf of prisoners who are known to be unionists themselves or who have worked in occupations that are heavily unionized in your area. For example, a public health care worker imprisoned somewhere in the world would be a case that interests a health care workers' union, a public service workers' union, and allied workers such as social workers.

### Locate a personal contact

Ask group members and your area coordinator if anyone they know directly or indirectly could be a member of a union, especially the union of your prisoner's trade. For example, most public school teachers who are advisors to campus groups are also union members (actions of teachers' unions appear on pp. 138 and 139).

Should you find a union member to help you, ask that person to contact the president of the local. The contact person has the advantage of being a dues-paying and voting member of the union and is, therefore, entitled to at least an opportunity to discuss his or her concerns. **The personal connection is best.**

### Use the Encyclopedia of Associations

Alternatively, use the Encyclopedia of Associations (see p. 122) to identify the unions related to your prisoner. Call their national headquarters and ask for the names and addresses of local contacts in the union, especially the president of the nearest local. For example, if your prisoner is a typesetter, you might try calling the Communications Workers of America:

"My name is () and I'm a member of an Amnesty International local group in Knoxville, Tennessee. Our group is working for the release of a typesetter in (COUNTRY) who was arrested for having the audacity to try to form a union. Naturally, given your union's long-standing support of human rights, I thought you might be able to help me. Could you give me the name and phone number of the appropriate person in your union to contact in the Knoxville area? Also, I understand that your union publishes a magazine for your members. Possibly the

editor of that magazine would be interested in the situation of a man who so desperately needs the assistance of union members? Could you give me the name and phone number of the person to contact on the newsletter staff?"

### Use the yellow pages

Look in the yellow pages of your telephone directory under "Labor Organizations." There you will find a list of trade union locals in your area with addresses and phone numbers. Call the unions and get the names of the presidents of the locals.

Contact your county's Central Labor Council, which may be listed in the yellow pages under "Labor Organizations" or in the white pages under your county name, for example, "Riverside-San Bernardino Central Labor Council." This organization can give you contacts in local unions.

### Seek out the women's committee

Most unions have subdivisions for women, and often these subdivisions are more responsive than the union as a whole. In your first contact, ask if the union has a women's committee. Another approach could be through the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

### Write to the local leadership

Write letters to the president of the local. The last paragraph of your letter should read something like: "I will give you a call next week to get your feedback." This approach makes it easier for the local president, as he or she will not have to write you a letter. Follow up with phone calls. If no reply is received after considerable effort, then consider stopping by the union office. Unions are relatively informal organizations, and such an approach might pay off.

To improve your credibility when writing to unions --

- write on AI letterhead, which is available from your regional office.
- send a copy of Exhibit 9-6.
- send a copy of the Urgent Action brochure "Unionists and the Urgent Action Network," which is available from your regional office.
- keep your letter **short** (that is, less than two pages) and **clear**.
- mention applicable international standards (see the box on p. 133).

### AFL-CIO endorsement

The AFL-CIO passed a resolution at its centennial convention in 1981, submitted by the United Food and Commercial Workers, endorsing AI. The entire resolution is presented in Exhibit 9-6 on the following page and is EXTERNAL. The area coordinator for Maine reports that local unions have been very reassured by this resolution. Local groups are encouraged to photocopy Exhibit 9-6 and to provide it to local union leaders.

This page will be replaced by Exhibit 9-6

### Other union endorsements

The Aegean co-group reported in its newsletter that the following unions have endorsed AI and/or worked closely with

AI to release trade unionists. In almost all cases, these unions have featured the work of AI in their publications.

Most of these endorsements date from the early 1980s, so if you contact the organizations, they may not be aware of their past assistance to AI.

Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union

AFL-CIO

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers

International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers

California Labor Federation

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers

International Chemical Workers Union

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Communication Workers of America -- now the CWA/UTW Bargaining Council

Graphic Arts International -- now the Graphic Communications International Union

International Labor Communications Association

International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Newspaper Guild

International Union of Operating Engineers

Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

Screen Writers Guild -- now the Writers Guild of America, West

United Steelworkers of America

Transport Workers Union of America

International Typographical Union -- now the Printing, Publishing, and Media Workers of the CWA

United Automobile Workers

United Farm Workers of America

United Food and Commercial Workers

The following other unions and union officials have endorsed the work of Amnesty International.

Douglas A. Fraser - United Automobile Workers

International Chemical Workers (General Convention)

Glenn E. Watts - Communication Workers of America

Ed Donahue - Graphic Arts International -- now the Graphic Communications International Union

Joyce Miller - Coalition of Labor Union Women

Jerry Wurf - American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

William W. Winpisinger - International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Albert L. Morrison - American Federation of School Administrators

John H. Lyons - International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers

United Food and Commercial Workers (Executive Board)

International Labor Press Association (Executive Council) -- now the International Labor Communications Association

The United Farm Workers has also passed a resolution supporting the work of AI, but no copy is available.

## **International Human Rights Standards of Particular Relevance to Trade Unions**

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Article 23: The right to form and join trade unions (see Appendix X for text).

### **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Article 8: The right to form trade unions and to join them freely, to establish national federations and then form or join international trade union organizations; the right to strike in conformity with national laws.

### **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

Article 22: The right to freedom of association, including to form a trade union.

**Uruguay**, Group 29, Kalamazoo, MI. The group had worked on the case of a labor leader in the late 1970s for nearly two years without any response. The group learned that beef was one of the main Uruguayan exports. With the help of AI's Chicago office and the Meatpacker's Union, part of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the group and the union members distributed leaflets about the prisoner in front of the Uruguayan consulate in Chicago. This action gained the group admittance to the puzzled consul who sent a letter to his government inquiring about the prisoner. The group stayed in the consulate while the letter was being written and accompanied the secretary to the post office to mail it. The prisoner was released some months later.

**Bangladesh**, Group 265, New York, NY. The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union wrote letters for a prisoner of conscience arrested for "inciting" workers.

**Malaysia**, Group 457, Hollister, CA. Representatives of the AFL-CIO met with representatives at the

Malaysian embassy, and the prisoner of conscience was subsequently released. No more information is available on this action.

**USSR**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group contacted all AFL-CIO trade unions in the U.S.A. with memberships of over 100,000, which included 35 major trade unions. Their house organ editors were provided with case information on a trade union organizer and encouraged to write a story and to circulate petitions and postcards. Several did circulate petitions, gathering hundreds of names. The group did not hear if any newsletter published the case information.

**El Salvador ("Disappearance")**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. A local of the IUMSWA printed an article in its newsletter about the "disappearances" in El Salvador, focusing on the recent "disappearance" of 15 people at a trade union meeting. The article included a phone number and address for the AI group.

**Philippines ("Disappearance")**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The same local in the action above printed an article in its newsletter on the persecution of trade unionists. The article included letter-writing instructions. The newsletter subsequently printed a lengthy letter-to-the-editor from an AI member thanking the union members who had assisted with the union action.

Group 163, Riverside, CA. The group gave a presentation at a Central Labor Council monthly meeting, during which the Council adopted a resolution in support of their work and wrote a letter to the target government.

**Philippines (Campaign)**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. A group member addressed a union meeting of the state's largest employer, a shipyard, and shop stewards signed up to circulate a petition about imprisoned Filipino unionists. For one week, near the end of each shift, a reminder of this petition was made over the shipyard's public address system.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, AFL-CIO, printed a feature story about the group's prisoner, a joiner, in the Brotherhood's monthly magazine. All members of the union were asked to write to Soviet authorities on the prisoner's behalf. Addresses were provided in the article.

#### Target sector - educators and students

If you expect that educators or students would have influence with your target government, ask your area coordinator or regional office for the name of your region's member of the AIUSA Human Rights Education National Steering Committee. That person will help you with action ideas and contacts.

There are four different but overlapping address lists of AI-involved educators who may be willing to assist with your action file:

- the list of educators who receive Urgent Actions for Educators (contact the Urgent Action office).
- the roster of the Human Rights Education National Steering Committee (six members) and the Advisory Council (about 20 members).
- the national educators' list of about 2,000 educators (contact the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office).
- the regional list of educators (contact your regional office or your region's representative to the Human Rights Education Steering Committee).

Exhibit 9-7 on pages 136 and 137 is a letter-writing action sent to educators through the national educators' list.

Many of the actions below can be best carried out by members of campus groups. There are more than 2,000 campus groups in the U.S.A.; you can locate nearby campus groups through your area coordinator or your regional office.

Before contacting any national organization of educators, coordinate with the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office.

Ask campus groups at your local universities to circulate a letter to the foreign government to be signed by distinguished members of the university.

Ask faculty members at a local college or university to write letters for your group. Find the zip code(s) of the school in the telephone book or by calling your local post office. Request mailing labels for AIUSA members in that zip code (see p. 8). Usually, only professors and graduate students get their mail addressed to, for example, the "Department of Chemistry." Call the Department of Chemistry and ask which of the people identified on the mailing labels are professors. Request their office telephone numbers. Call them and ask if they would be willing to send a letter on an action file if you provided a draft, a case summary, and other materials. Later these professors may be willing to encourage other professors to work on your action file, to sponsor a petition or letter to the editor, to encourage the university president to write a letter, and so forth. Group 19 had one member who received more responses from governments than all other group members put together. He was a retired professor at the University of California at Irvine who sent typed letters on embossed and personalized university letterhead.

Ask a university to offer --

- a scholarship for your prisoner.
- your prisoner enrollment (for example, in the class of 1998).
- an honorary award or degree for your prisoner.

Send copies of any letter from a university making such an offer to your target embassy and target government. Send a press release (see p. 225) on the university's offer to your local paper, and send any press clippings to your target government.

**USSR.** Boston University granted admission and scholarship aid to the son of a prisoner of conscience (see the New York Times, April 30, 1986).

For a prisoner educated at a U.S. school, contact the AI campus group at that school. The group may be willing to share your action file (see p. 92). Either way --

- ask for their assistance in placing an article about your prisoner, with letter-writing instructions, in school publications, particularly the alumni magazine.
- provide the group specialized petitions. For example, "We, the undersigned students and faculty of Wellesley College, deplore the arrest and detention without charge or trial of Wellesley alumna Chee Heng Leng . . ."
- ask them to check with the records department at the school to find out who the prisoner's professors were and to ask the professors to write to the government, to newspapers, to academic association magazines, and so forth.
- ask the campus group to identify and locate prominent alumni, particularly politicians and journalists.
- ask the group to contact the president of the college to see if he or she would be willing to write letters to your target government, to politicians, and to prominent alumni.

If there is no campus group at the school, it might be worthwhile for a member of your action file

committee to visit the school and make a start on these and similar activities. In that event, start with the president of the school, who can open doors for you all over campus. Further, if there is no campus group at a particular college or university, an action file involving a graduate can be an outstanding vehicle to start one. Ask the area coordinator for the school's area and nearby campus group coordinators for assistance.

Ask a college or university campus group to hold an event about your action file, which could be as simple as inviting a member of your group to speak to those members of the university community that choose to attend. Be sure to save the calendar listing in the student newspaper and flyers for the event; send these to your target embassy.

Key members of your target government may have been educated at U.S. universities or may have sent their children to be educated at U.S. schools. Again, try to get the campus group at the university to assist you. Most of the actions on p. 135, applicable if the prisoner was a graduate, are also useful if a key government leader is a graduate.

Ask a campus group member to submit an op-ed (see p. 254) about your prisoner to the student newspaper. Include letter-writing instructions. Your case summary flyer should have all the information the student needs. Be sure to obtain clippings when the column appears in the paper.

Ask high school teachers in social studies, current events, English, foreign languages, religion, or peace and justice classes to assign letter writing to students for extra credit, especially near Human Rights Day, December 10. Ask your area coordinator about this. He or she may also have the names and phone numbers of high school group advisors, who may have more ideas.

**China**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group arranged for an empty chair to be held for its prisoner of conscience, a student, at the Beloit College graduation. The president of the college explained the significance of the chair and described the situation of the prisoner. An article about the empty chair, the local group, the Beloit campus group, and their work appeared in the Beloit Daily News.

If your prisoner is a child or student, investigate the Children for Children/Students for Students program developed by Group 122, Santa Fe, NM. Appendix XV provides details for and instructions on this outstanding program, as well as six letters written by grade school students that appeared in a local newspaper. Contact Group 122 about distributing an appeal for your action file to other groups participating in the program. During 1994 the Educators Network is expected to promote and distribute new cases for action. Therefore, starting in the summer of 1994, contact the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office to learn how to distribute your action file.

**(Campaign)**, Norwegian Section. An article appeared in a teachers' union magazine, which advertised the availability of "packs" with 36 folders, each containing a newsletter, a case summary, a petition, simple letter-writing instructions, and a poster. Packs sold for about \$10 each.

**South Korea**. The group had school children make crayon drawings. The children were asked what they would like to see on the walls if they were in prison. The drawings were sent to the prisoner, one each week.

**Zaire**, Group 70, Cleveland, OH. A French class in local high school wrote letters. Two or three versions in French were put on the school's word processor.

**Malaysia**, Group 17, Great Neck, NY. The group sought action from the administrators and faculties of the U.S. universities where the prisoner of conscience had received a degree.

**Malaysia**, Group 62, Cupertino, CA. For a journalist, playwright, and poet who was a prisoner of conscience, the group wrote to all the journalism schools in the U.S.A., requesting a job for the prisoner. Two schools offered him a job. The group then wrote to the group of newspapers that had previously employed the prisoner and informed the newspapers that the prisoner had been offered two jobs. The group later called the U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia during a group meeting. The Ambassador reported that she had seen an article in a local newspaper that the prisoner had been offered two jobs in the U.S.A.

**Thailand**, Group 267, Syracuse, NY. Students in elementary and high schools made birthday cards for the King of Thailand, whose birthday is a traditional time for amnesties in Thailand. Each birthday card ended with the request "Please let (NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE) out of prison." Thirteen local groups and local church groups assisted in finding young people to write cards. The birthday cards were sent with a cover letter by a local Representative in Congress.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The group approached the Russian department of a university. Faculty members helped with translations and allowed the group to use a typewriter and computers with the Cyrillic alphabet. They also identified sources of Cyrillic-alphabet print-wheels and Russian-language software.

**USSR**, Group 24, Cambridge, MA. The American Federation of Teachers, New York Chapter, publishers of New York Teacher, printed an article about an imprisoned librarian. The article included letter-writing instructions.

**Turkey**, Group 31, Manhattan, NY. The American Federation of Teachers president Albert Shanker sent a letter on behalf of an imprisoned teacher (see Exhibit 9-8).

**Syria**, Group 204, Carmel, CA. The group received a Special Initiatives Fund grant (see Appendix IV) to take out an ad in a California teacher's journal for its prisoner of conscience, who was a teacher. The ad included a "coupon" for readers to cut out and return to the Syrian ambassador in Washington, DC.

Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The president of Bowdoin College wrote a letter on behalf of a "disappeared" person. A professor at Bowdoin was a member of the group at the time.

**USSR**, Group 24, Cambridge, MA. The California Federation of Teachers passed a resolution of concern on behalf of an imprisoned librarian.

**Pakistan**, Group 206, Hopkins, MN. The National Education Association president, Mary Futrell, sent a letter.

#### Target sector - legal professionals

If you have a case you believe to be of special interest to lawyers or judges, such as imprisoned attorneys, cases of legal violations, or prisoners denied attorneys, ask your area coordinator for the name and phone number of the leader of the nearest Legal Support Network group. If the nearest group is some distance, the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office can provide a list of members of the Legal Support Network in your area (you need to provide zip codes).

For ways the Legal Support Network can assist your group, see p. 84.

If you provide your area's zip codes, the National office can provide mailing labels for all local AIUSA members (see p. 8). From these labels, it may be possible to pick out some lawyers, if a member's address is a law firm or his or her name ends with Esq.

Ask lawyers to write in their professional capacity on letterhead. Lawyers who cannot use their firm's letterhead can have personal letterhead made up with the title "Attorney-at-Law." A member of your group with access to a PostScript-quality laser printer can make up letterhead for the attorney.

Most countries have bar associations that can be approached to work for your prisoner's release. If you write to a foreign bar association, your approach should take into account whether the association is government-controlled or independent. Additionally, you should understand that in some countries it may be dangerous for a bar association's member to protest the imprisonment of a colleague. Work closely with your co-group.

Before contacting any national organizations of lawyers or judges, coordinate with the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office.

Ask lawyers to submit resolutions to their organizations calling for your target government to resolve your

action file.

Contact the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (see Appendix V), which can --

- write letters
  - to your target government.
  - to colleagues in your target country.
  - to Members of Congress.
- pass resolutions.
- get publicity.
- conduct missions.

**Pakistan (Investigation)**, Group 18, Chicago, IL. The American Bar Association assisted the group. An article was to appear in Chicago Lawyer.

The Committee on International Human Rights of the Bar Association of the City of New York makes missions to foreign countries and inquires about prisoners, including non-lawyers. It also meets with ambassadors.

**China**, Group 6, Chicago, IL. The International Human Rights Law Group (see Appendix V) filed a petition detailing the human rights violations surrounding a prisoner of conscience case. It called on UNESCO to both "secure the immediate and unconditional release of (NAME OF PRISONER)" and "request that the Government of the People's Republic of China review [its] laws and administrative acts . . . to determine their conformity with internationally recognized norms." The authors were assisted in their preparation of the petition by the China co-group.

**Syria**, Group 109, Baltimore, MD. The group attributes the release of its prisoner of conscience to the mentioning of the prisoner's name by an American lawyer who was attending a symposium of Lawyers in Europe and the Middle East, since the lawyer knew that Syrian lawyers would be there. The group has no further information on this action.

**Guatemala ("Disappearance")**. The Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee presented 28 writs of habeas corpus to the Supreme Court of Justice in Guatemala City on behalf of "disappeared" Guatemalans. A writ of habeas corpus calls for a state to show cause why a prisoner should be detained. [The 28 people who were covered by the writs were cases of concern for AI, which issued Urgent Actions and CASA (Central America Special Action) appeals.] Notice of the presentation and acceptance of the writs was published in two Guatemalan daily newspapers. El Grafico ran two articles on separate days concerning the writs and listing the people covered by the writs. It is unusual for a country to accept writs in absentia, and Guatemala may be one of the few countries that allows this. Under Article 11 of the Guatemalan constitution, the steps of a writ of habeas corpus may not be overturned nor can anyone stop them as long as the detained, injured, or "disappeared" person has not been found.

**Chile (Investigation of allegations of extrajudicial executions)**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group raised money to send a mission to investigate conditions involved in a prisoner's death and the conditions under which other prisoners were being held. The mission included a law professor, a judge, and a staff member of the International Secretariat.

**Chile**. The group went to the dean of the law school at Stanford, a conservative Republican. He was

invited to a meeting with members of the AIUSA Board of Directors, who asked him to go to Chile. He would be well briefed, well introduced, and protected by the U.S. embassy. The local group would pay all expenses. The dean agreed to go, and he met with officials at the highest level of the government, including Pinochet, and expressed the concerns of his law school and other law schools. The prisoner, a member of the former Allende cabinet, was subsequently released.

*"Speaking as your lawyer . . ."*

## **Target sector - health professionals**

If you have a case you believe to be of special interest to health professionals, contact the Health Professionals Network (HPN) through the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office. The National Action Unit Director can provide a list of HPN members in your area.

For ways the Health Professionals Network can assist your group, see p. 83. Note that a health professional can probably be more effective advocating your action file to organizations of health professionals than you can.

Before contacting any national organizations of health professionals, coordinate with the National Action Unit Director.

Physicians for Human Rights (see Appendix V) works for freedom for health professional prisoners of conscience, sends missions to countries to visit sick or mistreated prisoners of conscience, and gets much information from AI.

The American Nurses Association has developed a code of practice for nurses working in prisons.

The American College of Physicians' (ACP) Human Rights and Medical Practice Subcommittee --

- conducts workshops on human rights work at the organization's annual meeting.
- participates in missions.
- writes letters.
- publishes letter-writing actions for physicians.
- produces publications.

**Malawi.** The ACP sent a letter.

**Uruguay.** The American Public Health Association passed a resolution on human rights at its annual meeting.

The American Medical Association (AMA) has promulgated resolutions about physician involvement in the death penalty. The AMA is a member of the World Medical Association (WMA), which sets ethical standards for health professional worldwide. The AMA has a staff person in their Chicago headquarters responsible for the relations with the WMA and human rights issues. Also, the Journal of the American Medical Association has published letters to the editor and articles by doctors on medical missions.

**USSR,** Group 21, Davis, CA. The group wrote letters to all psychiatrists listed in the local yellow pages. The letters described psychiatric abuse in the USSR and asked the psychiatrists to write to the USSR protesting these practices and discussing the case of its prisoner, who was held in a special psychiatric hospital. Addresses and sample letters were provided.

**USSR.** The American Psychiatric Association made imprisoned psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin an

honorary member. When he found out, he said, "It gave me enormous strength."

The Association has a Committee on the International Abuse of Psychiatry and Psychiatrists, which can --

- refer the case to the World Psychiatric Association, which will only take cases that are referred to it from its member national psychiatric societies, not from individuals or other groups.
- write to governments on behalf of the prisoner.
- monitor a case of psychiatric abuse.
- coordinate with other human rights organizations and exchange information.

**Ethiopia (Investigation)**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group contacted professional journals of physical and occupational therapists; the group believes that three of the journals printed a letter to the editor or a notice that focused on the son of their investigation case. The son had been born in prison, had been damaged by a difficult birth and poor nutrition, and needed treatment. The group sent more information about the case and the AI Children's Campaign to persons throughout the U.S.A. who responded. The whole family has since been released from prison and has spent several months in England for treatment arranged by AI. The group has followed up with announcements and letters of thanks to the journals and to those who responded.

**USSR**, Group 125, Ossining, NY. The Epilepsy Institute of New York City sent letters to labor camp officials requesting that a prisoner of conscience who had developed epilepsy be allowed to receive proper medical treatment.

**Chile (Torture, Death in Detention)**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group financed the mission of two local doctors and a professor of medical ethics to investigate the detention, torture, and execution of physicians and other health workers. The mission team met with the ambassador from Chile, met with State Department officials, and obtained an introduction to the U.S. embassy in Santiago. They solicited the assistance of the AI International Secretariat and the Chilean representative of the American Friends Service Committee, who helped with the names of victims. The team met with prisoners and officials in Chile.

**Argentina ("Disappearance")**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group identified a specialist in pediatrics at a local medical clinic. The group also went to a medical library and identified all the pediatric journals in the U.S.A. and Europe. The group wrote letters to the editor to all these journals, and the pediatrician signed them. The same doctor also spoke at the state medical association, which sponsored a resolution that later passed at the national level. The resolution opposed torture and doctors reviving torture victims for further interrogation.

Also, the group learned that the International Oncology Society would be meeting in Buenos Aires. The group asked the president of the U.S. Oncology Society to send a letter to the chair of the international committee including a list of imprisoned and "disappeared" health workers. Six hundred oncologists went to Buenos Aires, and all were sent the list and the suggestion to meet with health officials and government officials. The list was also sent to 1,400 oncologists who did not attend the meeting, with letter-writing instructions for health officials and government officials. One doctor met with the head of the Argentinean Medical Society as well as with the minister of justice and interior and held a press conference. The group found that it was most important to reach the top echelon of Argentinean decision makers and medical professionals and to let them know that human rights violations were not a minor concern. Following this action, several prisoners reappeared and were released.

**USSR**, Group 60, Denver, CO. Physicians for Social Responsibility's Colorado chapter, in cooperation with AI Denver and the Colorado Psychiatric Association, hosted a human rights conference dedicated to

an imprisoned psychiatrist.

## Target sector - military, security, or police

As noted in Chapter 3, in many countries the military, security, or police (MSP) establishment has unusual power and influence, either --

- the power to get your prisoner released, or
- great influence on the government.

AI has recently encouraged actions with the corresponding target sector.

To identify the most influential members of that target sector, you need the answers to two questions. First, who are the people in the military, security, or police establishment you want to influence? Second, what or whom do they care about?

Your co-group can probably provide a list of important military, security, or police officials in your target country. You are left, then, with the need to discover the following:

- who or what would influence these people?
- whom do they respect?
- what are training and aid relations with the U.S.A. and other countries?
- what multilateral defense organizations are involved?

Keep an eye out for the answers to these questions during your information search (see Chapter 3).

Before contacting any national military, security, or police organization, coordinate with the Director of the DC office.

Write to retired officers and ask them to write to members of the MSP establishment in your target country. Ask that copies be sent to your target ambassador. To find retired officers who might be supportive, contact the Center for Defense Information.

Ask your local police chiefs to write to police chiefs in your target country. Or ask a City Council member to ask your police chief. Ask that copies be sent to higher level officials in the MSP establishment as well as to your target ambassador.

Contact veteran's organizations, especially those with which a group member has a contact. Ask that a letter be sent on organization letterhead, with copies to your target ambassador and Members of Congress.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) has an international committee that has done some professional-professional exchanges and has toured prisons in foreign countries. Some prison officials in your state will be members, and you may be able to get help in obtaining their cooperation from your local state legislators. The ACA also passes resolutions, conducts missions, and publishes two periodicals.

The National Black Police Association (NBPA) has been very supportive of AI. Ronald Hampton, chairman of the NBPA between 1984 and 1986, was elected to the AIUSA Board of Directors in 1992. Your regional office can provide you his current address and telephone number. The NBPA has sent letters on behalf of AI cases.

### Human rights organizations

Human rights organizations in both the U.S.A. and in your target country may be able to --

- provide more information on your prisoner and even inform you of your prisoner's release.
- provide more information on your prisoner's family, lawyer, colleagues, supporters, and so forth.
- find a way to let your prisoner know you are working on his or her case.
- supply the names of prison officials.
- provide advice on contacting the media in your target country.
- make a mission to the prison.
- send appeals on behalf of your prisoner.
- conduct demonstrations and events on behalf of your prisoner.
- provide speakers for your group's demonstrations or other public events.

Human rights organizations may have information not provided to your group by AI's International Secretariat.

Appendix V provides addresses of human rights organizations that do not limit their activities to one country or region. Some of these organizations specialize in seeking human rights for journalists, writers, lawyers, health professionals, scientists, engineers, and other occupations.

#### **Identifying human rights organizations**

An outstanding resource on human rights organizations worldwide, including those in your target country, is Human Rights Internet (c/o Human Rights Centre, University of Ottawa, 57 Louis Pasteur, Ottawa, Ontario K1N6N5, 613-564-3492). Human Rights Internet (HRI) is a clearinghouse for information on human rights. HRI publishes two periodicals, Human Rights Tribune and Human Rights Internet Reporter.

HRI maintains computer databases of human rights documents and organizations, and it produces excellent and comprehensive regional reports with output from those databases (about \$40 each). You can request a custom printout from the HRI databases, and there is a \$25 fee for this, which is a special rate for non-governmental organizations. Your co-group may have recently obtained such a printout, so check first. If your co-group has no recent HRI material, call HRI and speak with a staff member in the library. Identify yourself as a member of an Amnesty International volunteer group working on a case of, for example, religious persecution in Thailand. Any information that is in your case summary (always EXTERNAL) can be discussed with HRI staff. Discuss what HRI might be able to provide with respect to --

- human rights organizations focusing on your target country.
- recent human rights information about your target country.

If you order such a printout, make a copy of the information you receive. Send the originals to your co-group so that copies can be distributed to other groups working on your target country.

Another reference on human rights organizations is the Human Rights Organizations and Periodicals Directory (Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, P.O. Box 673, Berkeley, CA 94701, 1990, \$24).

#### **Coordination**

**As this is a delicate area, be sure to contact your co-group before approaching human rights organizations.** Your co-group should also be able to suggest human rights organizations in your target country that are worth contacting.

Human rights organizations that focus on your target country can be of incomparable assistance on your action file. These organizations usually have an impressive ability to gather information inside your target country.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Program works in parallel with AI. Coordinate with the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office before contacting the AAAS. It --

- performs advocacy work for freedom of scientists, engineers, and medical professionals.
- has a newsletter that circulates to scientists interested in human rights, (see Exhibit 9-9 from the AAAS newsletter Report on Science and Human Rights).
- sends letters on official stationery.
- lobbies Members of Congress.
- conducts missions.
- publishes books and semi-annual reports on human rights violations.
- conducts research on the persecution of scientists, engineers, and medical professionals.
- documents the persecution of scientists.
- monitors irresponsible scientific behavior, such as medical participation in torture.
- prepares documentation for Congress.
- assists human rights groups and governmental organizations around the world with scientific expertise in four areas: the forensic sciences, genetics, statistics and medicine, and torture.

**Pakistan**, Group 251, Manhattan, NY. The AAAS sent a telegram for a political science professor.

**Turkey**. The Committee of Concerned Scientists wrote on behalf of a prisoner of conscience. Coordinate with the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office before contacting the Committee.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) works against human rights abuses directed at journalists. Coordinate with the Director of Communications in the National office before contacting the CPJ. The CPJ --

- issues a regular newsletter that uses AI information.
- makes public statements.
- writes letters to the editor, for example, to the New York Times or the New York Review of Books.
- places ads on behalf of prisoners.

When the president of Pakistan visited the U.S.A., the CPJ took the following actions on behalf of a Pakistani editor:

- sent a fact sheet to Senator Pell's Foreign Relations Committee staff so the Senator could raise the case with the president of Pakistan.

- asked the Washington Post to bring up the case with the president of Pakistan during an interview (and the Post did).
- had the New York Times send an inquiry on the case to the Pakistani ambassador.
- asked Mary McGrory to devote a paragraph to the prisoner of conscience's situation in a column printed during the president's visit.

**USSR**, Group 116, Cape Cod, MA. The Freedom House Centre for Appeals for Freedom helped the group locate and contact by phone a former prison inmate who had known its prisoner of conscience. Coordinate with the Director of the DC office before contacting Freedom House.

Human Rights Watch (including Africa Watch, Americas Watch, Asia Watch, Helsinki Watch, and Middle East Watch) publishes much human rights research. Your Members of Congress probably receive their publications. Consider requesting Human Rights Watch's most recent publication on your target country. Also, consider requesting that your group receive the Human Rights Watch newsletter for your target country.

Human Rights Watch also conducts missions, lobbies Members of Congress, coordinates with other organizations worldwide, and so forth. Coordinate with your co-group for information requests; your co-group may already be in contact with Human Rights Watch. In general, groups should go to Human Rights Watch for an exchange of EXTERNAL information, not action. Coordinate with the Director of the DC office if you will request any action of Human Rights Watch.

PEN (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) is an international organization of writers. PEN has a quarterly newsletter called PENEWSLETTER, which includes letter-writing actions for imprisoned writers and journalists. Coordinate any approach to the PEN American Center with the Director of Communications in the National office.

The PEN American Center Freedom to Write Committee sends regular bulletins to its members soliciting action. The Committee works on about 20 prisoner cases at a time and has worked on numerous AI cases. The Committee gets virtually all its AI information from the International Secretariat, so ask your co-group contact to check with London before you request assistance with your action file. The Freedom to Write committee may be working on your action file now. PEN also sends about 200 telegrams per year on behalf of prisoners.

The PEN American Center, along with Asia Watch, the Fund for Free Expression and the International Freedom-to-Publish Committee of the Association of American Publishers, sent a letter to the president of South Korea calling for release of specific writers, journalists and publishers before the 52nd International PEN Congress held in Seoul (see the Index on Censorship 10/88). One publisher was subsequently released (see the New York Times 8/24/88).

**Ethiopia**, Group 306, Laredo, TX. International PEN coordinated with the group on their case. Members of PEN were able to receive letters from the prisoner.

**Turkey**. PEN members Arthur Miller and Harold Pinter went to Turkey on behalf of imprisoned writers.

**Rwanda**. PEN members wrote letters on behalf of Rwandese journalists.

**Morocco**. Writers and journalists can be made honorary members of the PEN American Center, Swedish PEN, and so forth. One journalist so honored had been sentenced to life imprisonment but was released two weeks before the king was scheduled to visit the U.S.A.

**Haiti**. The prisoner was released following the receipt of the PEN Freedom to Write award.

**Kenya**. PEN provided a \$3,000 award to a former prisoner of conscience, a historian and a writer, to help him settle in New York City.

**Czechoslovakia**, Group 70, Cleveland, OH. A member of the unofficial Czechoslovak human rights organization Charter 77, in exile in London, was able to provide updates on the situation of the group's prisoner of conscience, get word to the prisoner that AI was working on his behalf, and inform the group of the release of the prisoner on the day it occurred. Helsinki Watch and Physicians for Human Rights conducted a joint mission to Czechoslovakia and visited the prisoner in prison.

#### Other organizations

Before contacting the following organizations, coordinate with --

- the Director of Communications in the National office for organizations of writers, journalists, and members of the media.
- the Outreach Coordinator in the National office for women's organizations.
- the National Action Unit Director in the Chicago office for all other organizations.

Consider contacting organizations scheduling conferences in your target country. You may be able to find some in Trade Shows Worldwide (Gale Research, 800-877-4253, the 1994 edition is \$220). You also may be able to get this information from your target embassy.

**USSR**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group's prisoner of conscience was a historian. The group contacted a local professor of history and learned that a national meeting of the American Historical Association would be taking place nearby. The group sent the chairman of the association and all board members a letter with a case summary and AI pamphlet. The group requested five minutes during the upcoming meeting. A delegation from the group spoke to the board first and later spoke to the association. Following the speech, the group distributed case summary flyers to the members of the association.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The American Institute of Physics published a letter to the editor on behalf of Sakharov and other prisoners of conscience who were physical scientists.

**USSR**, Group 24, Cambridge, MA. The American Library Association invited an imprisoned librarian to speak at conference, made her an honorary member, and offered her an award. The award was accepted in her place by a Representative in Congress.

**Uruguay and USSR**. The American Mathematical Society (AMS) has a human rights committee. The president of the AMS wrote letters on behalf of imprisoned mathematicians. The AMS has also published information about cases in its journal Notices of the American Mathematical Society.

**Israel**. The AMS inquired about the closing of Arab universities.

**Pakistan**, Group 251, Manhattan, NY. The American Political Science Association (APSA) sent a telegram for a political science professor.

**USSR**, Group 132, Harrisburg, PA. The APSA sent appeals on behalf of an international affairs expert.

**Uruguay**, Group 46, Santa Barbara, CA. The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists gave its first annual Distinguished Foreign Cartoonist Award to a prisoner of conscience who was a political cartoonist.

**USSR**. The Authors League of America explicitly joined AI in an appeal for a jailed writer.

**USSR**, Group 284, Annapolis, MD. The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers' Annapolis Chapter included an appeal for a prisoner of conscience in its newsletter.

**Chile**. Prompted by an AI member, the National Academy of Sciences (see Appendix V) sent a delegation of Nobel Prize winners to investigate detentions and firings under the Pinochet regime.

**USSR**. The New York Academy of Sciences elected a prisoner of conscience a member.

**Zimbabwe (Extrajudicial Execution)**, Group 461, San Diego, CA. The Sierra Club International Program

sent a letter to the president of Zimbabwe asking for an independent and impartial public inquiry into the murder of an army officer.

**USSR**, Group 139, Madison, WI. The Wisconsin Council for the Blind wrote letters on behalf of a prisoner of conscience who was going blind.

Co-groups have recommended the following other organizations --

- the American Chemical Society.
- the American Physical Society (see Appendix V).
- the Association of Women in Mathematics.
- Index on Censorship (see Appendix V).

The Outreach Coordinator recommends --

- the National Organization for Women.
- the American Association of University Women.
- the National Women's Studies Association.

## **COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

### **Businesses**

U.S. businesses are important trading partners to most countries around the world. Their decision makers are people your target government cares about. Once you find them (see below), you can get a country's attention, even if a business's executives do not agree to assist you.

Remember that AI does not address itself to any country's economic or political system. Critically, AI must not even appear to endorse boycotts, economic sanctions, or trade sanctions. Neither does AI take a position on the legitimacy of any commercial or financial relationship with a particular government.

Since approaching major banks and corporations usually means approaching individual managers, all such contacts are coordinated in advance through the Campaign Director in the AIUSA Campaign office to ensure a systematic, well-informed exchange. This person can also let you know of the history and results of any previous AI contact with the company. Send the Campaign Director copies of all letters you send to businesses.

#### **Gathering information on businesses and business executives**

Many of the publications described below are in libraries. If they are not in your library, your librarian may be able to get them through an interlibrary loan or locate them in a university library. Group 19 used the information sources cited here to produce Exhibit 9-10, which was distributed during a strategy session for the group's Thai action file.

To identify U.S.-based corporations doing business in your target country, find the Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries (World Trade Academy Press, 50 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, 212-697-4999). New editions come out every 3 to 5 years. The entire three-volume directory covers 112 countries and is \$195 for the 1991 edition; the publisher will sell an excerpt covering just one country for \$5 to \$30, depending on the country.

To give an idea of the content, the directory lists 16 U.S. companies doing business in Tanzania and 138 U.S. companies doing business in Thailand, including commercial banks. Each country listing includes --

- the names of the U.S. parent firms doing business in that country.
- their addresses and phone numbers.
- their principal products or services.
- the names and addresses of their subsidiaries in the foreign country.

Another source of information on U.S. firms operating abroad, available only in libraries as it's not in print, is the Multinational Register, last published by The Conference Board in 1990. This book lists foreign operations, by country, of U.S. manufacturing firms.

Should your group want to locate executives and members of the boards of directors of these firms, look for Standard & Poor's Register of Corporations, Directors & Executives (25 Broadway, New York, NY 10005, 800-221-5277, \$550). This two-volume set identifies the names, titles, addresses, phone numbers, colleges, and functions of 500,000 officers, directors and other principals of U.S. firms. Another such source is Who's Who in Finance and Industry (Marquis Who's Who, 800-621-9669, 1994, \$250). Marquis Who's Who listings are available on-line on DIALOG, the Knowledge Index, and CompuServe (see p. 24).

To locate major companies operating in your target country, find Principal International Businesses (Dun's Marketing Services, 3 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, NJ 07054, 800-526-0651, \$655). This reference identifies 51 companies doing business in Tanzania and 220 companies doing business in Thailand.

Moody's International Manual (published at 99 Church Street, New York, NY 10007, 212-553-0300, \$1,995) provides an economic profile of countries around the world, including a

country's --

- debt record.
- finances.
- chief products.
- international transactions.

The Manual also provides detailed information on large corporations in the country, including addresses and corporate officers. The Manual lists no companies in Tanzania and 12 companies in Thailand.

Your group may decide to attract media attention by demonstrating in front of a business headquartered in your target country. This action requires excellent preparation (see the caveat on p. 230). But how do you find such a business? Try the Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the United States (World Trade Academy Press, 50 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, 212-697-4999, \$135). Only 30 countries are included, mostly large trading partners of the U.S.A., like Western European countries, Japan, Canada, and Australia. However, country listing excerpts are also sold for Argentina, \$5; Brazil, \$5; China and

Taiwan, \$5; Greece, \$5; Hong Kong, \$12; India, \$5; Israel, \$5; South Korea, \$10; Latin America, including Chile, Colombia, and Panama, \$15; Mexico, \$5; Northern Ireland and Ireland, \$5; and Venezuela, \$5.

The Turkish embassy publishes a newsletter with information on U.S.-Turkey trade; this newsletter is free to anyone who requests to be on the mailing list. Your target embassy may also provide this -- simply call and ask. You do not

need to identify yourself as AI.

Considerable information on current business and trade activity is available from business magazines and newspapers. The "Business Periodicals On-line" database provides summaries of articles from 800 business periodicals (UMI, 300 No. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, 313-761-4700). An article clearinghouse at UMI can provide you reprints of articles. In using this database, you can find every article mentioning your target country published in a business periodical in the past two years.

While all corporations doing business in or with your target country may have influence, you may be most successful with local corporations. Look at products manufactured in your community.

Do they incorporate raw materials from your target country? Are these being sold in your target country? Do they send representatives to trade fairs in the foreign country? Write a non-AI letter asking who distributes their product in your target country or if they participate in any trade fairs in your target country. Make the inquiry as a non-AI person. Word it in such a way that it sounds as though you might be asking from a business angle.

If this approach fails, the information you need may be very difficult to find. Try your local Chamber of Commerce, the reference librarian at your local library, or the business department of a local university. Also, you may be able to find some information via on-line services (see p. 24). The reference librarian at your local public library may be able to perform an on-line search for you.

If a company's stock is traded on a public stock exchange, you can call the company and ask for the Investor Relations department. Request a copy of the company's "Annual Report," which will be sent to you at no charge. Someone in your group may have a connection with a stockbroker, who can also assist in the gathering of information on a public company.

### **Actions to request of businesses**

Answer a question for yourself. If you were the business executive you are approaching, why would you get involved with your action file? The executive may see more harm than good in becoming active on your prisoner's behalf. You have three arguments on your side. First, if governments abide by international human rights standards, there is no repression. Repression breeds instability, which is bad for business and economic and social development. Repression also increases the political risk of a foreign investment. Second, it is important to protect human rights for the benefit of good long-term relations between countries, which is in the best interest of U.S. firms. Third, it is simply the ethically and morally right thing to do.

**Your letters should aim at education and persuasion, not confrontation or condemnation. Do not threaten to attend shareholders' meetings. Do not threaten to sell shares of the company's stock. Do not threaten any product boycotts or work stoppages, which are forbidden by AI policy. See Appendix VII.**

Being confrontational with a U.S.-owned firm will not cause it to act on your behalf, and it will almost certainly damage AI's long-term relationship with the company. A company that declines to assist with your action file may yet be willing to assist a different group with a different action file, but not if its previous AI experiences have been unpleasant. Be extremely diplomatic.

Remember that in simply writing the company about human rights violations in your target country and sending a copy to your target government and its embassy, you have applied pressure on your target government.

Some members of your group may own stock in a company doing business in your target country or may be willing to purchase a share (as an individual, not as a member of AI). These members can write letters that begin "As a shareholder of XYZ Industries, I . . ." For letters to a private company, one that is not traded on a public stock exchange, consider having all members of your group sign the letter.

Letters should ask business executives to use their influence to achieve the goals of the action file. They should be

brief, specific, and clear. They should identify AI as a non-partisan, non-political organization. Enclose a case summary. If possible, enclose a copy of a letter sent by your Representative in Congress (see p. 170).

Write the presidents or chief executive officers of businesses that operate in your target country. Ask that they inquire about your action file the next time they or their subordinates meet with officials of your target government. Many countries operate a separate trade office in the U.S.A. Trade offices are listed in Foreign Consular Offices in the United States (see p. 104). Send copies of your letter to your target ambassador and your target trade office.

Write the executives of companies that import your target country's products. Ask that they inquire about your action file the next time they meet with colleagues from your target country. Send copies to your target ambassador and your target trade office.

Write to decision makers in companies that are considering trade or investment in the country (see OPIC, p. 158). Ask that they consider human rights violations, such as your action file, when making a decision on investment in your target country. Ask that they inquire about your action file should they meet with officials of your target country. Send copies to your target ambassador, your target trade office, and your target minister of labor. Consider sending copies to a company's board of directors.

Consider sending copies of your letters to the national chamber of commerce in your target country (find addresses in the Europa World Yearbook, see p. 20). In countries of British heritage, including the U.S.A., chambers of commerce are voluntary membership organizations. However, in other parts of the world, chambers of commerce have been established by and are financed by the government. In these countries, chambers of commerce have official representatives on their governing bodies.

**Turkey.** The Turkey co-group identified a new bank that had opened up in Turkey that was 40% owned by Citibank. Groups with Turkish prisoners of conscience were asked to write to the chairman of the board of Citibank with information on the pattern of human rights violations in Turkey. Groups were also asked to express the hope that members of Citibank's management would use their influence to encourage improvements in the situation. Groups were told not to ask that Citibank refrain from doing business in Turkey. The most important part of this action was the sending of copies to the Turkish ambassador in Washington, DC.

**Chile.** AI members were asked to write to corporations with significant holdings in Chile. A major insurance company received 50 letters requesting that its representatives raise their concerns with the Chilean authorities about the government's persistent use of torture. One company executive was particularly interested, because he had visited a friend imprisoned in a Chilean jail and had seen no evidence of ill treatment. After meeting with AI and learning the facts, his company brought up the issue with the proper Chilean leaders and promised to continue monitoring the situation.

**Malaysia (Death Penalty),** Group 159, Arlington, VA. The group monitored newspapers for trade and tourist information on Malaysia, then found the addresses of companies, public relations firms, and trade associations doing business in Malaysia. The group wrote to them about the death penalty in Malaysia and asked for their help in educating Malaysian officials. Copies were sent to the Malaysian embassy and the prime minister.

**Malaysia,** Group 62, Cupertino, CA. The group wrote to companies doing business in Malaysia and asked them to inquire about where the group's prisoner was being held. The group learned that some businessmen did ask their Malaysian colleagues about the prisoner of conscience, but they never learned his location.

**Cameroon,** Group 159, Arlington, VA. The group identified major U.S.-Cameroon trading partners and wrote to the trading partners with copies to the Cameroon ambassador and president.

**Indonesia,** Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. A delegation from the group met with executives of a multinational business with nearby headquarters.

**Argentina,** Group 21, Davis, CA. The group contacted a supermarket that allowed it to post information about human rights conditions and its prisoner of conscience in Argentina. The display, posted next to

Argentine beef, included pre-printed postcards for the prisoner of conscience that shoppers could take. Another idea is to photograph such a display and the front of the store and to send the photographs and the address of the store to the embassy.

## Political Risk Specialists

One concern of corporations investing or selling in a foreign country is political risk. This risk refers to the risk of war, revolution, insurrection, civil strife, expropriation, and other factors. Human rights violations increase political risk.

In countries with higher political risk, corporations require either a higher rate of return on their investment and/or purchase political risk insurance. Political risk is unattractive to business.

All AI contacts with U.S.-based political risk specialists are coordinated by the Campaign Director in the Campaign office.

### Corporate political risk analysts

Especially since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, corporations have taken political risk assessment seriously. Large corporations, such as Gulf Oil, General Motors, General Electric, TRW, and American Can, have corporate staff with full-time responsibility for political risk analysis. Should you learn that a major U.S. corporation has or is considering an investment in your target country, call the corporation's headquarters and obtain the name and title of the person responsible for political risk or country risk analysis.

Send that person a letter and your case summary. In your letter note that the existence of human rights violations in your target country, exemplified by your action file, increases the political risk of investment in that country. Recommend that the analyst take this into account in considering future plans in your target country. Your letter should be informative in tone and should assume that the analyst is unaware of the human rights violation or the country's human rights climate. Under no circumstances should you tell the analyst to recommend against investment in or trade with your target country. If AI has recently published a report on your target country, send that with your letter.

Send copies of your letter to --

- the president or chief executive officer of the corporation.
- your target ambassador.
- your target trade office.
- your target minister of labor.

### Political risk consultants

When a corporation considers placing millions of dollars in investment or accounts receivable at risk in a country, the corporation wants the best possible advice regarding the safety of those millions. As a result, most multinational corporations utilize outside risk evaluation services.

The U.K.-based Economist Intelligence Unit publishes political risk reports. You may not write this foreign organization as an AI member without permission from the International Secretariat. A U.S.-based service, BERI, S.A., evaluates and forecasts potential risks, including sociopolitical risks, in over 100 countries. BERI, S.A. produces some very expensive country reports (\$425 each) and a subscription report (\$1,500 per year) for lenders with credit exposure.

Hundreds of other consulting firms also offer services in the area of international trade; find them in the Consultants and Consulting Organizations Directory (Gale Research, 800-877-4253, \$390 for the 1994 edition) indexed under --

- import/export management.
- international business and trade.
- marketing programs and services -- international marketing.

Consider writing to the firms, asking that their research analysts incorporate into their calculations of the risk of doing business in your target country the instability caused by human rights violations such as your action file. Include your case summary and a recent country report. Send copies of your letters to --

- your target ambassador.
- your target trade office.

Finally, political risk analysts, both corporate analysts and consultants, have a trade association, the Council for International Business Risk Management. The Council only has one staff member, who does not need to be alienated by drowning in AI letters. Any letters to the Council should be totally informative in nature, with a request like "I hope you will pass this information on to the hundreds of political risk analysts among your membership who need to evaluate the risks of investing and selling in (TARGET COUNTRY)." Send copies of your letters to --

- your target ambassador.
- your target trade office.

#### **Political risk insurers**

In order to encourage exports, the U.S. government offers political risk insurance to U.S. exporters of U.S. goods, through the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Also, some private companies offer political risk insurance. The International Trade Administration evaluates political risk but does not provide insurance.

For any of the insurers, call the insurer and obtain the name and title of the risk analyst responsible for your target country. Write that person. Describe your action file and suggest that countries that violate human rights represent a greater source of political risk than countries that do not. Ask that the human rights situation in your target country be taken into account when determining the rates to be charged and the limit amounts for political risk insurance. Send copies of your letter to --

- your target ambassador.
- your target trade office.

#### **The Export-Import Bank**

The Export-Import Bank is an independent agency of the U.S. government. Among other services, it sells several forms of insurance covering political risk to U.S. exporters for U.S. goods and services sold abroad, up to \$5 million per country. Exports to most countries in the world are eligible. Through this coverage, the Export-Import Bank indemnifies an exporter for 100 percent on a political loss and 90 to 95 percent on a commercial loss. This coverage "supports an exporter's prudent penetration of higher risk foreign markets."

The Export-Import Bank also guarantees commercial loans to foreign buyers of U.S. goods or services. These guarantees cover 100 percent of principal and interest against both political and commercial risks of non-payment. The Export-Import Bank will even provide direct loans at below the prime rate to foreign buyers of U.S. exports.

The Export-Import Bank sometimes co-finances foreign projects with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and regional development banks.

Export-Import Bank of the United States  
811 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20571  
Switchboard: 202-566-2117  
Country Risk Analysis Department: 202-566-6005

**The Overseas Private Investment Corporation**

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), which is part of the U.S. Agency for International Development, provides direct loans (\$500,000 to \$6 million), loan guarantees (\$6 million to \$50 million), political risk insurance, and investor services to U.S. businesses investing in or selling to 138 developing nations and emerging economies. In 1993, these were --

- all countries in Latin America except Surinam, Cuba, and Haiti.
- all countries in Africa except the Spanish Sahara, Liberia, Angola, South Africa, Libya, and Sudan.
- Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Greece, Turkey, countries in Eastern Europe except Serbia, and the former USSR except Azerbaijan.
- Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and countries on the Arabian peninsula.
- India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Singapore, Laos, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Fiji, and other Pacific Island states.

Consider calling OPIC and obtaining the name and title of the person responsible for loans and loan guarantees to U.S. businesses investing in your target country. Send that person a letter with a request that the country's human rights record, including your action file, be taken into account when approving multi-million dollar loans to businesses investing in your target country. These loans are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Send copies of your letter to --

- your target ambassador.
- your target minister of labor.
- your Representative in Congress.
- both of your U.S. Senators.
- the President of the U.S.A.

OPIC also organizes missions overseas. In 1993, for example, OPIC planned missions to India and Sri Lanka, Mauritius, West Africa, the Ukraine, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the former USSR. Consider calling OPIC and asking if a mission to your target country is planned. If so, obtain the name and title of the person who will lead the mission for OPIC. Send that person a letter with a case summary; ask that he or she inquire about your action file during the mission. Send copies to --

- your target embassy.
- your target trade office.

- finance, trade, and labor ministers in your target country.

OPIC also provides a database, called the Opportunity Bank, that matches the investment interests of American companies with investment opportunities offered abroad. In 1992, 1,300 U.S. firms and 1,800 foreign projects, with complete contact information, were listed in the database. This database enables you to find companies that are interested in investing in your target country. The decision makers in these companies are people your target government cares about. This database is available to the public through LEXIS/NEXIS. For assistance and information on charges, contact LEXIS/NEXIS customer service at 800-543-6862. Some members of your group, especially lawyers, may have access to LEXIS/NEXIS through their jobs. **NEXIS is difficult to use and expensive to search: it is most strongly recommended that you find someone who already knows how to use it.**

To access the Opportunity Bank, call up "OPIC" from the "World" library in NEXIS. To find U.S. companies interested in investing in China, for example, the search command is: section(U.S. pre/2 company pre/2 profile) and China. Only the "full" listing has contact information, but you can save money by printing only part of the full listing.

Two April 1993 searches of the Opportunity Bank yielded 215 U.S. companies interested in investing in China, with listings going back to 1985, and 110 companies interested in investing in Thailand, with listings going back to 1988. The two searches and partial printouts cost \$270. Most of the U.S. companies listed were small businesses.

If you do not have access to NEXIS, OPIC will search the Opportunity Bank based on your selection of country and industry sector criteria. A summary listing of potential joint venture partners will be sent to you without charge. Detailed profiles, including contact information, can then be purchased for a processing fee of \$50 for ten profiles.

OPIC also prepares information kits on more than 125 nations, with general business, economic, political, social, and investment climate information. Individual kits are sold for fees ranging from \$25 to \$50 and can be ordered by phone using a Visa or MasterCard. Consider identifying the person responsible for preparing the kit for your target country. Write that person and ask that information on human rights violations, such as your action file, be included in the kit, because human rights violations contribute to the political risk of investment. Send copies

to --

- your target ambassador.
- your target trade office.
- finance, trade, and labor ministers in your target country.

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

1100 New York Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20527

Main office: (202) 336-8400

Automated information: (202) 336-8799

**Foreign Credit Insurance Association (FCIA)**

Until 1992, the Foreign Credit Insurance Association (FCIA) served as the agent for the Export-Import Bank's political risk insurance. Now FCIA Management Company, Inc., offers private political risk insurance underwritten by Great American Insurance Company. Country analysis is done by a staff member at the FCIA. FCIA does not usually provide insurance for countries considered very much at risk, for example much of Africa; however, it does provide insurance for countries such as Brazil.

**The International Trade Administration**

The International Trade Administration (ITA), part of the Commerce Department, has chief responsibility in the federal government for promoting exports. The ITA has a country desk officer for every country in the world. The desk officer tracks factors affecting the climate for exports, including a country's political situation. Consider calling the ITA and obtaining the name of the desk officer for your target country. Write the desk officer a letter that asks that he or she include the human rights situation in your target country, exemplified by your action file, in his or her analysis of the political risks of trading with that country. Send copies to --

- your target ambassador.
- your target trade office.

The ITA also organizes overseas trade missions, where officials of U.S. firms "have the opportunity to confer with influential foreign business and government representatives." Consider contacting the ITA to determine if it is planning any missions to your target country. If so, obtain the name and title of the person who would be leading the mission for the ITA. Send that person a letter with a case summary; ask that he or she inquire about your action file during the mission. Send copies to --

- your target embassy.
- your target trade office.
- finance, trade, and labor ministers in your target country.

ITA district offices are located in most states. District offices can provide you information developed by country desk officers.

International Trade Administration

Herbert C. Hoover Building

14th Street and Constitution Avenue

Washington, DC 20230

Switchboard: 202-482-2000

## **International Banks**

Amnesty International considers international banks, including those headquartered in the U.S.A., to be international organizations. Only the International Secretariat may write to international banks as Amnesty International. Group members may only write to international banks in their individual capacities and not on AI stationery. Also, groups should not ask their Members of Congress to approach international banks about AI concerns unless specifically requested to do so by the DC office. Note that for the purposes of this manual, multinational commercial banks, such as Citibank, are considered businesses. In contrast, the organizations discussed in this section are banks capitalized by governments.

Developing countries receive huge loans from the major international banks: the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the African Development Bank. The government of a developing country probably cares a great deal about the opinions of decision makers in these banks.

**Actions**

AI supporters writing in their individual capacities may write to the staff of international banks. These letters should be mainly informative: do not ask bank staff to write letters on behalf of your action file.

In your letters describe the human rights violation and your prisoner by name. Ask the bank staff member to consider human rights violations and their effects on the well-being of the population and on political risk when evaluating loans and aid to your target country. Do not suggest that loans or aid not be given, only that the human rights violation should be a factor in evaluating a loan or aid. Also, ask for the official to bring up the human rights violation in meetings with officials from your target government.

Send copies of your letter to your target ambassador and to your target minister of finance.

#### **World Bank**

The World Bank seeks to raise standards of living in developing countries by channeling financial resources to them from developed countries. Its overarching goal is to reduce poverty.

The World Bank loans a developing country money at an interest rate that is lower than what the country could obtain on its own, thus saving the borrowing country big bucks in interest charges. On June 30, 1991, outstanding loans (called IBRD loans) were \$91 billion.

The Bank also provides aid (called IDA loans) to the poorest countries, in 1992 those with average incomes of less than \$580 (at 1989 prices). More than 40 countries are eligible under this criterion. The leaders of these countries care very much about what the World Bank cares about. On June 30, 1991, outstanding IDA loans were \$45 billion.

Historically, the Bank has considered only economic factors in loan and aid decisions. However, in 1991, for the first time, a World Bank loan was withheld because of pressure from non-governmental international lobbyists. Environmental lobbyists succeeded in delaying a loan of \$22 million for a dam project in Thailand.

The Bank publishes the World Bank Annual Report. Each report covers a July 1 to June 30 period and identifies the projects approved for the past year by country as well as cumulative lending operations by country. It is available free from --

The World Bank

1818 H Street NW

Washington, DC 20433

Switchboard: 202-477-1234

Publications: 202-473-1155

Consider writing to the desk officer for your target country, with copies to the following, who are named in appendices to the Annual Report:

- the executive director voting for the U.S.A.
- the governor and alternate representing your target country.
- the country department director for the region including your target country.

Call the Bank switchboard, ask for the name of the desk officer for your target country, and verify the names of the officials above.

#### **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

The IMF's goal is to maintain order in the international monetary system, sometimes through short-term loans to member countries. It also makes other loans.

Consider calling the IMF, obtaining the name of the executive director for your target country, and writing an informative letter to him or her, at --

International Monetary Fund

700 19th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20431

Switchboard: 202-623-7000

**Inter-American Development Bank**

The Inter-American Bank (1300 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20577, tel. 202-623-1397, fax 202-789-2835) promotes the individual and collective development of regional developing member countries through the financing of economic and social development projects and the provision of technical assistance. As of October 1990, there were 40 member countries. The U.S.A. held 34.6% of the votes on the Board of Executive Directors, proportional to its contribution to the Bank's capital.

**Asian Development Bank**

The Asian Development Bank (P.O. Box 789, Manila 1099, Philippines, tel. 632-711-3851, fax 632-741-7961) raises funds from private and public sources for development purposes in the region, to assist member states in coordinating economic policies, and to give technical assistance in development projects. As of October 1990, there were 49 member countries, including the U.S.A. As of December 1989, the U.S.A. had contributed approximately \$3 billion of the total \$21 billion in capital stock and had 12% voting power in the organization.

**African Development Bank**

The African Development Bank (01 BP 1387, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire, tel. 20-44-44, telex 23717, fax 22-78-39) raises funds from member countries for loans and grants within the region. In October 1991, there were 51 African member countries and 25 non-African member countries.

**Finding information on international bank loans**

Each of the banks listed on this page publishes an annual report. To determine what loans or aid your target government is currently getting from an international bank, obtain the bank's annual report (try a university library first).

To find out whether your target government is in the process of requesting any loans or aid from the international banks, search on-line services (see p. 24) or Business Periodicals On-line (see p. 153). Search, for example, for articles with the following words: World Bank or International Monetary Fund or IMF or Asian Development and Sri Lanka.

**VIP, CELEBRITY, AND HIGH-LEVEL INDIVIDUAL APPEALS**

As discussed earlier in this chapter, appeals from certain individuals will have special influence on your target government.

**Before contacting influential individuals, check with your co-group. Then, if the individual is nationally prominent, call the Office of the Executive Director in the National office.** AI will be much more effective in garnering high-level support if the left hand knows what the right hand is doing.

If a prominent individual would like to meet personally with you, or your efforts require a personal meeting, it is extremely important that a high-level AIUSA staff member attend the meeting with you. The Office of the Executive

Director can suggest a staff member.

Before contacting celebrities who are residents or citizens of other countries, contact the national AI section of that country. Its address is in the AI Annual Report, which is available from your regional office.

*"It's not how long he's been in there, it's how many letters we've had for his release."*

Actions by influential individuals can include --

- writing letters.
- signing petitions.
- making videotaped appeals for your prisoner.
- participating in embassy visits.
- participating in demonstrations and other public events.
- meeting with government officials visiting the U.S.A.
- writing newspaper op-eds (see p. 254) or letters to the editor (see p. 256).
- conducting missions to your target country
  - meeting with government leaders.
  - meeting with the media.
  - meeting with the prisoner, his or her family, his or her lawyer, or other supporters. This action requires the specific approval of your co-group and perhaps the International Secretariat.
  - meeting with human rights organizations in your target country.
  - raising your action file or campaign in performances or other appearances in your target country, or as a condition for performing or appearing in your target country.

Influential individuals usually belong to lobbying groups, ethnic associations, trade organizations, professional societies, and so forth, which publish magazines and newsletters. Ask such individuals to use their influence to have the case of your prisoner featured in these publications along with a request for the readers to write to your target government.

Foreign correspondents covering your target country may also be considered influential individuals (see p. 28). Before contacting foreign correspondents, coordinate with the Director of Communications in the National office.

To identify winners of awards, such as Nobel Prizes, Olympic medals, and 2,500 other awards and contests, see World of Winners (Gale Research, 800-877-4253, \$80 for the 1991 edition). The book has a subject index, so if the leader of your target government is, say, a yachtsman, you can identify the winners of yachting contests without knowing the names of the contests.

#### Finding addresses

Addresses of VIPs can be found in various Who's Who directories, which are available at your public library. A Who's Who directory contains information on VIPs' colleges, careers, publications, the organizations to which they belong,

and so forth. Directories include International Who's Who (1993, \$260), Who's Who among Black Americans (1994, \$140), Who's Who among Hispanic Americans (1992, \$96), and Who's Who in International Affairs (1991, \$295), all published by Gale Research, 800-877-4253. Others include Who's Who in America (1994, \$430), Who's Who in Entertainment (1992, \$235), and Who's Who in Religion (1992, \$129), all published by Marquis Who's Who, 800-621-9669. This is a partial list; many more such directories exist. If you have trouble finding someone in a Who's Who, seek out the Index to Marquis Who's Who (1994, \$90). The Index identifies the Who's Who in which 378,000 people appear. Marquis Who's Who is also available on-line on DIALOG, the Knowledge Index, and CompuServe (see p. 24). Alternatively, try the Biography and Genealogy Master Index (see p. 186).

If you would like to ask an author to write a letter, but you don't know the author's address and can't find it in Who's Who, there are other ways to make contact. You can write to the author care of the book's publisher, and your letter will be forwarded. To find the publisher, look for an entry under the author in a library catalog such as a card catalog. The catalog will tell you the name of the company that published the book, and you can get the publisher's address from Books in Print, which is also found in your public library.

**Syria**, Group 422, West Alexandria, VA. A group member wrote to a former Senator who is respected in Arab countries for his outspoken views on Middle East issues. The ex-Senator later telephoned to let the group know he would be traveling to Damascus and would raise the subject of its prisoner of conscience.

Co-group newsletters have identified the following VIPs as having assisted with AI cases. Again, your information search (see Chapter 3) should locate other persons whom your target government cares about.

**Tunisia**, Group 215, Boston, MA. Activist Daniel Berrigan assisted with the case.

**Taiwan**. Author William F. Buckley, Jr., a former member of AIUSA's Advisory Council, wrote a letter on January 6, 1987, on behalf of a Taiwanese prisoner of conscience who had been imprisoned for eight years. Fourteen days later, he was released.

**USSR**, Group 2, Wichita, KS. Former President Jimmy Carter sent a hand-written letter to the Soviet ambassador on behalf of a Baptist minister prisoner of conscience.

**South Africa**, Group 21, Davis, CA. Jimmy Carter wrote a letter on behalf of an imprisoned anti-apartheid leader.

**Syria**, Group 234, Norfolk, VA. Islamic leader Louis Farrakhan wrote a letter for a prisoner of conscience.

**Tunisia**. Former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Benjamin Hooks assisted with a case.

**Philippines**, Group 103, Honolulu, HI (now Group 449). The group wrote to African-American leader Jesse Jackson after learning he was taking a trip to the Philippines. The letter asked him to inquire about the status and condition of the group's prisoner while he was in the Philippines.

**Syria**, Group 234, Norfolk, VA. Jesse Jackson wrote a letter for a prisoner of conscience.

**Bhutan**, Group 211, Washington, DC. The King of Bhutan is a basketball fan. The group wrote to Michael Jordan, a superstar with the Chicago Bulls basketball team. The Bulls wrote a letter to the King on behalf of the case, and the prisoner was released.

**Syria**, Group 234, Norfolk, VA. Author John Le Carre wrote letter for a prisoner of conscience.

**Turkey**. Columnist Colman McCarthy wrote a column about human rights violations in Turkey.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel wrote a letter and spoke at a group event.

*"Public officers are the servants and agents of the people."*

-- Grover Cleveland

# Chapter 10

## Special Actions:

### U.S. Politicians and Other U.S. Government Officials

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**Summary:** Politicians, particularly your group's Representative in Congress, can be powerful advocates on behalf of prisoners. Coordinate with AIUSA volunteer leaders, and prepare carefully before approaching politicians or U.S. diplomats.

**If you choose just one action from this chapter** -- Ask your Representative to send a letter to your target government. Provide your Representative a draft letter.

## OVERVIEW

If your target government cares about its relations with the U.S.A., it cares about the opinions and actions of U.S. politicians and other key U.S. government officials.

Your target government can be influenced by the following politicians and government officials --

(1) Federal Legislative officials and bodies, including

- your Representative in Congress.
- other Representatives.
- the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.
- the Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists.
- candidates for Representative.
- your Senators.
- other Senators.
- candidates for Senator.

(2) Federal Executive officials, including

- the President.
- presidential candidates.
- the Vice President.
- State Department officials.
- other Executive Branch officials.

(3) State and local government officials, including

- Governors and State Legislators.
- County Executives and Supervisors.
- Mayors and City or Town Councils.

However, considering

- the accessibility of officials,
- their potential leverage on your target government, and
- the activities of AI staff and country coordination groups (co-groups),

the **best** use of a local group's time is usually to attract the assistance of your Representative.

### **Third-party governments**

Your group's members should not write to third-party governments (that is, governments in countries other than the U.S.A. or your target country) or representatives of third-party governments unless the action is specifically approved by the International Secretariat. If you identify a member of a third-party government you would like to approach, ask your co-group to request permission for you to approach him or her.

### **Coordination**

**Do not request assistance with your action file from any U.S. politician or other government official until you have discussed it with your co-group first.** When necessary, the co-group will coordinate with AIUSA's DC office (see Appendix I).

Your group should send copies of correspondence and written notice of other actions from Federal officials and legislators to the DC office.

### **High-profile human rights violations**

Some of the actions described in this chapter are suitable only for high-profile individual prisoners and campaigns, that is, situations where the human rights violation involves --

- a prominent leader, such as Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar.
- victims who have attracted substantial media attention, such as leaders of the Tiananmen uprising in China.

These high-profile human rights violations have become political issues in the U.S.A. and therefore may attract more action from politicians. As a rule, you might expect a high-profile case to be covered in the New York Times.

### **Visits of U.S. officials to your target country**

Many actions described in this chapter require knowing in advance of the visit of a U.S. politician or other official to your target country. If the President is planning a trip abroad, and sometimes the Vice President or the Secretary of State, the visit will make the newspapers.

Unfortunately, advance information about such a visit by lower level executive officials and legislators is extremely difficult to obtain.

One potential source is the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (see p. 23). This source may describe an upcoming visit of a U.S. official that is news in your target country.

Many overseas visits by members of the Legislative Branch are arranged by Congressional committees. However, trips

are frequently arranged or canceled at the last minute. Further, it is considered inappropriate to call committees to find out if any member is traveling to your target country during, say, the next recess.

Realistically, therefore, you may have to settle for identifying those officials and politicians that are most likely to travel, or to supervise travel, to your target country. Depending on the nature of the relationship between your target country and the U.S.A., these include --

- State Department officials with regional or country responsibility.
- Agency for International Development officials with regional or country responsibility.
- Commerce Department officials with regional or country responsibility.
- Defense Department officials with regional or country responsibility.
- Members of Congress serving on committees that have recently sent members or staff to your target country (see pp. 194 and 202).

With the approval of your co-group, write to any of the officials and politicians listed above and ask them to take up the case of your prisoner should they meet with officials from your target country (see p. 207 for references). Copy any letter you send to your target ambassador in Washington, DC.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE

### Representatives' addresses:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121

### Senators' addresses

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121

Direct phone numbers and fax numbers for Members of Congress are available from the Capitol switchboard or from the resources described on p. 186.

Appropriate salutations for letters are --

- Dear Representative Jones:
- Dear Senator Smith:

## Your Representative in Congress

Your Representative is potentially the most versatile advocate you can enlist to assist with your action file.

### What to ask of your Representative

What can your Representative do for your action file?

**Your Representative can act on his or her own**

**to --**

- write letters.
- send telegrams.
- place a statement in the Congressional Record.
- send materials via diplomatic pouch.
- speak at a major public event, a school, a university, or a non-AI organization meeting.
- sponsor a high school essay contest (see p. 235).
- print an article or brief notice about your action file in his or her newsletter.
- write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper (see p. 256).
- write an op-ed column for a newspaper (see p. 254).
- hold a press conference on your prisoner, in the U.S.A. or in your target country.
- alert your group to opportunities for contact with foreign authorities during upcoming international meetings, visits, or exchanges.

**Your Representative can make requests of the President, State Department, or other officials in the Executive Branch.** He or she can --

- ask the President to raise your action file with leaders of your target government.
- ask other Executive Branch officials to raise your action file with officials of your target government.
- ask the U.S. embassy to investigate the situation of your prisoner, especially cases of torture, incognito detention, no access to legal counsel, or inadequate medical treatment for your prisoner.
- ask the Secretary of State or one of the assistant secretaries to request that the U.S. Ambassador in your target country discuss your prisoner's situation with your target government.
- ask the U.S. Ambassador in your target country to raise your action file in meetings with target government officials.

- request that the U.S. Ambassador in your target country instruct an embassy staff member visit your prisoner.
- have his or her staff make inquiries about your action file of the State Department Desk Officer.
- ask the U.S. embassy to consider granting a visitor's visa to your prisoner, so that he or she might receive medical treatment in the U.S.A.
- write to the Export-Import Bank and/or the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and ask that human rights violations in your target country, such as your action file, be reflected in political risk insurance rates (see pp. 157 and 158).

**Your Representative can make requests of fellow legislators.** He or she can --

- arrange petition letters (see "Dear Colleague" letters -- such letters require different sponsors in the House and the Senate)
  - to your target government, with a copy to the embassy.
  - to the Assistant Secretary of State for a particular region or for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.
- call for hearings on human rights violations in your target country.
- sponsor a House Concurrent Resolution, which a Senator could later sponsor in the Senate.
- ask another Representative to insert language pertaining to your action file into legislation.
- ask another Representative to insert comments about your action file into the report accompanying legislation.

**Your Representative can interact with officials of your target government.** He or she can --

- phone your target embassy.
- deliver letters, petitions, photographs, or other materials to your target embassy.
- meet with embassy officials.
- arrange a meeting with your target ambassador attended by members of your group.
- visit your target country and meet with government leaders.
- meet with your target government's leaders when they visit the U.S.A.
- meet with your target government's leaders at international conferences.
- meet with a trade delegation from your target country.

Of course, you will not want to ask for all this at your first meeting. In fact, start with something simple. Ask your Representative to send a letter to your target government, then request a statement in the Congressional Record, and

continue on to more advanced projects.

### **Send a letter to your target government**

Usually the first action a group requests is a letter. The letter asks your target government to end the human rights violation described by your action file. For example, a letter may call for the immediate and unconditional release of a prisoner of conscience. The letter may ask that other goals of the action file be met, such as better treatment, access for family members, lawyers, or independent doctors, or an end to incommunicado detention. The letter should be addressed to the leader of your target government, with copies to your target embassy (the embassy of your target government in Washington, DC), the U.S. Secretary of State, and the U.S. Ambassador in your target country. Exhibits 10-1 and 10-2 are examples of letters sent by a Representative on an investigation case and a prisoner of conscience case, respectively. Exhibit 10-3, a "Dear Colleague" letter, is also an example.

The letter should indicate that the Representative is acting in his or her own name, not that he or she is forwarding a request from AI. AI acts in its own name.

The Representative can direct a letter to your target ambassador, and the group can follow up an unanswered letter with phone calls (see p. 118).

#### **Send a telegram to your target government**

A telegram is particularly valuable in an urgent situation. Telegrams are easier for a Representative to send than letters, but they are expensive, and telegrams may not be included in the Representative's budget. If cost is raised as an issue, volunteer to have the telegram billed to you (see WORLDLINK, p. 33).

**Zaire (Investigation)**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. After the group's prisoner was sentenced to death, then-Representative Konnyu sent a telegram in English and French requesting investigation of the prisoner's confession, which had been extracted under torture. The prisoner's sentence was later commuted to twenty years, and three years later he was released.

**Cuba.** Representative Sanders sent a telegram to Fidel Castro protesting a proposed execution.

#### **Circulate a "Dear Colleague" letter**

A "Dear Colleague" letter is a technique used to gather signatures from Members of Congress on a petition. Such a letter sends a powerful signal to a government that the U.S. Congress is concerned. Your Representative writes a letter with blank lines at the end for many signatures. The letter is circulated with a cover letter beginning "Dear Colleague." The cover letter asks other Members of Congress to sign the letter (see Exhibit 10-3).

Even after the letter has been sent to your target government, a supplementary letter with the names of more Members of Congress can be sent (see Exhibit 10-4).

### **Exhibit 10-3 (B)**

#### **Sample "Dear Colleague" letter, page two**

### **Exhibit 10-4**

#### **Sample supplementary "Dear Colleague" letter**

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. Representative Fazio, a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus

(see p. 196), circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter on a prisoner's behalf through the Congress. More than 100 Senators and Representatives signed it. Representative Fazio then went to the Soviet embassy in Washington to present it personally to the ambassador, but he was not permitted access to the embassy.

**Malaysia**, Group 80, San Francisco, CA. Representative Pelosi sponsored a "Dear Colleague" letter on behalf of seven Malaysian prisoners of conscience.

**Place a statement in the Congressional Record**

Any Senator or Representative may place a statement, not to exceed 2,000 words, in the Congressional Record, which is published daily. The statement does not have to be "read" into the record: it can simply be submitted. However, if a Member of Congress actually reads his or her statement into the record, it will be broadcast over closed circuit TV and also sometimes on C-SPAN. The statement does not have to be a speech. Materials submitted could include news stories, testimonies, and so forth, with a brief introduction from the Member of Congress.

The DC office suggests that where applicable, mention of the Congressional Record be included in letters to target government officials. Ask your Representative's aide responsible for human rights issues to send your group a copy of the Congressional Record with the statement, or obtain the Congressional Record at your local government documents library or some public libraries. Photocopy the published statement and send it to target government officials (see Exhibit 10-5).

### **Exhibit 10-5**

#### **Sample insertion in the Congressional Record**

**[Do not write for this prisoner --**

**he has been released]**

**Participate in a major public event**

If you are planning a major public event, ask your Representative to participate. Highlight the participation of the Representative in the first or second paragraph of your press release. Fax your Representative a copy of the press release with a list of media outlets receiving it. Highlight the participation of your Representative in flyers you post to promote your event (see Exhibit 10-6).

A member of your group should take black and white photographs of any major public event (see p. 244). Ask the Representative's aide responsible for human rights issues if the Representative would like a black and white photograph of the Representative's participation in the event, for his or her newsletter. If the photograph is printed in the Representative's newsletter, send copies of the newsletter to your target embassy and government.

It is difficult to get press for Representatives

because the media generally don't like to give politicians free publicity (in contrast, if you tell a reporter it would really help to have your prisoner, the victim of unspeakable abuse, named in a story, this will happen). **But, getting press for politicians is the best way to reward them for assisting in your work.** Should your prisoner be released, try to get the politician credit in the coverage of the release (see Chapter 13).

**Meet with leaders of your target country**

Any visit of leaders of your target country to the U.S.A. is an opportunity for multi-pronged action on the part of your group (see p. 240). In addition, U.S. politicians and officials often travel abroad and meet with members of your target government.

**Czechoslovakia**, Group 70, Cleveland, OH. A delegation of Representatives exploring trade issues visited Czechoslovakia and argued for the release of the group's prisoner of conscience. The delegation met with

a series of high-ranking Czechoslovakian officials and brought up the case in every meeting. The delegation also showed the officials press clippings of actions conducted for the prisoner by campus groups, which prompted one official to say "Don't American teenagers have anything better to do?"

**Taiwan.** The group's Representative had written letters on behalf of the group's prisoner. When the Representative was making plans to visit Taiwan, the group asked him to meet with the prisoner. The Representative requested this meeting from government officials, met with the prisoner, and reported back to the group.

#### Hold a press conference

Press conferences are usually limited to high-profile human rights violations. They also require your Representative to be extremely well-versed on the issues involved.

**Haiti.** Representative Conyers held a press conference on the forced repatriation of Haitian refugees. He had asked AIUSA to help plan it and to participate in it.

#### Make requests of the State Department

The State Department is the lead agency in the U.S. government for any relations with foreign governments. The U.S.A. maintains an embassy in the vast majority of countries in the world, unlike most other nations. In all likelihood, whatever the nationality of your prisoner, there is a U.S. embassy in your target country.

The State Department has a Bureau for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, which follows human rights globally. It produces a yearly book, The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (see p. 25), which gives the State Department's analysis of the human rights situation, country by country, in almost every country in the world except the U.S.A. Your co-group should be able to provide you an excerpt on your target country.

The State Department also has regional bureaus (for example, for Africa, and for Latin American and the Caribbean), organized at the lowest level by country or groups of countries. For example, there is an "Office of Philippine Affairs" with a number of State Department officials in Washington responsible for various aspects of U.S.-Philippine relations. There is also an "Office of Central African Affairs" responsible for 7 or 8 countries in Central Africa. In some cases, a State Department official covers 2 or 3 countries. A State Department official working in one of these offices is known as a "Desk Officer" (as in "the Guatemala Desk Officer").

**If your group seeks action from the State Department, it is always better for your Representative to request the action than for you to make the request. The State Department must respond to a Member of Congress.**

A modest point of protocol: it is not appropriate to ask your Representative to call or write to State Department staff. Where staff contacts are necessary, ask your Representative to ask a member of his or her staff to contact State Department staff. In contrast, it is appropriate to ask your Representative to call or write the Secretary of State, the appropriate Assistant Secretary of State, or the U.S. Ambassador in your target country.

The State Department can --

- make a diplomatic protest in the face of a human rights violation.
- include a human rights violation report in The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.
- request a lawyer for your prisoner.
- make inquiries about your prisoner.
- investigate claims of torture in your target country. Under new Federal law, the Ambassador in your target country must investigate claims of torture made to him or her and report back to the State Department.

- visit your prisoner.
- raise the action file in meetings between State Department officials and leaders of your target government.
- approve visas at the embassy in the target country for the travel to the U.S.A. of prisoners who need medical attention.

**Guatemala.** Between 1983 and July 1992, only six people who "disappeared" in Guatemala reappeared alive. One woman reappeared alive on July 29, 1992, after having been "disappeared" for a week. AIUSA asked Members of Congress to pressure the State Department to allow her to seek asylum in the U.S.A. Representatives Unsoeld and Kostmayer personally called the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala to ask for a visa for the reappeared woman. The offices of three other Representatives and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus also called the State Department and the U.S. embassy in Guatemala to ensure that she was able to leave Guatemala. The visa was granted on August 6, and she arrived in the U.S.A. on August 7.

Keep alert to changes in U.S. policy that provide opportunities for action.

**Argentina,** Group 21, Davis, CA. Under the Carter Administration, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) arranged for some 600 persons imprisoned in Chile and Argentina to receive visas to come to the U.S.A. This activity required an order by the Attorney General. During this period, Representative Fazio arranged for a representative of the U.S. INS in Argentina to visit the group's prisoner, with the blessing of the State Department, interview him, arrange for political asylum, and clear his immigration to the U.S.A. The prisoner received a "certificate of eligibility" from the U.S. government permitting him to enter the U.S.A. as a political refugee. As this policy has since been changed, this action is no longer available for groups.

#### Phone your target embassy

Your Representative will have to be personally well-versed in both your action file and the position of your target government to phone your target embassy.

Then-Representative Solarz called the Tunisian embassy and raised concerns about human rights abuses in Tunisia.

#### Arrange an embassy visit attended by members of your group

Your group may fail in attempts to gain an audience with your target ambassador or consul (see p. 104). Your Representative, however, may have more clout.

**Bahrain,** Group 109, Baltimore, MD. The group's Representative assisted in obtaining two embassy visits for the group.

#### Sponsor resolutions

Three different types of resolutions are passed in Congress: joint, concurrent, and simple. The type of resolution appropriate for an action file is a concurrent resolution.

Concurrent resolutions are used for expressing facts, principles, opinions, and purposes of the two Houses. A concurrent resolution by the House, Senate, or both also acts as a warning to your target government. While it is not binding and does not need to be signed by the President, it may receive substantial press in your target country.

Your action file must be "high-profile" -- a prominent prisoner of conscience or a big human rights issue -- to justify a resolution, because resolutions require the support of the majority of the House for passage. **This is an extremely advanced action:** your Representative's letters, an embassy visit, and a number of other easier actions must have failed to achieve the goals of your action file. Discuss a resolutions with your co-group before approaching your Representative.

Resolutions require a great deal of work on the part of a Representative's Washington staff. A large portion of that work comes from trying to obtain co-sponsors: other representatives who sign on to the bill. If your group or cluster is not prepared to spend considerable time helping the Representative's staff obtain co-sponsors, by activating the Government Action Network (see p. 86), by writing or calling other AIUSA groups and asking them to contact their Representatives, and by enlisting the assistance of other organizations, then don't propose this action.

Exhibit 10-7 is a concurrent resolution, which --

- provides a sense of the House.
- requests that a copy of the resolution be sent to the target country's ambassador.
- gives a non-binding directive to the President.

**USSR**, Group 7, Los Angeles, CA. The House passed a resolution expressing the House's concern for a prisoner of conscience's well-being and asking the President to express the U.S. government's interest in his case and to remind the Soviet Union of its international human rights obligations.

**Indonesia**. Both the House and Senate passed resolutions by voice vote condemning the November, 1991 massacre by Indonesian security forces of mourners in an East Timor funeral procession. Among other things, the House resolution called on President Bush to reassess immediately the foreign aid funds given to Indonesian troops. The House resolution was introduced by Representative Hall, the Senate resolution by Senator Pell.

### **Exhibit 10-7 (A)**

#### **Resolution cover letter requesting co-sponsors**

**Insert language into legislation or into the report accompanying legislation**

When AIUSA decides to support or initiate legislation, it is a decision made by the AIUSA Board of Directors. Local groups should not ask their Representatives to **introduce** legislation.

Nevertheless, your Representative may be willing to insert language about your action file either into pending legislation or into the report accompanying legislation. This action is a **last resort**: it should be considered only after other actions by your Representative have not achieved the goals of your action file. Consult with your co-group before approaching your Representative. Consider how you would inform your target government of your actions.

Groups can learn about pending legislation from the commercial database LEXIS (see p. 158). Once in LEXIS, you may search for words that appear in pending legislation, such as, say, Tunisia. Note the number of the bill, because this is how bills are identified in Congress. Note the committee to which the bill has been assigned. Note the name of the sponsor, as the sponsor of a bill pertaining to your target country is probably an individual of special influence. You may wish to print a copy of the bill, unless it is an omnibus appropriations bill, which is long and complex.

You may call the clerk of the committee that must act on the bill and find out when "mark-up" of the bill will occur. Especially in the House, it is much easier to amend a bill in subcommittee than when it reaches the floor. For more information on the process, see the 70-page booklet How Our Laws Are Made (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, 202-783-3238, \$2.50).

Your Representative is probably not a member of the committee or subcommittee examining the bill. However, your Representative could ask the bill's sponsor or a Representative who serves on the committee or subcommittee to support changes during "mark-up."

Your Representative could also ask a member of the committee to file views that cite your action file to be included in

the committee report. When a bill is approved by a committee, one member is assigned to write the committee report, which describes the purpose and scope of the bill and the reasons for its recommended approval. Another member of the committee may file additional views, which must be included in the report on the bill. The report is printed by the Government Printing Office.

From AIUSA's point of view, one of the most important bills passed each year is the foreign aid appropriations bill. Foreign aid requires two steps, the passage of foreign aid authorization legislation and the passage of foreign aid appropriations legislation. Authorization legislation sets policy, and an authorization bill is passed no more often than every other year. Appropriations legislation sets money levels and is passed every year, but it frequently has policy implications. The relevant subcommittee in both houses is the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the Appropriations Committee.

AI groups are not permitted to request the linking of an action file with appropriations.

Remember that with one exception AI does not ask that aid be withheld or reduced, only that a country's record on human rights issues be reviewed when appropriations are under consideration.

The one exception is military, security, or police (MSP) transfers. AI's position is that laws should prohibit MSP transfers from taking place unless it can be reasonably demonstrated that such transfers will **not** contribute to human rights violations within AI's mandate. That is, the U.S.A. should take responsibility for the use of its MSP transfers. AI may oppose MSP transfers that can reasonably be assumed to contribute to human rights violations within AI's mandate.

**Philippines.** A Representative inserted a statement of concern about increasing human rights violations in the Philippines into the report accompanying the legislation appropriating foreign aid for Fiscal Year 1989. AI submitted draft language for this statement. The co-group also worked on requesting that a statement of concern be put directly in the legislation allocating foreign aid. Groups contacted members of the Foreign Affairs and Appropriations committees of the House and the Senate.

**China,** Group 23, Houston, TX. In December, 1987, Congress approved an amendment to a State Department appropriations bill calling for the release of a prisoner of conscience, saying that he had broken no American or Chinese laws.

**China.** Representative Rose introduced H.R. 2476, which urged a review of U.S. policy towards the People's Republic of China in light of China's human rights abuses in Tibet. It was passed unanimously by the House in October, 1987.

**Malawi.** Representative Wolpe placed language in a foreign aid bill under consideration in 1992 calling for improvements in Malawi's human rights situation and calling for the release of two long-term prisoners of conscience.

**Haiti.** Representative Conyers placed mention of AI's exclusion from Guantanamo Bay in the report that accompanied the Haitian Refugee Protection Act.

#### **Hold hearings**

Congressional hearings on human rights issues require patterns of human rights violations: a single action file will not justify such a hearing.

A request for a hearing, again, is an advanced action: it should be considered only after other actions by your Representative have not achieved the goals of your action file. Consult with your co-group before approaching your Representative. At any one time, the DC office is pressing for hearings on human rights situations in half a dozen countries, so **coordination is vital**.

Hearings can only be held by relevant committees or subcommittees, so it helps tremendously if your Representative is already a member, or better, a chair of a key subcommittee. However, it is common for Representatives to do favors for other Representatives, so your Representative may ask another Representative to hold hearings. In addition, any

member of the committee can add material, such as your case summary (see p. 74), to the hearing record. Your group can then send copies of the hearing record to your target government.

Hearings can be held anywhere, not just in Washington, DC. Any Representative can attend any hearing as an ex officio member of the committee or subcommittee.

**East Timor.** Senator Pell held hearings on human rights violations in 1992.

**Haiti.** Representative Gilman asked AI to give an impromptu summary of AI concerns on the forced repatriation of refugees.

*Congressional hearings on human rights issues require patterns of human rights violations*

## Minimize the work required of Congressional staff members

If you want to increase the odds of getting help from your Representative, minimize the amount of work his or her staff must do to assist you. **Congressional staff members are tremendously overworked**, and if you can't make your requests easily accomplished, they may not be fulfilled.

Do you want a letter sent on your action file? **Develop a draft letter (with DRAFT typed on it)**, complete with your target government's leader's address, copy to the embassy's address, copy to the State Department Assistant Secretary for the region, and blind copy (bc) to your group's legislative coordinator. Review the draft letter with your co-group. Provide it to the Representative's aide as background: "This is the type of letter we hope you would be willing to send," not "We want you to send this letter" (but in Group 19's dealings with one former Representative, the letter sent out always had exactly the same text as the draft).

Do you want the Representative to submit a statement to the Congressional Record? Provide a draft.

Do you want the Representative to circulate a "Dear Colleague" letter? Provide 1 or 2 pages of external background to the action file that the Representative can circulate, and provide a draft letter to your target government.

*Don't burden down your Representative's staff*

## The legislative coordinator (LC) system

A legislative coordinator (LC) is the member of an AIUSA group responsible for the group's relations with its Members of Congress.

In 1992, about half of local groups had an LC. If your group does not yet have an LC, please select one, and notify your area coordinator and regional office of your selection. Your new LC should request a copy of the Legislative Coordinator's Handbook from the DC office. You may want to photocopy this chapter and provide it to your LC.

It is not recommended that an action file coordinator serve simultaneously as an LC, because action file coordinators have enough to do, and LCs need to be well-versed on an assortment of human rights issues and legislation. However, if you must act as an LC, the sections that follow provide the information you will need to garner assistance for your action file. These sections will also help you understand the resources available to your LC and what your LC needs from you to promote your action file effectively.

### What do LCs do?

Legislative coordinators --

- receive Legislative Update and other materials from the DC office and regularly inform group members on the status of AIUSA-supported legislation.
- lead the group in making regular and timely communications with Representatives through letters or phone calls to request action on legislation or specific prisoner cases.
- develop ongoing relationships with congressional offices, especially with the Representative's appropriate aides, so as to better ensure the Representative's support for AI actions.
- coordinate regular meetings with Representatives.

The LC's goal is to develop the kind of relationships with congressional offices that will strongly encourage your Representative to participate in human rights actions. Legislative coordinator responsibilities include --

- providing your Representative's aides with helpful information on particular legislation, prisoners, or patterns of human rights violations in specific countries.
- attending your Representative's town meetings and raising questions publicly or using the occasion for a private conversation with your Representative.
- making follow-up calls on any actions that your Representative promises to take, to ensure that they occur.
- writing thank you notes to your Representative for steps in favor of AIUSA-supported legislation or actions.
- preparing profiles on your Representative to discover ways to interest him or her in human rights work and to see who influences him or her.
- utilizing contacts with key financial supporters or even relatives of the Representative who share human rights concerns, to help influence the Representative's views and votes.

### **District legislative coordinators (DLCs)**

In most areas of the country, each Congressional District has only one adoption group. As a result, the AIUSA National office assumes that each group will be handling congressional relations and sends a congressional visit packet to each group.

Nevertheless, many congressional districts have more than one local group. In 1990, the Twelfth Congressional District of California had more than 20 local and campus groups that met within the boundaries of the district, as well as residents who were active in six local groups that met outside the district.

If your congressional district has more than one local group, then the groups will need to designate a district legislative coordinator (DLC) to coordinate with the LCs for all the local groups.

To learn who the DLC is for your Representative, call the other group(s) or your area coordinator. The district legislative coordinator should be the one to approach Representative about your action file. However, should this approach involve a face-to-face meeting, you as the specialist on your action file or another member of your action file committee should probably attend the meeting along with the DLC. If someone other than the DLC needs to call your Representative's aide responsible for human rights, the relationship can be maintained with "I'm (), the legislative coordinator for Amnesty International's volunteer group in (CITY). (NAME OF DLC) recommended that I call you."

The DLC system avoids duplication of efforts and, what is more important, the destruction of your credibility brought on when it becomes clear that AI's left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. Further, the system offers the district legislative coordinator the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with the Representative's aide responsible for human rights issues.

If your group has a member who lives in another congressional district that has a local group, then you must contact the LC for that group or the DLC for that district before your member contacts the Representative.

The following discussion uses the term LC. However, if your district has more than one local group, then replace LC with DLC wherever it appears.

*The arms of AIUSA are more effective when the left hand knows what the right hand is doing*

## **Developing a relationship with your Representative**

In the event that there is no legislative coordinator for your Representative and his or her staff, your group will have to initiate that relationship. There are two major reasons why your group might have to develop a new relationship with a Representative:

- someone new is elected (see p. 199).
- for whatever reason, no AI group in the district has an ongoing relationship with your current Representative. Your group will have to start from scratch, pick a legislative coordinator, conduct research, and develop a relationship.

### **Contact your area coordinator and past group coordinators**

Even if there is no legislative coordinator for your Representative, your area coordinator may be aware of AI members who have previously met with the Representative and his or her staff. Try to find out what has happened in the relationship between AI and the Representative. If possible, invite someone who has met before with the Representative to attend your first meeting with the Representative.

### **Identify a non-controversial action**

Ask your area coordinator if your action file represents a good vehicle for generating a first action from a Representative. Your group wants to manage this relationship for the long haul. Long-term success depends on developing a pattern of the Representative helping your group. The first step in that pattern is the most critical. If your action file is controversial to the Representative, he or she may decline to assist, or even worse, may never make a choice to assist or not. Six calls over two months to the Representative's aide may yield no information on the status of your action request. Later, trying to get the Representative's assistance with any other action becomes much more difficult, as the relationship has gotten off on the wrong foot.

Instead, the LC should consider getting a non-controversial action request from your area coordinator or the National Casework Coordinator in the Casework office (see Appendix I). For example, in the fall of 1991, members of the House were trying to obtain co-sponsors for a resolution calling on Congressional leaders to invite prisoner of conscience and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi to address a joint session of Congress. As the first action requested in the first meeting with a Representative, a high school group member might ask your Representative to become a co-sponsor of such a resolution. If your Representative will not accede to this type of request, which is non-controversial and requires basically no work, you are unlikely to get any help from him or her without the help of some of the Representative's campaign contributors (see p. 186). But it is far more likely that the Representative will agree to do this.

Should your Representative later decline to assist with a different action or stall a decision to assist, the LC can ask the Representative's aide to thank the Representative for considering assisting with the current action and to thank him or her again for assisting with the first action. The LC could say he or she would like to call again with other action requests from time to time. The established relationship remains.

### If there are other local groups in the district, contact their group coordinators

Decide with any other group coordinators in the district who will be the district legislative coordinator. Select someone who can maintain continuity in this relationship and manage the relationship with your Representative for the long haul. Agree that the district legislative coordinator will be the only person who telephones or arranges meetings with your Representative or his or her staff.

## Preparing to meet with your Representative

Preparing to meet with your Representative involves the following steps:

- profile your Representative.
- determine the goals, agenda, and participants for your meeting.
- prepare and collect materials.
- call the Representative's office.
- request a meeting in writing with your Representative.

### Profile your Representative

For AIUSA groups working to persuade their Representative to take actions on human rights issues, a valuable resource is basic information about the Representative.

What committees and subcommittees does your Representative serve on? Who in the community knows your Representative and has influence with your Representative? What special interests does your Representative have? The answers to these questions can guide you and your group to an effective relationship with your Representative.

On the following pages are resources that can provide the answers. Some of the resources were used to develop the profile of Representative Jan Meyers (see Exhibit 10-8).

Prices of these resources were checked in 1993. Call for the latest price and shipping cost. Most of these resources will be available at your local public or university library or via an inter-library loan.

For information on your Representative, consult:

- the GPO's Congressional Directory (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, 202-783-3238, \$20 for the 1993-94 edition, which has more than 1,000 pages of information on the Legislative and Executive Branches, including biographical information on Members of Congress, district zip codes, committee assignments, names and addresses of Executive Branch officials, and reporters (including foreign reporters) accredited to Congress).
- Politics in America (Congressional Quarterly, 1 Capitol Drive, Ridgely, MD 21685, 800-638-1710,

1993, \$80) or the Almanac of American Politics (National Journal, 1730 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, 800-424-2921, 1994, \$49), which provide biographical information, committee assignments, election results, campaign finance information, and voting studies.

- your Representative's office, which will probably be glad to send you a glowing biography of the Representative.
- the Biography and Genealogy Master Index (Gale Research, 800-877-4253, 1994, \$260), a consolidated index to biographical sketches in over 350 sources, such as the various Who's Who directories and professional directories. This reference will help you identify your Representative's professional and social connections. Some of these directories list membership in country clubs, fraternal organizations, professional associations and societies, as well as directorships of corporations and non-profit groups. Many communities have a society list that won't be included in master indexes. This society list may be called the green book, blue book, or social register.
- the Washington Information Directory (Congressional Quarterly, 1 Capitol Drive, Ridgely, MD 21685, 800-638-1710, \$95 for the 1993-94 edition).

For information on your Representative's staff, consult --

- the Congressional Yellow Book (Monitor Publications, 104 Fifth Avenue, Second Floor, New York, NY 10011, 212-627-4140, \$215 for a 1994 subscription).
- the Congressional Staff Directory (Congressional Staff Directory, P.O. Box 62, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, 703-739-0900, 1994, \$69).
- the Almanac of the Unelected: Staff of the U.S. Congress (Almanac of the Unelected, P.O. Box 3785, Washington, DC 20007, 202-296-2297, 800 pages, 1994, \$250), which profiles the top 700 congressional aides in the House and Senate.

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For financial information on your

Representative, consult --

- the Combined Federal/State Disclosure Directory, available free by calling 800-424-9530, which lists federal and state offices that make financial disclosure statements available to the public.
- the Federal Election Commission Public Records Division, 999 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20463, 202-219-4140, which provides copies of campaign finance reports. A list of campaign contributors is free. Consider comparing the list of the Representative's campaign contributors with the local AIUSA mailing list (see p. 8).

A complete campaign financial report is \$0.15 per page plus \$4.50 for 60 pages. Call the office first to get a page count and therefore a total cost amount. Then send a check.

For information on your Representative's voting records, consult --

- **ADA Today**, \$5 for the first year requested, \$2.50 for voting records from additional years. Available from Americans for Democratic Action, 1625 K Street NW, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20006, 202-785-5980.
- the **FCNL Washington Newsletter**, which comes out eleven times each year. One issue each year covers voting records. Send a self-addressed business-sized stamped envelope and a contribution of \$0.25 or more, and request the most recent issue that includes voting information. Available from the Friends' Committee on National Legislation, 245 2nd Street NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795, 202-547-6000.
- the **Liberty Ledger** (semi-annual), available for \$1 from Liberty Lobby, 300 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003, 202-546-5611.
- Project Vote Smart. Call 800-786-6885 to ask for information on your Representative's and/or Senators' voting records, campaign contributors, issue positions, biographical data, and the performance evaluations given by dozens of competing special interest organizations. Call 900-786-6885 to obtain a printed reference guide with information on your state's congressional delegation: biographies, campaign finances, and special interest group performance evaluations. The \$3.50 charge for the call covers printing and postage for the guide.
- **Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report** and the **Congressional Record**, available in most large public libraries and all Federal document libraries, which provide information on congressional debates and statements by your Representative.
- Newspaper and journal articles. Start with the largest daily in your congressional district. If the daily is not indexed, call the paper and ask if you could visit their "morgue" to do research on your Representative. The morgue includes files on everything that the paper has ever printed on a topic, including your AI group. If visiting the morgue is not an option, call your reference librarian and ask if your local library maintains a clipping file on your Representative. Many daily newspapers now keep their morgues on computer, and they could call up on computer all references to your Representative in the recent past. Try more than one paper. Also, check the index to the **New York Times** or the **National Newspaper Index**, which most libraries carry.
- sources described in Chapter 3, such as the **Readers Guide to Periodical Literature**, the Magazine Microfilm Index, and commercial databases.
- the **Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS) Bulletin**, a specialized index of political science and government journals, as well as books and government documents.

## Determine the goals, agenda, and participants for your meeting

Consult with any other local groups in the district and set goals for a meeting with your Representative or his or her staff person. Decide which action files or campaigns will be brought to your Representative's attention. Aim for geopolitical balance, that is two action files and/or campaigns from two different parts of the world with two different political systems. Obtain human rights reports about your target countries from non-AI sources that your Representative is likely to respect (see p. 25). In most cases you will be able to corroborate AI's concerns, and this corroboration will add to your credibility.

Decide who should participate in your meeting. You will want to include four or five people in your delegation:

- the legislative coordinator, to introduce AI and the delegation.
- one person to discuss your action file(s) and the action request.

- someone to take notes, including the names of staff and aides present and the promises for action made. Notes will facilitate the follow up on the Representative's requests.
- a coordinator of a high school group in the Representative's district, who can explain about AI groups in schools. Members of Congress are extremely interested in the nature and extent of student activity in AI.

You may call your area coordinator or regional office and request the assistance of a trainer to help your delegation prepare for the visit as well as to train other interested group members.

## **Prepare and collect materials**

Prepare and collect materials to provide your Representative. Such materials should include --

- AI's Annual Report, which is available from your regional office. Explain that it is for your Representative and there will be no charge.
- the most recent AI country reports for your target countries, which are available from your regional office.
- a one-page action sheet incorporating
  - a brief case summary.
  - the action request, for example, write a letter.
  - addresses of foreign officials and the target embassy.
  - any other pertinent background.
  - the name, address, and phone number of the legislative coordinator.
  - a request that a copy of the action be sent to the legislative coordinator.
- a draft of the requested action.
- (optional) press clippings mentioning the assistance of other politicians, which show that you can get publicity for the Representative and that you make an effort to give credit where credit is due.
- (optional) a write-up describing what AI can provide for the Representative (see Exhibit 10-9).

The Representative or his or her aide will not have time to read the AI Annual Report or the country reports. You provide them in order to help establish your credibility. Everything the aide needs to carry out the action should be in the one-page action sheet.

## **Call your Representative's office**

Call your Representative's office, and ask for the zip codes included in the Representative's district. These zip codes are also included in the GPO's Congressional Directory, cited on p. 186. Ask when the Representative will be visiting the district in the upcoming two months. AIUSA's Legislative Update provides the congressional calendar; Congress usually has recesses in the vicinity of Easter and Labor Day. Ask for the name and title of the person responsible for scheduling the Representative.

Then call the AIUSA National office (see Appendix I) and ask for a Development Associate in the direct mail department. If you give that person the list of zip codes, he or she will be able to tell you how many AIUSA members live in the district. This number will be a little high, as the district will include partial zip codes.

*The AIUSA National office can provide a count of the AI members in each zip code in your Representative's district*

### **Request a meeting in writing with your Representative**

To establish a relationship with your Representative, meet with him or her **and the aide in his or her local (district) office responsible for human rights issues**. The legislative coordinator's on-going relationship will be with the aide, as this is the person the legislative coordinator can reach on the telephone to check on the status of actions, to set up meetings to discuss new actions, and everything else you will need. **The aide is the person who will be doing the work.**

Write a letter on AIUSA group letterhead (see p. 95) to the person responsible for scheduling the Representative that --

- briefly describes AI.
- describes local activity and the number of AIUSA members in the district, if impressive.
- identifies the legislative coordinator and other local and campus group members as constituents.
- notes the assistance given AI by other Members of Congress your Representative would respect (see Legislative Update or "Congressional Human Rights Actions" in back issues of the Monthly Mailing).
- requests an appointment with the Representative and the aide in the local office responsible for human rights issues during one of the time periods that the Representative will be in the district.
- concludes with a daytime telephone number and a request to call.

If the legislative coordinator receives no response within ten working days, he or she should call the person responsible for scheduling and follow up. The legislative coordinator should keep calling until a meeting is scheduled. If you are turned down for a meeting, identify your Representative's campaign contributors who are also AIUSA members (see p. 186). Ask for their assistance in getting a meeting scheduled.

### **Meeting with your Representative**

In meeting with a Representative, be prompt, friendly, businesslike, and informed. Dress conservatively. Address the Representative by the proper title (for example, Congressman Jones), even if everyone else in the office seems to use his or her first name. If possible, the legislative coordinator should commend him or her for some action promoting human rights. Be sure to be introduced to the aide responsible for human rights issues.

The legislative coordinator should direct the conversation and select who speaks next. If any member of your delegation doesn't know the answer to a question, say so and offer to find out. Don't stray from AI's mandate. You could damage AI's reputation if, for example, you recommend imposing economic sanctions on your target country. If you disagree with your Representative's opinions, be polite and brief.

Explain something of AI's structure and how AI works. Explain that sometimes Urgent Actions and other letter-writing appeals will recommend that the recipient write his or her Representative. As a result, there is no way that the volunteer groups in your area can control the requests by mail received by the Representative. However, the district legislative coordinator is the one person who has been designated to represent local AI membership to the Representative.

Leave your Representative with a specific but not too elaborate request for action. Give him or her the materials you had prepared and collected. Mention that AI has a Washington office that he or she can contact for information and reports on issues more general than your particular action file. Offer to send the Representative any reports in which he or she is interested.

Express that human rights violations have no timetable and that you would like to be able to contact the aide in the future to communicate concerns about human rights violations.

Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The group's DLC expresses the understanding that the Representative's time is extremely valuable. Therefore, the DLC proposes that meetings and communications by telephone be on an as-needed basis with the aide based in the district. The aide can then communicate the group's concerns and action requests to the Representative. The DLC expresses that this has been extremely successful and satisfactory in relationships with other Representatives. Local AI groups will only request the Representative in person when it is essential, for example, for a major public event. This has been well-received, and the group has had a lot of success in dealings with Representatives from across the political spectrum.

Immediately after the meeting, the legislative coordinator should write a thank you letter to the Representative with a copy to the aide, which restates his or her promise for action. Put a hand-written note on the bottom of the copy to the aide expressing gratitude for his or her assistance. Be sure to follow through on any requests your Representative makes of you.

Also, the legislative coordinator should fill out a Congressional Visit Debriefing Form (you can copy Exhibit 10-10, which makes up the following two pages), and return it to your regional office.

Finally, the legislative coordinator must follow up with the aide. If the legislative coordinator has not received the requested copy of the requested action in two weeks, then he or she should call the aide and check on the status of the action. Keep a phone log of your calls. If, say, four phone calls over two months yield no progress on a simple action, understand that it won't take place. Cut your losses. Send the aide a short **polite** note expressing that you understand that the Representative may have other priorities. Thank the aide for other help the Representative has provided in the past. Keep a copy of your note.

This page will be replaced with Exhibit 10-10 p. 1

This page will be replaced with Exhibit 10-10 p. 2

#### **Other Representatives**

If you identify a Representative other than your group's Representative who would have special influence with your target government, it is usually better for your Representative to contact him or her than for you to make the contact. If your Representative is a member of another party or is otherwise unwilling, it is better for an AIUSA member who lives in the district to contact the other Representative than for you to make the contact.

Representatives with special influence include the chairs and members of the following committees or subcommittees:

- regional subcommittees of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the Committee on Appropriations.
- committees whose members or staff have recently visited your target country.

Members of Congress who travel abroad at taxpayer expense must report that travel. Several times a year, the Congressional Record prints a log of international travel by Members of Congress and congressional staff. For Representatives, this log is called the "Report of Expenditures for Official Foreign Travel." The House of Representatives' Office of Records and Registration, 202-225-1300, can provide you a list of dates that logs of

international travel have been printed in the Congressional Record. The Congressional Record is available at your local government documents library and at some public libraries. Exhibit 10-11 displays the result of such research into which Members of Congress and congressional staff had traveled to Thailand.

#### **Coordination**

To avoid confusion and overlap, not to mention the appearance that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing, a group should not contact a Representative other than its own without consulting the district legislative coordinator for the other Representative.

To identify AIUSA local groups in the other Representative's district, check the local group list in Appendix XIX. Compare a map of the state with a map of districts found in the GPO's Congressional Directory (see p. 186). Once you have identified a local group in the other Representative's district, the regional office for that group can provide you the names and phone numbers of the group's coordinator and legislative coordinator. If there is no local group, the regional office may be able to locate a campus group in the district.

If you ask another group to help you, your group should do all the work related to sending a letter to the Representative: coordinate with the district legislative coordinator, prepare the letter so that it needs only a signature, prepare any background materials, make copies, and provide prepared stamped envelopes, including envelopes for copies to the target embassy.

#### **What other Representatives can do**

Other Representatives can --

- send a letter as a member of a committee of special importance to your target government.
- send a letter as a Representative who has visited your target country.
- raise your action file in meetings with target government officials.
- support a concurrent resolution in committee (see p. 178).
- insert text regarding your action file into legislation or the report accompanying legislation (see p. 180).
- hold hearings on human rights issues (see p. 181).

#### **Congressional Human Rights Caucus**

Founded in 1983, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus is a bipartisan legislative service organization established under the auspices of the House of Representatives. In 1993, 170 Representatives were members of the Caucus, and 48 Representatives were members of the Caucus's Executive Committee. Any Representative may join the caucus; all Caucus funding comes from Representatives.

The Caucus --

- supports the observance of human rights throughout the world.
- works for victims of political, religious, ethnic, and racial persecution worldwide.
- aims to increase congressional awareness of human rights violations and to encourage congressional action in support of the observance of human rights.
- makes appeals on behalf of individuals.

#### **Coordination**

The Caucus already works with the DC office and the Urgent Action Network. Ask your co-group to contact the DC office before you suggest a Caucus action.

#### **What the Congressional Human Rights Caucus can do**

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus can --

- circulate a letter on behalf of your action file to its members (a "Dear Colleague" letter).
- send a telegram.
- write to the President and ask that human rights issues be brought up in upcoming meetings with leaders of your target government.
- hold forums, seminars, meetings, and briefings on human rights issues. Participants may include human rights abuse victims, U.S. and foreign government officials, U.N. officials, and human rights activists.
- meet with the relatives of victims of human rights violations.
- cooperate on human rights issues with parliamentarians of other democratic countries.
- support legislation that condemns human rights violations.
- cosponsor a rally to oppose human rights violations in your target country.
- meet and raise human rights issues with leaders of your target government.
- hold a press conference in support of victims of human rights violations.
- sponsor an art exhibit that focuses attention on a country's human rights situation.
- conduct research on human rights issues.
- write to the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the U.S. position on issues before the International Monetary Fund.

It is especially appropriate to submit to the Caucus the cases of prisoners of conscience and imprisoned parliamentarians. A top priority on the agenda of the Caucus is forging cooperation with members of parliaments around the world on human rights issues. The purpose is to coordinate concerted congressional action on a global scale.

The Caucus may be able to identify informal country working groups whose members have a special interest in your target country and may have special influence. For example, Representative Pelosi chairs the working group on China.

The Caucus prepares country briefing packets with information on individual human rights cases as well as general human rights conditions. These packets are designed to be helpful to Representatives traveling abroad and meeting with foreign dignitaries. Consider asking your Representative about putting your case summary (see p. 74), including your name and phone number(s), in these packets. Remember to update your case summary on a regular basis.

The Caucus maintains a computer tracking system to monitor Congressional action taken on behalf of human rights. Actions by all Representatives are included. Each entry includes details on the nature of the human rights violation, what action was taken, and the names of the Members of Congress who participated in the action. While members of the public cannot access this system, your Representative can.

The Caucus issues newsletters several times during the year. The newsletters keep Members of Congress up-to-date on human rights issues and include reports on Caucus seminars and briefings. It also includes updates on human rights activities in Congress, pending human rights legislation, and letters being circulated on human rights matters. Subscriptions to this newsletter are free. To subscribe, call 202-226-4040 or write the Congressional Human Rights Caucus at Room H2-590, Ford Building, Washington, DC 20515. Be sure to request the latest copy of the Caucus's Annual Report, which is also free, as this contains much valuable information. If you do not receive a newsletter after a few months, call and follow up.

The Caucus has two co-chairs: Representative Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Representative John Porter (R-IL). The area coordinator for the San Francisco Bay North Peninsula is the district legislative coordinator for Representative Lantos.

If your Representative is a member of the Caucus, ask him or her to write a letter on behalf of your action file. Then ask your Representative to consult with the Caucus about the possibility of a "Dear Colleague" letter. If appropriate for your action file, your Representative may submit your prisoner for the Caucus's --

- Adoption Program (prisoners of conscience only).
- Religious Prisoner Adoption Program.
- Prisoner of Conscience Outreach Program.
- School Outreach Program.
- Committee of 21. This committee engages in letter writing to prisoners of conscience, their families, and their governments.

Later, your Representative may be willing to work with the Caucus on a higher level action, such as a briefing.

If your Representative is not a member of the Caucus's Executive Committee, do not express surprise if he or she is unaware of the Caucus's programs. Merely ask him or her to explore the possibility of submitting your action file for one of the programs.

#### **Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists**

The Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists is a bipartisan association that in 1993 included 17 Senators and 75 Representatives. The Committee sends letters and cables on behalf of journalists, other writers, editors, and publishers who are imprisoned or silenced because of what they say or write.

If your prisoner fits in these categories, send a case summary and letter-writing instructions (or a case summary flyer) to the area coordinator for Maine, who also serves as the state legislative coordinator. Senator Cohen of Maine is on the Congressional Committee's Steering Committee (see the discussion of Maine's "Banned Books Week" on p. 7).

Exhibit 10-12 is a cable sent by the Committee.

#### **Congressional Candidates**

Ideally, your Representative would commit to work against human rights violations **before** he or she is elected.

Incumbents in the House of Representatives are rarely voted out of office, although sometimes they leave to pursue higher office, retire, or die. Also, once-a-decade redistricting sometimes creates a contest that could lead to a new Representative for your district. In the case of open seats, where only non-incumbent candidates are running, or in other cases of truly contested elections, it behooves your group to try to extract promises from candidates of future assistance.

When there is an open seat in the district including Palo Alto, CA, which has an extraordinarily high AIUSA membership, the Mid-Peninsula cluster invites each major candidate to a separate meeting of the membership. By AI policy, these meetings cannot be advertised to the public, nor can AI groups invite the press. Candidates have not chosen to invite the press either. Questions at the meeting are strictly limited to AI mandate issues. At the same time, the group must ensure a decent turnout, that is, more than 50 and preferably more than 80 people. So, these meetings involve a lot of telephoning to assure a turnout, arranging car-pooling of students, and so forth. But, at the end of the meeting, the group has a promise from the candidate that if elected, he or she will assist with AI action files, and a relationship is established. The district legislative coordinator follows up with a thank you letter, which reminds the candidate of his or her promises.

If your group is small and there are no other local groups in your area, you may wish to consider attempting to get a commitment from candidates by having one member of your group, ideally the future legislative coordinator, write to each candidate. This letter **must** be on AIUSA group letterhead (see p. 95). The letter should --

- briefly describe Amnesty International.
- describe the activities of your local group and any other groups in the district.
- explain that you are writing on behalf of all the AIUSA groups and members in the district.
- ask if the candidate, if elected, would take an active part in the fight against human rights violations worldwide.
- ask if the candidate, if elected, would be willing to meet with local representatives of AI in the first few months of his or her term.
- include a brochure such as "What is AI?" or the blue brochure that begins "When the first two hundred letters came." These brochures are available from your regional office.
- include press clippings if they show group effectiveness.

Find out when and where candidates are giving speeches or participating in debates or campaign appearances. A candidate's campaign headquarters will have that information. Approach the candidates and ask them questions. Secure their assurances of help with your action files. Give them a petition to sign.

#### **What to ask of a candidate for Representative**

A candidate for Representative can --

- send a letter.
- sign a petition.
- sign a pre-written appeal.
- raise your action file in speeches.

#### **Your Senators**

**Coordination**

You need to coordinate your approaches to Senators carefully. While Representatives often have only one or two local groups in their district, Senators typically have many groups in their state. They could be overwhelmed by local group action requests. Two or more groups could present the same materials and ask for assistance on the same campaign. You may harm Amnesty's credibility if it becomes clear that the left hand has no idea what the right hand is doing.

If you've already established a relationship with your Representative, and you want to approach one or both of your Senators, check to see if your state has a state legislative coordinator (SLC) who is coordinating approaches to Senators. Your regional office maintains the list of SLCs in your region. If there is no SLC, coordinate with your regional office.

An exception: if you live in a state with very few groups like Wyoming or Nevada, then there's not such a problem in working with your Senators. Contact the legislative coordinators of the state's other local groups and determine if there is someone who is willing to keep track of actions requested of your Senators and therefore act as an SLC.

Also, consider working jointly with other groups in your state if you have action files from the same country or related to the same issue, for example, prisoners jailed for religious reasons. This helps Senators get more "bang for their buck" and helps link up groups.

**What to ask of your Senators**

Senators can generally do the same things as Representatives (see pp. 168 and 169), but they have more clout with the State Department, Ambassadors, and other members of the Executive Branch.

Be especially aware of actions that your Representative is taking that your Senator may join, such as --

- circulating the same "Dear Colleague" letter among Senators that your Representative is circulating in the House.
- sponsoring the same resolution in the Senate that your Representative is sponsoring in the House.

**Colombia.** Senator Kennedy contacted the U.S. Embassy in Bogota and contacted the Colombian government to urge that steps be taken to protect a human rights lawyer who received many death threats. The U.S. embassy responded by offering substantial support to the lawyer.

**Indonesia.** Senator Leahy wrote to Secretary of State Baker, urging him to notify Indonesian authorities that the United States might withhold military training aid unless there were a full investigation of a massacre and appropriate legal steps were taken to hold accountable those responsible.

**South Korea.** Senator Kerry sponsored a Senate Concurrent Resolution relating to the civil and political rights of a prominent opposition leader and prisoner of conscience. See S. Con. Res. 100, in the Congressional Record, December 19, 1985. The resolution was co-sponsored by Senators Simon, Pell, Kennedy, Dodd, Hollings, Cranston, Sarbanes, Riegle, and Harkin.

**USSR,** Group 174, Portland, ME. Senator Mitchell met with President Gorbachev on a visit to the USSR. The Senator brought up the group's prisoner of conscience and other specific prisoners of conscience.

For information on Senators and Senate committees, see "Profile your Representative," on p. 185.

Exhibit 10-13 is a letter from a Senator.

### **Other Senators**

Certain Senators may have special influence with your target government due to their positions in key Senate committees, especially as committee chairs. The committees include --

- the Committee on Foreign Relations and its regional subcommittees.
- the Subcommittee on International Finance and Monetary Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
- the Subcommittees on International Debt and International Trade of the Committee on Finance.
- the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the Committee on Appropriations.
- other committees whose members or staff have recently visited your target country.

To identify Senators who have recently visited your target country, call the Senate Office of Interparliamentary Services, 202-224-3047. Ask for the dates in the past year or two that a "Consolidated Report of Expenditure of Foreign Currencies and Appropriated Funds for Foreign Travel" appeared in the Congressional Record. Each report identifies the names of persons who traveled on official business and the countries they visited (see Exhibit 10-11).

Your co-group can identify other groups across the country with action files similar to yours. If there are several states involved, consider sending the same letter to all the Senators from those states, requesting that the Senators join your Senator in a "Dear Colleague" letter mentioning all the prisoners.

#### **Coordination**

If you write a Senator as a member of AI, you must coordinate with the appropriate state legislative coordinator. The regional office serving the Senator's state (see Appendix I) will be able to provide you the name and phone numbers of the state legislative coordinator for that state. If you write in your private capacity and not as a member of AI, this coordination is not necessary.

However, most Senators pay little attention to letters from people not from their state. Consider asking the state legislative coordinator to sign a letter requesting assistance or to recommend another AI member who would sign the letter.

If you make a request of an AI member in another state, your group should do all the work related to sending a letter to the Senator. Prepare the letter so that it needs only a signature; prepare any background materials; make copies; and provide prepared stamped envelopes, including envelopes for copies to the target embassy.

#### **What to ask of a Senator from another state**

Other Senators can conduct the same types of actions as other Representatives (see p. 194).

**Romania ("Disappearance")**, Group 122, Santa Fe, NM. The group wrote to all 100 Senators asking them to write a letter to Romania. One Senator wrote a letter.

#### **Candidates for Senate**

#### **Coordination**

Coordinate with your state legislative coordinator, so if the candidate is elected, the SLC knows what approaches have been made. If the candidate is currently a member of the House, check with the candidate's district legislative coordinator, so your letter can refer to actions the candidate has taken in the past. This reference will help establish your credibility with the candidate.

### **What to ask of a candidate for Senate**

Candidates for Senate can --

- send a letter.
- sign a petition.
- sign a pre-written appeal.
- raise your action file in speeches.

## **FEDERAL EXECUTIVE**

The DC office has developed considerable experience with White House and State Department staff members and knows their interests and whom to contact. Because of the importance of these contacts, all initiatives to the Federal Executive, with the exception of writing to the President in your personal capacity, must be discussed with and coordinated by your co-group.

### **President**

Group members are rarely advised to write to the President asking for assistance, because approaches to other politicians, particularly Representatives, have been more effective.

Exceptions include --

- a high-profile human rights violation.
- an upcoming meeting between the President or other members of the Executive Branch and your target government's leaders.

Letters from AIUSA members to the President are appropriate if approved by the co-group. In addition, group members may always write to the President in their personal capacities and not using AIUSA group stationery. Amnesty International may be cited as a source of information.

If you write as an AIUSA member, identify your group in your letter or on your stationery. Do not leave the impression that you are writing on behalf of AIUSA. The AIUSA Executive Director writes to the President on behalf of AIUSA.

The rule within the Executive Branch is that letters are always routed to the appropriate department. Direct letters to the President concerning human rights issues will always be referred to the State Department, where they are referred to the Bureau for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs and/or the Country Desk officer(s) for the relevant country. Your group may therefore have more credibility if you chose to write directly to the Secretary of State, the Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, and/or the Assistant Secretary for the region (see pp. 169 and 206).

However, if your goal is to inform your target government through a copy to your target embassy that you have informed the President of your action file, then it is appropriate to write the President.

### **What to ask of the President**

The President can --

- send a letter.
- raise your action file in meetings with leaders of your target country.

- request action of State Department officials and Ambassadors (see p. 169).
- ask other members of the Executive Branch, including Commerce or Defense Department officials, to raise your action file in meetings with target government officials.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. A group member wrote in his private capacity to the President Reagan on behalf of the group's prisoner. Administration officials brought up this case in a summit meeting with President Gorbachev (see Exhibit 10-14).

**Chile**, Group 297, Silver Spring, MD. A group member wrote to the Chilean government in his private capacity as a member of the Republican party, indicating he was informing Republican leaders and the Reagan administration about (name of prisoner of conscience). Copies of such letters should be sent to your target embassy.

**China (Campaign)**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. A group member wrote to President Bush about China and received a response from the State Department.

**China**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. A group member wrote to President Bush about Chinese prisoners and received a 15-minute phone call from State Department.

**Address of the President:**

The President

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500

Salutation: Dear Mr. President

Comment phone: 202-456-1111

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

No public fax

**Presidential Candidates**

An approach to presidential candidates may be most effective if yours is a high-profile action file and you live in New Hampshire, Iowa, or another early primary state.

**Coordination**

Unless you write in your personal capacity, send the DC office a copy of your letter two weeks before you mail it, along with a note with your name and phone number. The DC office will call you if your letter needs any changes.

**What to ask of a candidate for President?**

Ask the candidate to --

- write a letter.
- sign a pre-written appeal.
- mention your prisoner **by name** in speeches.

In your letter to the candidate, include --

- a copy of any letter that a Member of Congress has written on your action file, as this will help establish your credibility.
- a case summary.
- an action request.

If you do not live in an early primary state, consider merely informing the candidate of your action file, for example, "As you are now developing a foreign policy for the next four years, I ask you to consider and make a priority addressing the human rights situation in (TARGET COUNTRY). This unfortunate situation is exemplified by the case of (PRISONER) . . ." Send a copy of your letter to your target embassy.

**Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. In 1988, the group wrote to the candidates of both major parties, asking for the candidates to write a letter for their action file. Copies of both letters were sent to the Syrian embassy. The group received a response but no action from the Democratic candidate.

#### **Addresses of presidential candidates**

Most viable candidates hold political office, and their addresses are listed in the resources on p. 186. Addresses of other candidates would be available from the party's National Committee headquarters in Washington, DC.

#### **Vice President**

The Vice President has his or her own staff and, frequently, ambitions. In some circumstances it might prove worthwhile to request the assistance of the VP (consult with your co-group first).

These circumstances include --

- a high-profile human rights violation, which is therefore a political issue in the U.S.A.
- the VP will meet with leaders of your target government.
- your group is from the VP's state or has some other special influence or contact with the VP.

#### **What to ask of the Vice President**

The Vice President can --

- send a letter.
- raise your action file in meetings with leaders of your target country.
- raise issues with Senators in his capacity as President of the Senate.

#### **Address of the Office of the Vice President:**

The Vice President

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500

Salutation: Dear Mr. Vice President

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

#### **State Department Officials**

Consider that a letter to the State Department may have two goals --

- inform your target government, through a copy to your target ambassador, that you have informed the State Department of your action file.
- request the State Department to act.

As discussed earlier, if you want action or information from a State Department official, ask your Representative to request the action or information. If your Representative is uncooperative, consider writing the State Department, but action will be much less likely.

#### **Coordination**

#### **Before contacting the State Department, it is imperative that you consult with your co-group.**

The DC office of AIUSA, in coordination with co-groups and most particularly, co-group DC representatives (called *DC reps*, see p. 9), maintains regular contact with many State Department Desk Officers. Your co-group should be able to identify the name and title of the appropriate person to write to at the State Department.

In general, co-groups or the DC office should contact State Department officials. Co-groups and the DC office staff have developed personal relationships with State Department officials and have more influence than groups. Amnesty will also appear very poorly organized if you phone the State Department with a question and the Desk Officer has recently answered the same question from an AIUSA staff or co-group member.

If you have a compelling reason to contact the State Department with an action request, consult with your co-group, who will contact the DC office if necessary. Send copies of any correspondence with State Department officials to both your co-group and the DC office.

#### **What to ask of the State Department**

See the extensive list on p. 169.

**Philippines (Country Action).** The co-group contacted the State Department and asked officials to raise questions about human rights violations with President Aquino during a state visit in Washington. Officials did raise these issues in formal meetings with Mrs. Aquino.

**Chile.** A co-group member discovered that the U.S. Ambassador to Chile would be speaking in Denver, CO. The co-group member spoke with the Ambassador following his speech and asked him to make inquiries into a case. A U.S. embassy staff member subsequently visited the prisoner. The prisoner was later released.

#### **Correspondence with the State Department**

Consider sending copies of letters to your target government to the appropriate Assistant Secretary in the State Department. The copies inform the State Department about your action file. The secretaries include --

- the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.
- the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.
- the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs.

- the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.
- the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Your sending copies also allows State Department officials to tell target government officials that they have been receiving a lot of mail about your action file. Sending many copies would only be cost effective if your co-group believes that State Department officials might be sympathetic to your action file.

With co-group approval, consider sending a State Department Desk Officer and the Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs one letter each, with a case summary and extensive background on your action file. In 1993, former AIUSA Board member John Shattuck was the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

Request that your action file be brought up in the next meeting with target government officials. Send copies to your target embassy. Do not deluge a State Department official with mail that needs to be answered, as this will annoy him or her and may harm AI effectiveness in the future.

If you learn of an upcoming meeting between a State Department official and a target government official, then with co-group approval write to the official and ask him or her to raise the case. For example, when Secretary of State Baker was trying to arrange peace talks in the Middle East, he spent much time flying to Middle Eastern countries and meeting with government leaders. These talks offered groups with Middle Eastern action files the opportunity to write to Baker asking him to raise their action files. Groups also sent copies of their letters to their target embassies and to leaders of their target governments.

New U.S. Ambassadors are announced in the Washington Post. AIUSA tries to see Ambassadors before they go on station. If approved by your co-group, you may write a newly-appointed Ambassador and, of course, copy your target embassy.

**Address of the State Department**

Department of State

2201 "C" Street NW

Washington, DC 20520

Department switchboard: 202-647-4000

Office of Human Rights: 202-647-1451

**Other Executive Branch Officials**

Your research on your target country may have identified other officials in the Executive Branch who will have special influence, including --

- the Agency for International Development Assistant to the Administrator for your target country's region.
- the Chairman of the Board of the African Development Foundation.
- the Chairman of the Board of the Inter-American Foundation.
- the U.S. Trade Representative in the Executive Office and the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for your target country's region.
- the Representative of the U.S.A. to the United Nations.

- the Secretary of Defense.
- the Secretary of Commerce.

Names and addresses of many of these officials are in the GPO's Congressional Directory (see p. 186). Lower-level officials can be found in --

- the Federal Yellow Book (Monitor Publications, 104 5th Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011, 212-627-4140, \$225 for a 1994 subscription).
- the Federal Regulatory Directory (Congressional Quarterly, 800-638-1710, \$115 for the 1993 edition).

If you learn that an Executive Branch official will be meeting with your target government, consult your co-group about asking your Representative to contact the U.S. official and about writing to the official as an AIUSA member.

#### **What to ask of other Executive Branch officials**

Ask other Executive Branch officials --

- to raise your action file in any upcoming meetings with target government officials.
- to consider the human rights situation in the target country when making decisions about U.S. interactions with that country.

## **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

State and local government officials can take actions similar to those of target sector organization officials (see p. 122).

They can --

- write letters.
- sign specialized petitions.
- issue proclamations, which are similar to resolutions.
- declare a day in honor of your prisoner.
- participate in major public events (see Chapter 11).
- encourage others to join in your efforts.
- raise human rights violations in visits with leaders of your target government.

To identify and locate state and local politicians, contact the reference desk at your local public library or your local League of Women Voters.

#### **Proclamations**

If your state legislature or city council issues a proclamation or passes a resolution, your work is not done. You must send a copy to your target government or preferably ask the sponsor to send a copy to your target government with a cover letter for which you might provide a draft.

#### **Coordination**

If your state has the death penalty and an on-going AI abolition effort, then AI abolitionists may already have experience with state government officials and legislators. You will find it useful to contact those activists to obtain their insights on the officials and legislators. Also, coordination will reduce the problem of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing.

### **Governors and State Legislators**

Governors can issue proclamations mentioning AI and action files. In Maine, proclamations have been issued for Human Rights Day, Student Human Rights Action Day, anniversaries, and other occasions. Exhibit 10-15 is a general expression of support, which could be used to build AI's credibility in Maine.

### **Exhibit 10-15**

#### **Sample state resolution recognizing AI**

**Ethiopia (Campaign for Freedom).** The State of Maine issued a proclamation, which supported AI and mentioned Maine's Campaign for Freedom prisoner. The prisoner was later freed (see Exhibit 10-16 and Appendix XIV).

**South Africa (Campaign for Freedom).** Florida Governor Chiles in 1991 sent appeals to several South African officials on behalf of Florida's Campaign for Freedom case.

Area coordinator Dave Haley has formed the Minnesota Legislative Network, which is made up of 30 to 40 state legislators who write letters monthly on behalf of prisoners. This network began in 1987 with a "Dear Colleague" letter. Initial actions were for non-controversial prisoner of conscience cases. To submit your action file to this network, call Dave Haley (h) 612-292-0521 or (w) 612-929-7215 to determine whether or not your action file is appropriate considering other recent action requests. Then send a sample letter and letter-writing instructions to --

Dave Haley  
726 Cherokee Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55107

Dave encourages other states set up networks. It requires one or two sympathetic legislators willing to circulate a "Dear Colleague" letter and three to four hours per month to prepare actions. Call Dave for advice.

**Turkey**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The Governor of Maine wrote letters in support of an AI case.

Governors frequently travel to foreign countries and entertain foreign leaders on trade missions. In Texas, AI groups have asked their Governors and State Legislators to mention prisoner of conscience cases by name when they are in the appropriate countries, and State Legislators have done this in East Germany, El Salvador, and Kenya.

**USSR**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group obtained permission to set up a giant petition for one day in the state capitol rotunda for state legislators to sign (see p. 62). On the same day, the group was allowed to leave an information sheet on each legislator's desk. The information sheet included basic information on AI and the mandate, endorsements from both Maine senators, quotations from released prisoners, lengthy background on the USSR case, and brief background on other cases taken up by groups in Maine. The group also showed a lunch-time video.

### **County Executives and Supervisors**

**Uruguay, Benin, South Korea, and USSR**, Group 154, Westchester, NY, and Group 42, White Plains, NY. The County Executive proclaimed Prisoner of Conscience Day on May 28, the anniversary of the founding of AI. The groups had both the proclamation and a statement about their prisoners of conscience inserted by their Representative in Congress into the Congressional Record.

### **Mayors and City or Town Councils**

Have a local group member attend a public appearance of a local politician and ask if the politician will help with your action file.

font FACE="Times New Roman" SIZE="3"> The Mayor and/or City Council members can write your target government. They can also write Members of Congress, Governors, Senators, and other politicians, and ask them to write letters on behalf of your action file.

The City Council, City Justice Commission, or Human Rights Commission can pass a resolution on behalf of your action file. If the City Council complains that this is a foreign affair, point out that "there are (#) residents of (YOUR CITY) who are members of AIUSA, and this city's chapter is dedicated to (THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE ACTION FILE)." To determine the number of city residents who are members of AIUSA, get the list of zip codes in your city from the front of the yellow pages or call your main post office. With the list of zip codes, call a Development Associate in the direct mail department of the AIUSA National office and ask for a count of the AIUSA members in those zip codes.

**Paraguay**. The City Council of Cambridge, MA has passed a general resolution requesting that AI identify appropriate human rights violations for action by the City Council (see Exhibit 10-17). One such action was a resolution on behalf of four Paraguayans.

**South Africa**, Group 109, Baltimore, MD. The Mayor and City Council proclaimed a day in honor of the group's prisoner of conscience; this action was covered in the press.

A strong statement in defense of your prisoner or calling for strong action to secure his release can be prepared for signature by say, 50 community leaders. Such a public declaration can then be published in a newspaper and used in follow-up campaigns.

**USSR and Uruguay**, Group 212, Marietta, OH. The Mayor declared "Amnesty International Day" on the anniversary of the group's founding. The proclamation of the day described the group's two cases in a "whereas" clause.

Ask Mayors to write to their sister city counterparts. To identify U.S. cities that have a sister city in your target country, contact:

Sister Cities International

Town Affiliation Assn. of the U.S., Inc.

120 S. Payne Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

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Call and ask which cities in the U.S.A. are sister cities to cities in your target country. There is no charge for this information. Recall that the applicable regional office (see Appendix I) can provide you the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of local group coordinators in other U.S. cities. Appendix XIX provides a list of cities with groups.

**Chile ("Disappearance")**, Group 175, Long Beach, CA. The Mayor of Long Beach, CA, sent a letter to the mayor of Long Beach's sister city, Valparaiso, Chile (see Exhibit 10-18).

**Czechoslovakia**, Palo Alto High, Gunn High, Castilleja School. Student members of AI chapters from all the high schools in Palo Alto, CA, asked the Mayor to declare a day in honor of the prisoner of conscience on his birthday, and this was done. This action was tied to a major public event (see p. 238). Copies of the proclamation were given to the press and were subsequently sent to the embassy and to officials in the target government.

**U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, Group 159, Arlington, VA. The group identified sister cities in Virginia and European countries. Group members wrote to officials in both Virginia and the European countries about Virginia's death sentencing abuses and asked for help in preventing and ending those abuses.

**China**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The city of Davis considered establishing a sister city relationship with the city of Qufu, China. When the mayor of Qufu visited Davis, the group presented him with a list of prisoners being held following the Tiananmen demonstrations, including the group's prisoner of conscience. Protests by AI and by Chinese students at the local university made the front page of the local paper. Before the Mayor of Davis left on a return visit to Qufu, he promised to raise the issue of the prisoners of conscience in Shandong province during meetings with the mayor of Qufu. This action also attracted press attention.

The Davis Peace and Justice Commission voted to recommend suspension of any official action to establish a sister city relationship with Qufu until human rights conditions in China improve. Also, the commission recommended that the City Council send a letter to the Chinese government inquiring into the whereabouts of the group's prisoner of conscience. The commission's action again attracted press coverage, and the prisoner was named in the local newspaper.

**South Africa and USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The City Council passed a resolution in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on its fortieth anniversary. The resolution mentioned the names of two prisoners in "whereas" clauses and essentially endorsed the work of the local group, which made the group more credible in seeking the assistance of others (see Exhibit 10-19).

**China, South Africa and USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The City Council approved a resolution calling for release of prisoners. Note that because the local press always covers city council meetings, there is the possibility of getting press coverage of such an action.

**USSR**, Group 21, Davis, CA. On Human Rights Day (December 10), the Mayor signed a proclamation marking the day in solidarity with the group's prisoner of conscience and sent a signed official copy of the proclamation to the Kremlin.

**South Korea**, Group 92, San Fernando Valley, CA. The group learned that local South Korean consulate officials were very interested in the Los Angeles Olympics. Though Mayor Bradley, they obtained tickets for the officials. The prisoner of conscience was subsequently released.

**Brazil (Campaign)**, Group 111, Teaneck, New Jersey. The group prepared a resolution on the human rights situation in rural Brazil for submission to the City Council.

*"It is a newspaper's duty to print the news and raise hell."*

-- Chicago Times (1861)

# Chapter 11

## Special Actions: Media

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**Summary: Your group can put pressure on your target government by sending the government copies of articles or other media mentions describing the government's human rights violations.**

If you choose just one action from this chapter -- Hold a news event focusing on your action file.

## Overview

Amnesty letter-writing is often compared to lighting a candle in the darkness of human rights violations. If so, then media attention is like turning on a spotlight. If your research indicates that the government is concerned about U.S. public opinion, then attracting the attention of the media to your action file **and ensuring that your target government learns of that media attention** can apply great pressure on that government.

Depending on the advice of your country coordination group (co-group), you may wish to seek coverage from --

(1) Media in the U.S.A., including

- newspapers and magazines.
- radio.
- television including cable.
- wire services.

(2) Media Received in Your Target Country.

(3) Media of Your Target Country.

### *Coordination*

Coordinating media contacts with other AI groups and offices may not be as imperative as coordinating contacts with Members of Congress, but once again, AI will have much more credibility if the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. Your local media coordinator, your area coordinator, and your Regional Press Officer can provide you with media contacts. If you later find that any of those contacts has changed titles or jobs, be sure to let your sources know.

As always, consult with your co-group before initiating any action.

### **Objectives of media coverage**

Before you approach the media, determine your objectives for any coverage, which can include --

- the name of your prisoner in newspapers, on the radio, and/or on TV.
- the discussion of human rights violations in your target country in newspapers, on the radio, and/or on TV.
- the mention of the assistance of politicians in newspapers, on the radio, and/or on TV.

- members of the media contacting your target embassy.
- letter-writing instructions in newspapers.
- information in newspapers on how community members can find your group.

A public event usually offers your group the best opportunity for obtaining media coverage for your action file. Your group may set goals for a public event other than attracting media attention, such as outreach, human rights education, fundraising, or generating quantity actions. Nevertheless, the primary action file objective of a public event is garnering media coverage.

## **Planning public events**

### ***Form a committee***

As noted in Chapter 5, public events usually require a committee. A committee might have seven members, each with a specific responsibility:

- committee chair.
- fundraiser and treasurer.
- press relations.
- police and legal relations, **including obtaining permits for events like demonstrations, marches, and vigils.**
- contact with other organizations to insure that there is no conflict in activities and to invite their participation.
- food and supplies.
- posters, leaflets, computer networks, and computer bulletin boards (see p. 79).

Your committee needs to set a time and a place for your event that will make it convenient for large numbers to attend and that will not compete with some other planned event that might attract the media.

Encourage the events committee to use the Action Planning Sheet and Action Planning Worksheet (see Exhibits 11-1 and 11-2), to --

- set objectives for the event.
- ensure agreement on what tasks will be accomplished, when and by whom, thus avoiding conflicts about responsibilities.

### ***Seek assistance from AIUSA***

Let your regional office know in advance what resources you may need from AIUSA, including --

- insurance.
- speakers. Before approaching nationally known speakers, consult with your regional office and the Office of the Executive Director in the AIUSA National office.
- seed money, especially for fixed costs, such as renting a hall.
- media contacts.

Large actions, such as demonstrations, marches, parades, athletic events, and walks, may require insurance. Contact the Senior Accountant in the National office at least three weeks in advance of your event. You will be asked to provide pertinent information about your event, so please have your details on hand.

AIUSA regional conferences or the Annual General Meeting may offer workshops on holding public events. Your group may request one in advance from your regional office or the regional office hosting the Annual General Meeting. Or your group may request a trainer to come to your group to hold a workshop on public events.

### ***Generate attendance***

Generating attendance at your event is frequently the most difficult part of creating success, and groups regularly underestimate how difficult this will be. For "news" events like demonstrations, circulate sign-up sheets to all area groups. Your area coordinator can help you or give you the phone numbers of other groups' coordinators. In the days leading up to your event, call the people who signed up to remind them to turn out. For "arts" events, ask your group's members to sell tickets in advance. In general, impersonal appeals to the public such as newspaper advertising and mailed invitations sell **very few** tickets. If your group's members do not have confidence in their ability to sell tickets to your event, consider designing a different event.

Your committee may choose to make publicity flyers for your event. Even though they are not likely to have a significant effect on attendance, they can be used to put pressure on your target government. Any flyer should feature your target country and the name of your prisoner (see Exhibit 11-8). Post flyers around town. Photograph them in the public environment. Send the photographs and flyers to your target government.

### ***Generate quantity actions***

Plan to have a table or booth at your event where members of the public can --

- sign petitions.
- pick up pre-printed postcards, photocopied letters, and/or case summary flyers (see Chapter 6).
- make a donation to your group. Use a can marked "Amnesty International Donations."

Replace this page with Exhibit 11-2

## **Media in the U.S.A.**

The U.S. media are your best bet for coverage of your action file. Your odds of success in garnering coverage will increase if you approach the media carefully (see next page).

### **Information sources**

Compiling a list of all relevant media should not be a time-consuming task. Even for a major news event, you will only want to contact the few newspapers that cover your **local** area; the local news, talk, and public radio stations; local television stations that have local news broadcasts; and wire services that cover your area.

As previously noted, your local media coordinator, area coordinator, and/or Regional Press Officer may have contacts at some news agencies. To find editors at other news agencies, consult --

- the Editor and Publisher Market Guide, (Editor and Publisher Company, 11 W 19th Street, New York, NY 10011, 212-675-4380, 1994, \$100), which lists the addresses, telephone numbers, and leading executives of all major daily newspapers, plus some weeklies, in the U.S.A.
- the directory of your local "press club." It may also list foreign-language publications.
- the Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media (Gale Research, 800-877-4253, 1994, \$340), which lists 36,000 media, including foreign-language publications.

If your library does not have any of these references, ask your librarian if one can be obtained via an interlibrary loan.

After you compile your list, **call each news agency to double check it.** Briefly describe your event, and ask for

the name and title of the person to whom you should direct a press release. Sending a press release to an editor who has not been at the paper for 12 months or to the wrong editor will not help your credibility.

## **Get copies of your media coverage**

If you can't show your target government that your action file was mentioned in the U.S. media, the government probably won't find out about it. Your opportunity to put pressure on the government will have been lost.

If any newspaper prints a mention of your prisoner, buy at least two copies of the paper. Send one copy to your target ambassador. Paste up another copy, with the masthead and date, onto one sheet (see Exhibits 13-5 and 13-6), and make copies.

If your group's efforts will be featured in broadcast media, make sure that the radio or TV show is taped. Then, transcribe the tape and make copies of the transcript (see p. 265).

Send copies of all newspaper mentions and transcripts of radio and TV coverage to --

- several members of your target government.
- the press officer in your target embassy.
- (if approved by your co-group) news agencies in your target country or U.S.A.-based media correspondents for your target country.
- your regional office.
- your group coordinator, for copying and
  - distribution to group members and subsequent inclusion in many letters to officials. Group members can send the same article to the same official over and over again.
  - addition to your group's press clippings file, which is extremely useful in outreach to politicians.
- your local media coordinator.
- your area coordinator.
- SMU AI, 121 Clements Hall, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275-0272.

## **Tips on dealing with the media**

### ***Understand deadlines***

One of the most important things to understand when dealing with the news media is that virtually all journalists operate under intense deadline pressure. When calling the news media, be professional, not chatty. State your case directly, and get to the point quickly. Don't be dismayed if you get what seems to be a quick brush off: ask if there is a better time to call, and call then. **Don't call at deadline:** 4-6 p.m. for a morning daily, 8-10 a.m. for an afternoon or evening daily, 4-6 p.m. for an early evening TV news program. Never call during a broadcast.

News happens 24 hours a day, but it's better news as far as editors and reporters are concerned if it occurs at a convenient time. Most morning newspapers like to have the majority of their stories in hand by 6 p.m. Stories about evening events will probably be held over for the following day's paper, if they are covered at all. Evening newspapers are "put to bed" by 10 a.m., so covering evening events are their bread and butter. Television news shows need about two hours to turn around a story for broadcast, unless it is compelling enough to be shown live. The most attractive time for TV coverage is late morning or early afternoon on weekdays. Consider the media you are trying to attract, and design your event with their deadlines in mind.

Finally, news happens seven days a week, but news organizations have fewer reporters on staff during the weekend, so it may be more difficult to obtain coverage. On the other hand, you may have a devil of a time turning out 200 people for a demonstration during the week, so if it does not happen on the weekend, it will not meet the criteria for a "big story" (see "What is news" on p. 224).

### ***The media has a short attention span***

Unfortunately, the news media usually doesn't stay with one story for very long. The bottom line in working with the news media is that you can't expect to get prolonged exposure on a particular action file or country unless there is some extraordinary new angle. Don't approach the media repeatedly unless you can pitch something new.

### ***Provide background information in writing***

Help the media get your story right by providing background information in writing. Such information includes --

- a case summary (see p. 74), to help avoid inaccurate reporting of your prisoner's situation.
- (optional) background materials on your target country condensed into one- or two-page fact sheets. Some AI country reports have summary sections: these can be photocopied and distributed.
- the name, title, and phone number of the press attaché in your target embassy. If you don't know this information, simply telephone the embassy. You do not have to identify yourself as AI. Urge reporters to call the press attaché for comment. Such a call is in-your-face pressure that your target government cannot ignore.
- a photograph of your prisoner. You will need to make black and white copies of any photo you have in advance.
- the basic blue flyer "When the first 200 letters came . . .," which is available free and in quantity from your regional office.
- "Facts and Figures about Amnesty International and its Work for Human Rights," a five-page EXTERNAL summary produced by the International Secretariat and updated several times each year, which is available from your regional office.

### ***Have a spokesperson***

One person, preferably you, your area coordinator, your local media coordinator, or your group coordinator, should be designated as the spokesperson at the event and **should be available at all times**. The spokesperson should have **no other role** in the event.

Watch everything you say. Remember that any sentences you utter and some you don't can later appear, without context, in print. Students who will be interviewed by the media need to be reminded of this, and they benefit from practice interviews. Don't exaggerate or guess. It's always okay to say you don't know, but you will find out, and you will call the reporter back before his or her deadline.

Know your media objectives for your event. During any interview, make your important points clearly. Repeat them. Spell the name of your prisoner for the reporter, and ask the reporter to include the name of your prisoner in the story.

After the event, let reporters know how they can reach you, and remain available for follow-up calls. Do not ask to review a story before it is printed, as this is considered a violation of journalistic independence. It will also damage your credibility by showing that you don't understand journalism.

### ***What you DON'T say is as important as what you do say***

Be very careful in speaking to the press. You **must not** --

- stray from AI policy by comparing countries or commenting on U.S. foreign policy positions.
- comment, even as an individual, on issues outside AI's mandate (see Appendix II) because this distinction will be lost in any article.
- provide information on sensitive sources, for example, émigrés or your prisoner's relatives in the U.S.A.
- provide information about AI strategies and the rationale for them.
- mention, even if no names are provided, that AI group members are also writing on their own to prisoners.

Do not even tell the media you are writing to your prisoner unless it is okay to tell your prisoner you are with AI. Before you meet with the press, talk with your co-group and Regional Press Officer about what is and is not appropriate to discuss.

## Newspapers and Magazines

Different print media have different missions and handle local news differently. Understand that in most cases you are offering **local** news, or a **local** angle on international news.

Print media include --

- national newspapers.
- major metropolitan newspapers.
- suburban dailies.
- campus newspapers.
- suburban weeklies.
- alternative weeklies or monthlies.
- ethnic or foreign-language newspapers.
- local magazines.
- special interest magazines.
- Amnesty Action.
- SAY.

### *National newspapers*

National newspapers include the New York Times, USA Today, and the Washington Post. Unless your group is in the New York or Washington metropolitan area, contacts with these organizations should be left to AIUSA press officers. If you feel it would be worthwhile to contact these media, contact your Regional Press Officer first.

### *Major metropolitan newspapers*

Major metropolitan newspapers are the dailies that attempt to serve all the cities in a large metropolitan area, for example, the Los Angeles Times. While they carry national and international news, they also devote a large percentage of the "news hole" to local news or to international or national news with a "local angle." To better serve specific parts of their readership area, many of these papers print regional editions or special suburban sections that may appear as frequently as every day or only once a week.

In all probability, there will be only one or two major metropolitan dailies interested in any news from your group. Before contacting major metropolitan dailies, especially those in cities with AI offices, with something other than a calendar listing, be sure to coordinate with your Regional Press Officer. He or she has been making an effort to develop an on-going relationship with the paper.

### ***Suburban dailies***

Suburban dailies are often located in metropolitan areas, but they concentrate on serving only a part of the region. All or almost all of their national and international news is derived from wire services. These papers will usually only cover national or international issues themselves when there is a strong "local angle." It is unlikely that more than one or two suburban dailies would cover your group's activities.

### ***Campus newspapers***

Campus newspapers usually limit their content to material about or by a student. As real "news" and good photo opportunities are rare on campus, it is relatively easy for students to get their news events covered. It is also easier for students to get op-eds and letters to the editor published in their student newspaper than for local residents to achieve the same in a local paper. Further, your target government may be unable to differentiate between a story printed in a campus newspaper and a story printed in a major metropolitan daily. All these factors recommend a campus group tie-in with local group events. For example, a 1992 AI march against the death penalty began at Stanford University and continued to Palo Alto City Hall, guaranteeing coverage from both the Stanford Daily and the local dailies.

### ***Suburban weeklies***

Suburban weeklies typically run no national or international news, unless a strong "local angle" is present. They concentrate on local politics, local community groups and events, and on other "small town" news. Some fit the definition of a "throwaway," but many more practice serious journalism.

Weeklies rarely compete with dailies on "news" coverage, but they may be very interested in publishing features, letters to the editor, or op-eds about your action file.

### ***"Alternative" weeklies or monthlies***

"Alternative" papers are generally distributed free and are characterized by a strong left-wing, right-wing, or libertarian orientation. Virtually every large city -- and even some small cities with universities -- has at least one of these papers. Alternative papers are generally more interested in political news than mainstream newspapers and less concerned about the "local angle."

Recognize that alternative papers may put their own slant on your news or event. For example, in 1991, Group 19 faxed a press release to the San Jose, CA, Metro that began "Members of the Palo Alto chapter of Amnesty International were delighted to learn yesterday of the release of their adopted prisoner of conscience . . . from Syria." The release did not mention Syrian president Assad. The Metro quoted facts from the press release but began its story: "Gosh, maybe Syrian fascist despot Hafez el Assad really is turning over a new leaf, like George Bush says."

### ***Ethnic or foreign-language papers***

Many large cities feature daily or weekly newspapers aimed at an ethnic market. These papers are typically very interested in events relating to their readers' homelands. In many cases, their political bias is much more obvious than that of most English-language newspapers.

Before pursuing one of these papers, consider whether its political bias would render any article either ineffective in pressuring your target government or even harmful to your prisoner. Will you be able to send a copy of the article to your target government? Would there be any other benefit that would justify spending the time to pursue an article?

## ***Local magazines***

Many large cities support one or more local magazines. These magazines tend to be directed at a more upscale market than most newspapers. Magazines have a much longer time frame for production of an issue than do newspapers, so they rarely cover "news." However, local magazines may be interested in AI-related features or arts events.

## ***Special interest magazines***

Your action file may interest magazines aimed at a specific audience. For example, The Quill, which is aimed at journalists, may be particularly interested if your action file involves a journalist.

Before approaching a national magazine, check with the Director of Communications in the National office to be sure there is not already an Amnesty-related story in progress.

Local senior citizen publications may also do features on seniors working on your action file, as well as alert seniors to the opportunity to join your group.

## **Amnesty Action**

Amnesty Action is the quarterly newsletter of AIUSA, sent to all 400,000 members. A 1992 AIUSA resolution requires Amnesty Action to have one page in each issue dedicated to local group news. Send press releases for and photographs of your events to the Amnesty Action Editor in the National office.

## **SAY**

SAY is the bi-monthly magazine sent to all campus groups and to subscribing individuals (see p. 87). If students are working on your action file, send brief reports on your news or a press release to the SAY Editor in the National office. Be sure to describe the efforts of students.

## **What is news?**

Probably the most effective way to shine a spotlight on your action file is to design and hold an event that editors would consider newsworthy.

What editors consider newsworthy may be quite different from what you consider newsworthy. In a news story, editors look for --

- a story with a **local** angle, which involves people **within its defined circulation area**.
- a timely story, which, in the case of AI work, involves countries in the news, important visitors from that country, or issues that people are talking about.
- a story involving prominent people because readers are interested in celebrities and personalities.
- drama or conflict.
- a big story, which means that lots of local people are involved, such as a march with 50 or more people.
- a human interest story. News agencies are often more interested in the imprisonment or killing of one person than 1,000 people. The 1,000 imprisoned are a statistic, but one person has "human interest."
- an unusual or unexpected story, such as teenagers or younger students' doing AI work.
- a visual story, even for newspapers (see the extensive discussion under "News photographs" on p. 243).

If your proposed event doesn't meet many of these criteria, don't waste your time pitching a story. Editors are constantly besieged by "flacks" -- pushy public relations people who give them the hard sell on stories that just aren't newsworthy. If an event is not appropriate for the news media, save your thunder for another time, or **redesign your event** to meet the above criteria.

Be savvy. It may be extremely difficult to get press coverage for a prisoner in a country that the average editor cannot locate on a map, let alone spell. Consider focusing a public event on a country or campaign considered more "newsworthy." During your event, spend 10 to 15 minutes describing the "other work" your group is doing. Speak with the reporters covering your event and explicitly ask them to name your prisoner in their articles. And if your target country is a "minor" country, your target government is probably less aware of sophisticated media techniques in the U.S.A. Any mention in any newspaper, even in a small college newspaper, will have an effect.

Once you have designed a newsworthy event, you need to inform the media. This requires a press release.

## **How to write, send, and follow up on a press release**

### ***Writing a press release***

Exhibits 11-3 and 13-1 show what a press release should look like. Press releases should --

- be typed.
- be double spaced.
- be on AI letterhead. If you have access to a computer with a high-quality printer, consider designing special letterhead with "Press Release" on it.
- be no more than two pages.
- be printed on one side of a piece of paper only.
- consist of **short** sentences.
- include the date of the release.
- have at least one and preferably two contact names and phone numbers in the upper right corner. At least one contact person should be available at any time. If you are contacting a foreign-language news agency, make sure someone who speaks the language is listed as a contact and is at the event.
- have a date on which the press release material can be published in the upper right corner just below the contact names: either "For Immediate Release" or "Embargoed for (TIME AND DATE)." Caution: most but not all newspapers will honor your embargo. If it is **vital** that newspapers not run your story early, delay sending your press release until after the deadline for the previous edition.
- have a headline.
- identify your group as the source, for example, "The Miami chapter of Amnesty International announced . . ." The only press releases that should say "Amnesty International said today . . ." are those issued by the International Secretariat.
- provide the date at which any information or description was accurate ("as of May 15, she had not been charged . . .").
- identify Amnesty International as "a worldwide independent human rights movement" or something similar.
- have "--more--" at the bottom of a page if there are following pages.
- have "--30--" or "###" at the end.

Remember the five W's stressed in Journalism 101: Who, What, When, Where, and Why. Make sure your press release answers those questions in the first two paragraphs -- in the very first paragraph if you possibly can. Ideally, the first sentence would contain the essential message of your press release.

Make your key points quickly. The typical assignment editor will go through hundreds of press releases a day. Say **why** your event is important: "to protest continuing human rights violations in China." Don't include lengthy

background information such as AI reports in initial mailings.

Don't embellish. Extravagant claims about how many people will be at your event or what you hope to accomplish will hurt your credibility. Play it straight.

Briefly describe the visual elements of your event that will lead to a good photograph (see p. 244).

Use quotations. Ask your group coordinator for a quotation on the importance of your event. Quotations make your release more lively.

If you are aiming at radio stations, read your draft press release aloud. Could a news broadcaster use it without much change?

Not everyone has to get the same press release. If it's appropriate, send different releases to different suburban papers, stressing the local angle for their different areas or ethnic populations. Exhibit 13-6 was a customized press release that ran virtually unchanged in a suburban weekly.

### ***Media advisories***

Occasionally, you may want to send out a ***media advisory*** rather than a press release. A media advisory is very similar to a press release, except that it contains a brief summary of background information for a potential story rather than news. For instance, if your Regional Director is going to be in town and will be available for interviews, you would send out a media advisory. Follow the format of a press release. Exhibit 11-4 is a media advisory.

### ***Sending your press release***

At every step in your approaches to the media, make sure editors realize that they are dealing with a local volunteer.

Hand write the addresses on the envelopes containing your press release. Hand write a brief note to the editor, asking that the editor send a reporter and/or photographer to your **newsworthy** event conducted by **local** activists. Clip the note to your press release.

Send your release about two weeks before the event; if it arrives too early it may get lost in the shuffle. Calendar section deadlines are often earlier (see p. 252).

### **Send event-related press releases to local and national wire services for inclusion in local calendars of newsworthy events. Such a calendar is called "the budget" (see p. 266).**

Don't send out multiple press releases to one news agency unless you feel the story could run in more than one section. If you do send out multiple releases to the same news agency, you should "flag" the release with a note telling the recipient which of their colleagues got it as well.

### ***Following up on your press release***

**It is imperative that you telephone to follow up on your press release.** Do not expect to get **any** coverage from a news agency that you do not call. Call about a week after you send the press release, so the editor will have had time to make a decision on your story. Ask politely if he or she has had a chance to review your press release and if the news agency plans to cover it. **Be prepared for the editor to have forgotten, lost, or thrown away your press release.** Be prepared to give a **brief** spiel on your event and why it is of **local** importance. Be prepared to fax another copy of your press release to the editor.

If you get a negative answer, don't fight it. To quote Mark Twain, "Never get into an argument with people who

buy their ink by the barrel."

On the other hand, if you get a "depends on the news day" type of answer, call again on the day before the event, at about the same hour that your event will take place (so you get the right editor), with **new** information and new reasons why the event will be of **local** importance. Be prepared to fax or deliver another copy of your press release.

### ***Breaking news***

If you are dealing with a "breaking news" event -- for example, a quickly organized demonstration at the site of a speech given by an official of your target government -- then you should call, bring your press release into the office in person, or fax it in. But don't make your first contact by telephone unless you have to. This is because it is more efficient for most editors to have something tangible to refer to or to file. If you call, the editor will usually ask you to write it down in a press release anyway. Also, an editor can assimilate information much faster in written form. It's a more efficient introduction.

## **News events**

### ***Demonstrations***

Any large and photogenic demonstration will attract press coverage. Your group can organize a demonstration in front of --

- your target embassy or consulate.
- a firm from your target country that operates in the U.S.A., especially a government-owned firm.
- a theater hosting a play or other cultural event that is sponsored by your target government.
- a trade fair or trade exposition sponsored by your target government. To find out when such trade events will take place, call the trade attaché at your target embassy or consulate and ask, or check with chambers of commerce or business convention centers in large cities. Other sources are Eventsline, available on DIALOG and the Knowledge Index (see p. 24) and Trade Shows Worldwide (Gale Research, 800-877-4253, \$220 for the 1994 edition).

To mobilize support for your demonstration --

- contact other AI local groups in your area.
- contact AI campus groups in your area. Your area coordinator knows how to reach them. Offer help with carpooling.
- contact AI letter-writing and religious- affiliate groups in your area. Your area coordinator knows how to reach them.
- place listings in the calendar sections of local newspapers.
- post your demonstration on PeaceNet (see p. 79).
- contact other organizations. Except for death penalty abolition efforts, it is not permitted to use the name of Amnesty International as a sponsor or organizer of a demonstration or other public event when other groups or organizations have control over it (see Appendix III).

Often Amnesty groups with prisoners from the same country will join together to present a collective protest on behalf of all prisoners in that country. This collaboration is especially appropriate for demonstrations at your target embassy.

Before you plan an embassy or consulate demonstration, consult with your co-group. Usually the first step is to request an embassy or consulate visit (see p. 104). If a visit is denied or if a visit fails to yield results, your group can stage a demonstration in protest.

A demonstration applies pressure on your target government through the resulting media coverage. Since the key to getting media coverage is the number of people who attend, demonstrations are usually scheduled for weekends, even if the embassy is closed. On Saturdays, there may be a staff person on hand to whom you could present petitions or letters for your prisoner. Call on a Saturday, and see if anyone answers the phone.

At daylight events, carry posters, signs, and banners. At evening events, carry candles, torches, or lanterns. A case summary or a case summary flyer should be handed out to passers-by. Be sure to photograph group members distributing case summary flyers.

Demonstrations can be further enlivened and made more attractive to the media with street theater or with masked or costumed figures. This could include someone dressed as the AI candle (see Exhibit 11-5). Group members can hold small signs containing one letter each, which together spell out Amnesty International or your prisoner's name. This action also makes a good photograph.

- **South Korea**, Group 449, Honolulu, HI. The group had collected boxes of signed petitions calling for the release of its prisoner. Petitions had been signed at concerts and other events, and petitions had been distributed through the Monthly Mailing (see p. 63). The group notified local media of a demonstration at the local consulate in Honolulu, and two TV stations, among other media, covered the demonstration. The group brought placards and the petitions. The consulate staff tried to impede the delivery of the petitions, and police blocked access to consulate property. Members of the media went back and forth interviewing a consular official and the AI group. Finally, the consulate had to send someone out to receive the petitions.
- **Syria**. On a Saturday in 1990, 60 group members held a two-hour demonstration outside the Syrian Embassy. Many demonstrators carried signs painted in the Syrian national colors. A demonstrator with a bullhorn led the crowd in responsive chants ("Who tortures? Syria tortures!"). The bullhorn was passed from hand to hand to permit each protester to offer his or her advice to the Syrian government.
- **Chile**, Group 175, Long Beach, CA. The group publicized its meeting with the Chilean consul in Los Angeles, and several reporters turned out to a sidewalk news conference before the event.

Be sure to check with your co-group to make sure that a quiet consulate visit (see p. 104) would not be more effective in achieving your action file's goals.

- **Chile (Campaign)**, Group 11, Manhattan, NY. The group demonstrated at the offices of the country's national airline.

An action such as this requires a well-informed, disciplined group. The employees of the airline will come out and challenge the group with the fact that they can do nothing about human rights violations in your target country.

- Wrap a chain of handcuffs around a trade commission office. With proper press coverage and the release of an eloquent public statement, a chain could make a memorable symbol -- even if it only lasted for a short time. Do not cross the line into civil disobedience, which is forbidden by AI policy.

## ***Marches***

Marches are also photogenic and attractive to the media. They may require more permits than a demonstration, and you will need more participants to create the appearance of a good turnout. You will need to anticipate how participants will be transported from the ending point of the march back to the starting point.

- **USSR**, Group 61, Ann Arbor, MI. The group organized an 80-mile "Freedom March" from Liberty,

Michigan, to Windsor, Ontario. The walk, which took several days, coincided with the Freedom Festival, which celebrates Independence Day in the U.S.A. and Dominion Day in Canada. The walk was dedicated to the group's prisoner of conscience. It was covered by three radio stations and three newspapers.

- **Chile (Extrajudicial execution)**, University of California at Berkeley. The group held a candlelight march in honor of a Chilean extrajudicial execution victim on the thirteenth anniversary of the 1973 military coup. The march was followed by a speech by the Chair of the AIUSA Board of Directors and a presentation of the movie Missing, which dramatized the effect of the coup on one American family.
- San Francisco, CA, Campus Groups. On one Saturday near Human Rights Day (December 10), students visit ten consulates, including the consulates of prisoners adopted by local groups. Each campus group gets pledges for walking to all ten consulates, and the money goes to each school's group. Students carry signs publicizing particular action files. The event is used to deliver petitions: if a consulate is closed, then petitions are put in a mail slot; if this is not possible, petitions are delivered via the mail. Students sign a liability release. One year the marching students joined a demonstration at the Chinese consulate.
- **China (Investigation)**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. For an imprisoned student activist, the group held a "Human Rights Walk" on June 3, 1990, to coincide with the first anniversary of the Tiananmen square incident. Group members wore and sold T-shirts that read "Where is (NAME OF PRISONER)?" The event was covered by two TV stations and a newspaper.
- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**. AIUSA, the ACLU, the NAACP, and the International Indian Treaty Council organized the March Against State Killings, a 120-mile trek from Sacramento, CA, to San Quentin prison, the site of California's death row. The march began with a rally at the state capitol. While early press coverage was very good, four days after the march started, the Loma Prieta earthquake hit the San Francisco Bay Area, and that was the end of the press coverage.

### ***Bike rides***

A mass bike ride has the advantages of being unusual and photogenic.

- **China**, North San Francisco Peninsula High Schools. With funding from a Special Initiatives Fund grant (see Appendix IV), 45 students participated in a six-mile bike ride. Each student wore an AI T-shirt that said "Human Rights for China" in English and Chinese. Ten riders carried signs calling attention to human rights violations. The students rode through San Francisco to the Chinese consulate, where they joined a demonstration of 200 activists. Students spoke at the demonstration. In China, condemned individuals must wear signs around their necks, and so did the students. At the end of the demonstration, the students put the signs in a coffin. This event attracted much press coverage and is now an annual event held in June.

### ***Vigils***

Vigils are often very impressive and make a deep emotional impact. They require fewer participants than a demonstration. Many vigils last at least 24 hours and are maintained by a system of shifts. The tone of the vigil should be solemn, and the banners, signs, and flyers should stress the moral and humanitarian issues you are raising. A vigil can be held --

- in a public square.
- in front of city hall or another public building.
- outside your target embassy or consulate.
- outside a church or historic building in your community.

Have each person wear a placard with the name of a prisoner and the "crime" for which he or she

was sentenced. Put a blown-up photograph, if one is available, on a placard.

Wear masks representing the faceless "disappeared."

For vigils for prisoners who have died, ask nearby churches or college bell towers to toll funereal peals.

- **China**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. During the AIUSA Annual General Meeting in Washington, DC, group members attended a vigil in front of the Chinese embassy and attempted to present petitions at the door.

AIUSA conference weekends are excellent times to schedule demonstrations, marches, and vigils because of the ease of gathering enough participants. Contact the regional office hosting the conference if you would like to schedule a protest at an embassy or consulate. Annual General Meetings traditionally rotate through the five AIUSA regional office cities, so AIUSA members expect the following schedule: 1994 in Chicago, 1995 in Boston, 1996 in Washington, 1997 in San Francisco (2002 in Los Angeles), and 1998 in Atlanta.

- **USSR**, Group 61, Ann Arbor, MI. The group held a 24-hour candlelight vigil in front of the state capitol during Human Rights Week, which is the week including December 10. The candle was seven feet high and shrouded with a sheet bearing a drawing of the group's prisoner of conscience and an inscription. Citizens were invited to sign their names on the sheet, which was later sent to the head of the target government. Press releases were sent to 83 news agencies. During the vigil, the group was interviewed by newspapers, four radio stations, and three television stations.
- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, State University of New York at Geneseo. The group holds an annual candlelight vigil on the campus. All the names of those executed in the U.S.A. since 1973 and those on death row are read, which takes two to three hours.
- **Chile ("Disappearance")**, Groups 9, 11, and 26, Manhattan, NY. The groups held a vigil for "disappeared" persons. For 52 hours, group members kept 21 candles burning continuously. The names and biographies of the "disappeared" were read aloud.
- Group 21, Davis, CA. The group set up a "Cemetery of Remembrance" for three days during Human Rights Week. The cemetery consisted of 2' by 20" by 1.5" wooden crosses bearing the names of 135 nations that continued to violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A table was set up nearby with letter-writing instructions for prisoners of conscience. Little white paper crosses were passed out to be worn by students, faculty and staff; the crosses bore the names and countries of prisoners of conscience dead and alive. A closing ceremony was held in the late afternoon of December 10, during which 135 candles were lit.
- (**"Disappearance"**), Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group held a vigil for "disappeared" persons from around the world. During the vigil, group members recited the names of more than 1,000 "disappeared." Participants wore name tags with the names and faces of some "disappeared." Five-foot canvas banners with the faces of "disappeared" painted on them were displayed behind the participants.
- **USSR**, Group 167, Bronx, NY. For a prisoner of conscience whose job in a labor camp was to make gloves, the group held a silent vigil (termed a "glove-in") outside the Soviet residence compound in Riverdale, NY. Five gloves were sewn, one for each year of the prisoner's sentence. Later, the gloves were sent to the Soviet Embassy.
- **USSR**, Group 421, Alexandria, VA. The group held weekly vigils near the Soviet Embassy in Washington, DC. Petition signatures were gathered. The vigils resulted in an interview on a Voice of America radio report.
- Group 21, Davis, CA. The group built an eight-foot "Candle of Hope" made of chicken wire and butcher paper. The names of 100 prisoners of conscience and their countries were printed on the paper. The group took photographs of the candle and faxed them to embassies. The group held a one-hour vigil on Human Rights Day, during which each participant read an except from the 1989 AI Annual Report and the candle was lit (see Exhibit 11-3). The Sacramento Bee reported on the

vigil and mentioned the case of a poet in Malawi.

### ***Mock incarcerations,***

Mock incarcerations personalize human rights violations. They are both vehicles for human rights education and attractive to the media, especially if students or celebrities are involved.

- Group 21, Davis, CA. An 8' by 8' by 8' prison cell was erected outside the University of California at Davis Memorial Union. Local citizens and representatives of campus groups stood four-hour shifts in the cell, 24 hours a day through Human Rights Week. Two different cases were used each day to demonstrate geopolitical balance. Group members staffed a nearby table with letter-writing instructions, stationery, and sample letters on behalf of the prisoners of the day. Completed letters were placed in a mailbag attached to the cell. The event generated considerable press and letter-writing activity (see Exhibit 11-6, an editorial cartoon from the university newspaper). A four-page description of this event, "Imprisonment for Freedom," is available from the National Student Program Coordinator in the Mid-Atlantic office.
- Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX. Two students were locked inside a student-built jail for 48 hours and fed only bread and water. The event drew local and national press; the group gathered over 4,000 petition signatures in the two days.
- **Czechoslovakia**, Palo Alto High School. The editors of the student newspaper were held in a barbed-wire "prison" until enough signatures were collected on a petition. The San Jose Mercury News ran a long story with a four-column-wide photograph of the students in the barbed wire cage; an AIUSA banner hung in the background.
- Group 158, Fargo, ND. The group constructed a tiger cage for the city's Fourth of July celebration and had members of groups who are typical targets in repressive countries take turns in the cage with trumped-up charges taken from AI annual reports. The group asked people to contribute money to "bail" them out. The Mayor of Fargo was a prisoner.

### ***Mock funerals or funeral processions***

Mock funerals or funeral processions for victims of human rights violations can be very powerful events. A day or event of mourning can be organized if --

- your prisoner is killed.
- there are deaths in detention in your target country.
- there are extrajudicial executions in your target country.
- there are judicial executions in your target country.

On occasion the "corpse" can be liberty itself.

- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**. AIUSA and other organizations held a three-mile funeral procession across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. Marchers carried 121 coffin-shaped cardboard boxes draped with black material, one for each person who had been executed in the U.S.A. since 1976. Participants wore black or appropriate dark clothing, not jeans or T-shirts. Each person was given a carnation to pin on his or her outfit. The march took place the weekend before the scheduled execution of a California man. This very visual event generated a huge amount of press and national television coverage, including CNN.

### ***High school essay contests***

Essay contests do not usually meet the criteria for "newsworthiness." To produce press coverage, your group should try to involve members of the press in your contest.

- **Taiwan**, Group 80, San Francisco, CA. For a Taiwanese editor imprisoned for his advocacy of democracy, high school students were asked to write an essay on "What Democracy Means to Me." The winner received an internship at a Congressional office and a \$100 prize. The winning essay was published in a Taiwanese journal and in the Berkeley Monthly. All essays were sent to the government and the prisoner. The group had asked media people to be judges and to donate prizes, which included a tour of the San Francisco Chronicle. After the prisoner was released, he came to the U.S.A. to meet the student who wrote the winning essay.
- **Czechoslovakia**, Carlmont High School, Belmont, CA. For an imprisoned writer, students were asked to write an essay on "Why (NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE) Deserves Freedom." Students in a social studies class received background materials on human rights treaties and laws and on the prisoner. Those students who wrote an essay received extra credit. One of the judges was the publisher of the local suburban daily. All essays were sent to the target government. The contest was sponsored by a local Representative in Congress.

### *Announcement of a new action file*

You may be able to get a news story in a small newspaper when your group starts work on a new action file.

- **Turkey**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The Brunswick Times Record printed an article on the group's adoption of a prisoner of conscience. Later, the same paper covered the prisoner's release (see Exhibit 13-2).
- **South Africa**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The Davis Enterprise printed a story verbatim from the group's press release on the group's adoption of two anti-apartheid leaders (see Exhibit 11-7).

### *Press conferences*

In a **very few** situations, you may get press coverage for a press conference. These would be situations with strong local interest and/or involving countries that are currently "hot" political topics. If you have questions about whether you will be able to attract the media to a press conference, call your Regional Press Officer.

- **China (Campaign)**, Group 65, Seattle, WA. The group organized a press conference on the Chinese human rights situation, which coincided with the opening of the U.S.A./China Symposium and Exposition in Seattle.
- **Guatemala ("Disappearance") and Tanzania**, Group 39, Pittsburgh, PA. The group held a press conference featuring local relatives of two prisoners. The Pittsburgh Press covered the press conference and included letter-writing instructions for the prisoners.

### *Tree plantings*

Tree plantings are photogenic actions that do not require a large turnout to attract a news photographer. If you incorporate celebrities into your action, you may persuade an editor to send a reporter also.

- **USSR**, Group 24, Cambridge, MA. The group planted a tree for its prisoner, a librarian, and dedicated a commemorative plaque on the grounds of the Cambridge Public Library. The ceremony was sponsored by the group, the Cambridge Public Library, and the Cambridge City Council. The date of the planting was declared "(NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE) Day" by the unanimous vote of the Cambridge City Council. Attending the ceremony were three Cambridge City Councilors and about 50 supporters of the prisoner.
- Group 355, Yarmouth, ME. The group plants a tree for a prisoner of conscience every year in the town park. The group now has a grove where they hold vigils and start marches. The group plans to dedicate a bench with a plaque in the grove.

- **South Korea**, Group 129, Stony Brook, NY. For a Korean real estate businessman, a local realty company let the group plant a tree on their property. The group turned a black and white photograph of the event into a pre-printed postcard. The photograph included a large sign, which read "Free (NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE)."
- **USSR**. Representative Studds planted a tree in honor of an imprisoned Jehovah's Witness. Members of the group held a sign that said "Freedom for (NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE)" in Russian. The sign and the Representative were photographed together.
- Many state conservation departments will give away or sell cheaply seedlings for people to plant. Independent groups, such as the Tree People in Los Angeles, can offer technical advice. Arrange to get 300 to 500 seedlings and attach a case summary flyer to each. Ask VIPs and members of the public to plant them and to write a letter, using the tree as a reminder to continue to work on behalf of your prisoner. You will need some kind of public kick-off event to get press attention.

*High-level AI speaker*

If the Chair of the Board of AIUSA, the Executive Director of AIUSA, or the Secretary General of AI comes to speak in your community, the local papers may cover it. Privately suggest to reporters covering the visit that they write a sidebar on the activities of your group (a local angle), with a mention of your action file. You may be able to arrange for a reporter to get an "exclusive interview" with the speaker, during which the speaker can mention your prisoner.

- Group 169, Brunswick, ME. Ian Martin, then-AI Secretary General, spoke at Bowdoin College. A lengthy story on the speech also described the situation of four prisoners of conscience. This was part of Banned Books Week (see p. 7).

*Other news events*

- **Czechoslovakia**, Mills High School, Millbrae, CA, and 26 other schools. Campus groups in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Cleveland, OH, held simultaneous events at their schools to commemorate the birthday of their prisoner of conscience (see Exhibit 11-13). Most schools had a birthday party with cake during their lunch hours while four "media target" schools had speakers, including two Representatives in Congress, two Mayors, and a released prisoner of conscience from the target country. In one day, 3,500 signatures were collected on a petition for the prisoner's release. In addition to several local newspapers and television and radio stations, Monitoradio, AP, and UPI covered the events. As suggested by the AI media coordinator, the AP reporter called the Czechoslovakian embassy for comment. BBC Radio broadcast news of the event into Czechoslovakia in the Czech language.

This set of events was aggressively promoted to the media as "unprecedented" and "the largest action by students for a single prisoner of conscience in the history of Amnesty International USA."

- **Czechoslovakia**, Woodside High School, Woodside, CA. The group held a day-long fast highlighted by a lunch-time event with a speaker, a local politician. Group members dressed all in black and wore white armbands. This event generated a news photograph in a suburban daily. A freshman state assemblyman, who had not worked with AI before, wrote the students featured in the photograph to congratulate them on their efforts.

While teenagers going on a fast has more of a "man bites dog" quality than adults going on a fast, fasting in and of itself will not attract the press. A fast needs to be tied to an event.

- **South Africa**, Group 30, San Francisco, CA. For an imprisoned religious leader believed to be on a hunger strike, the group held a sympathy fast in a U.S. church of the same denomination and invited the local media. The group showed a videotape of the prisoner of conscience being interviewed. The event included a speaker from AI. The group provided letters and petitions for participants to sign.
- **El Salvador**, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME. The U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador received an honorary doctorate from Bowdoin. On that day, during a press conference, the college's

commencement speaker presented him a statement of concern over the situation in El Salvador as well as a copy of the AI report on human rights in El Salvador.

- **Brazil (Campaign)**, Mid-Atlantic office and volunteers. The organizers hired a Brazilian musician, rented a flatbed truck, decorated the truck with banners and posters explaining the Brazilian human rights situation, and drove it around targeted areas. During the drive the musician sang and played his guitar, and AI members used a public address system to describe human rights violations in rural Brazil. Volunteers distributed leaflets among the public, who reacted favorably. Brazilian journalists covered the event.

Be sure to get approval from your co-group before contacting a foreign journalist.

- **Colombia**, Group 80, San Francisco, CA. On "Colombian Coffee Day," several coffee stores close to one another were the location for information tables with petitions and case summary flyers on human rights violations in Colombia. Coffee merchants were asked to donate 50 cents for every pound of Colombian coffee sold that day. Hold a write-a-thon. In a write-a-thon, each participant gathers pledges for each letter written during the event (see Exhibit 6-10 on p. 77, a write-a-thon pledge sheet, and the action on p. 78). To get press attention, this should be a **large** event involving local celebrities and many AI groups, **especially** campus groups and children, the younger, the better. Make photogenic props, such as an oversized box decorated as a mailbox and surrounded with barbed wire (see "News photographs" on p. 243). Contact local volunteer groups such as church groups and college fraternities, and arrange for their members to participate in the write-a-thon as part of their service function. Your AI group needs to provide refreshments, sample letters, case summaries (see p. 74), letter-writing instructions (see p. 37), guidelines on letter-writing (such as Exhibits 4-3 or 4-4), and stationery. Exhibit 11-8 is a flyer for a write-a-thon. While the focus of that write-a-thon was the "newsworthy" China campaign, the publicity also named prisoners from other countries.

Hold a teach-in, which requires a controversial topic such as the death penalty. Both sides of the issue should be presented by speakers and by background materials.

If your group has another prisoner who is released, it is news and an outstanding opportunity to get your continuing action file mentioned in the press (see Chapter 13 and Exhibit 13-3).

#### **Visits of foreign leaders and officials**

One of the best opportunities for media actions, involvement of politicians, and direct appeals by your group occurs when a leader or official of your target country visits the U.S.A. To take advantage of this opportunity, your group needs to --

- gather information on the visit.
- prepare for actions.
- enlist the assistance of Members of Congress.
- enlist the assistance of the media.
- take action.
- report back to the International Secretariat.

#### **Gather information**

How do you find out when and where foreign leaders are coming? Check the Reuters or Associated Press calendar of upcoming events, called the **Daybook**. These calendars are available through on-line services such as DIALOG and CompuServe (see p. 24). Other sources include --

- local newspapers.
- organizations that frequently invite foreign leaders as speakers, such as San Francisco's Commonwealth Club and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. Ask your group if anyone is or knows a member of such an organization.
- members of AIUSA campus groups at local universities. Ask them to alert you to any visitors from

your target country.

Once you have discovered that a foreign leader is coming, alert your co-group. If your group has a relationship with a Representative in Congress, alert the Representative's staff aide responsible for human rights.

You may be able to get information about the leader's schedule by calling your target embassy or consulate. You don't need to identify yourself as an AI member. You may also be able to get help from your Representative in Congress, the Mayor of the city hosting the visit, the police in the city hosting the visit, or a friendly reporter.

***One of the best opportunities for media actions, involvement of politicians, and direct appeals by your group occurs when a leader or official of your target country visits the U.S.A.***

#### *Prepare*

Determine if there will be an opportunity for --

- a member of your group to talk with the leader in a meeting arranged through the embassy, a consulate, or a trade commission.
- a member of your group to appeal to the leader directly, for example, at a public event.
- a demonstration at an event not open to the public.
- a Member of Congress or other non-AI individual to meet with the leader.
- a member of the press to interview the leader.

Consult carefully with your co-group. If the leader will be visiting your city, make an arrangement with your co-group and perhaps with the International Secretariat for possible emergency consultation during the actual visit. This preparation will allow you to respond to difficult questions from reporters **before** their deadlines.

If the government official is going to another city, coordinate with the regional AIUSA press officer and the area coordinator in that city before sending off information on your action file to media in that city. This coordination will not only increase the likelihood of a sympathetic reporter or editor receiving the information, it will reduce the appearance that in AI, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing.

#### *Enlist the assistance of Members of Congress*

If the government leader or official will visit Washington, ask your co-group to coordinate with the DC office, which may be able to identify Members of Congress and State Department officials who would be willing to inquire about your action file. Your Representative in Congress should be willing to pass information about your action file to the Members of Congress or State Department officials who will be meeting with the leader.

Provide the U.S. government officials who will meet with the leader --

- a case summary.
- **suggestions** for talking points.

Ask how you can follow up with the U.S. politician or official on the results of any meeting.

#### *Enlist the assistance of the media*

Any foreign leader who visits your area is likely to be interviewed by members of the media in your community. By briefing reporters and editors of your concerns prior to the visit, you can have influence on the questions that reporters ask the leader.

Check with your Regional Press Officer, media coordinator, and/or area coordinator for contacts at local news agencies. If necessary, call each news agency, and ask for the name and exact title of the editor who will assign a reporter to cover the visit. Send each editor or other contact a letter or fax with --

- information on the schedule of the leader.

- an explanation of why the leader's visit is important to the **local** community.
- **suggestions** for a **few** questions to ask the official.
- your day-time phone number and the hours you are at that number.
- an offer to be a resource person on human rights issues. Your target government or its public relations firm may spread disinformation in advance of a leader's visit.
- an offer to provide a **local** angle on the story, that is, the activities of your group.
- a case summary.
- copies of major press clippings on your action file. This helps to establish your action file's credibility as worthy of news coverage.
- copies of any letter written by a Member of Congress.

### **Follow up** your letters **with telephone calls.**

For each letter you send out to a reporter or editor, fax a copy to the embassy and/or local consulate, to both the ambassador and to the embassy's press officer. If you don't know the name and title of the embassy's press officer, call the embassy and ask. Hold the fax until the day of the leader's visit, as you don't want his or her schedule to be changed or any reporter to be denied an interview.

At most public events you will be unable to meet with the foreign leader. However, at such events you probably will be able to seek out and find members of the press covering the event. Offer to give them another **local** angle to the story. If you hold a demonstration at the event, reporters will seek **you** out. In either case, be prepared with materials to give the reporters, such as --

- a press release about the group's response to the leader's visit.
- a case summary.
- a photograph of your prisoner.
- the excerpt on your target country from the most recent AI Annual Report.
- "Facts and Figures about AI," which is available from your regional office.

#### *Take action*

Potential actions include --

- requesting a meeting with the leader during his or her visit.
- meeting with the leader before or after a speaking engagement or other appearance.
- asking individuals who will be meeting with the leader to inquire about the action file or to deliver actions such as petitions.
- holding a demonstration at a place the leader will appear.
- **Bulgaria**, Group 297, Silver Spring, MD. The group found out that the deputy foreign minister of Bulgaria would be in Washington, DC. They got information on their case to Members of Congress who were to meet with him. The Senators and Representatives were very receptive.
- **Turkey**, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX. The group learned of a campus visit by the then-prime minister of Turkey, Turgut Ozal. A demonstration to protest human rights violations in Turkey was held outside the building where Ozal received an honorary doctorate, and petitions were presented to him by members of the AI delegation. To draw attention to human rights violations in Turkey on the night before the Ozal visit, the group held a candlelight vigil, which also received press coverage.
- **China (Investigation)**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group attended a lecture by a Chinese diplomat at the University of Wisconsin. The group presented the diplomat a letter to be delivered to the Chinese ambassador. The group also met a student who had heard the prisoner speak in Nanjing. He showed the group pictures of the prisoner and the demonstrations. The group got valuable contacts -- people who knew the prisoner well.
- **Peru**, Group 304, Winnetka, IL. Group members attended an address by a former president of Peru. After the talk, the group members identified themselves as members of AI and spoke with him

privately.

- **China**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group attended the Tibetan exhibit at Mitchell Airport and met with the Chinese consulate general. The group presented him a letter asking for information about the prisoner's status. The presentation was filmed by a local TV team. The event appeared on the news that evening.
- If the government leader will take part in an outdoor event, consider chartering a small airplane that can trail a banner calling, for example, for freedom for your prisoner of conscience. This costs about \$200. Alternatively, consider hiring a skywriting airplane.
- **South Korea**. When AI's Italian section found out when the South Korean prime minister was arriving, the section approached the Italian minister of foreign affairs to take up prisoner of conscience cases with the prime minister. The Korea Times followed this up with a report that AI-Italy had brought up the three cases.
- **China**, Group 21, Davis, CA. See the sister city action described on p. 213.

#### *Report back to the International Secretariat*

Report back to your co-group in writing after the visit of the official. They will forward your report to the International Secretariat. But if the U.S. visit is part of an international tour by a leader of a country, let the International Secretariat know **immediately** if there were any problems, so the AI section in the next country the leader will visit can be warned.

#### **Regular AI column**

Some small newspapers may permit your group to have a regular column in the paper. Look for papers that print columns by other organizations.

- **USSR**, Group 316, Minot, ND. The Minot Daily News prints a monthly column, written by Group 316, about its prisoner of conscience, AI, and group activities.
- (**Children's Campaign**), Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The Brunswick Times Record publishes AI columns (see Exhibit 11-9). Notice how the author of the exhibit tied the Children's Campaign to a current news story.

#### **News photographs**

An excellent way to get coverage that transcends the boundary of language is to request a photographer to cover your event. An editor may be willing to assign a photographer to your event even if he or she cannot or will not send a reporter. Exhibits 11-10 and 6-3 are news photographs.

To persuade an editor to send a photographer, you must be able to describe a scene that will make a good news photograph. A speaker is usually not sufficient. The San Jose Mercury News, for example, has a policy of not sending reporters or photographers to cover speakers, and this policy extends to speeches by former Presidents of the U.S.A.

Photographers and editors look for the following in a local news photograph:

- **Local people** -- local politicians do not count as local people but may be included in the photograph. High school students or younger students active in AI are an advantage. Local celebrities other than politicians are an advantage.

#### **Photogenic and interesting object(s)**, such as --

- a banner with large, clear lettering and/or a large portrait of your prisoner.
- a large poster, possibly with a drawing or photo of your prisoner.
- signs with large, clear lettering.
- a large cake.
- an oversized petition. Some of the writing on the petition must be very large, especially the name of

your prisoner (see Exhibit 6-3).

- giant candle(s).
- helium balloons.
- kites, especially for Chinese prisoners. According to Chinese folklore, when the string of a flying kite is cut, it carries away all the threats to its flyer on its fall to the ground. Print the name of your prisoner on a kite.
- a cemetery of large crosses.
- T-shirts with the name of your prisoner in large, clear letters.
- black flags, a symbol of protest.
- a tree.
- a barbed wire or other mock prison.
- prominent black, white, or colored armbands, or black ribbons pinned to lapels.

**Action**, such as --

- cutting the cake.
- planting the tree.
- tying down the balloons.
- flying the kite.
- lighting the candles.
- signing a petition.
- demonstrating before an embassy.
- marching with banners or signs.
- your group holding hands in prayer or meditation.
- your group singing.

In setting up your event, place banners, posters, or signs with your prisoner's name in the area where the action to be photographed will occur.

The photographer will have to provide a one-, two- or three-sentence caption for the photograph. Provide the photographer with --

- the full names of the local people in the photo and their AI affiliations, for example, Jim Smith, Coordinator of Amnesty International's Palo Alto Chapter.
- the name, country, profession, and age of your prisoner. Mention that it could help insure adequate treatment for your prisoner if his or her name appeared in the paper.
- one sentence on why you are holding the event, for example, "We are holding this event to show the (TARGET COUNTRY) government that we in the (NAME OF TOWN) community will never stop working for freedom for (NAME OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE)." Do not say that you are holding the event for publicity, or to get the photograph in the newspaper, as editors do not like to hear this.
- a case summary (see p. 74).

Your group can often get copies of the photographs from the news photographer if you make your request **before** he or she goes to the darkroom. Tell the photographer what you would do with the photographs if he or she gave you some or provided them for a small fee. Photographers always make extra prints, but if they are unwilling to give them to you, don't push.

Two members of your group should photograph the event. One should shoot black and white film, so that photographs can be provided to Amnesty Action, to newspapers in your target country, and/or to the local press when your prisoner is released. Take group photographs of all the people at the event, to demonstrate the number of people who care about your prisoner. If television cameras come to the event, be sure to photograph them at work.

Editors from **very small** weekly papers may be willing to run your black and white photographs of your events,

but you should only offer your photographs if the excuse for not sending a photographer is "no photography staff" or "I am the photography staff, and I have to be somewhere else."

Mail some photographs, along with any newspaper photograph, to the embassy and the government.

Send a black and white 5" by 7" or 8" by 10" glossy photograph to Amnesty Action, along with a recommended caption. Be sure to put your name and address on the back of the photograph so it can be returned to you. After it is printed, you can report to your target government that the published photograph was seen by more than 400,000 Americans.

Give some photographs to your group coordinator. Your group should keep a photograph library of past activities, guest speakers, officers, and the prisoners you have worked for. These photographs may be useful for feature articles on your work.

#### **Features**

News stories have a "time" element: no daily newspaper is going to run a story on your group's demonstration two weeks after the event. Features, however, are stories with no "time" element, and they appear in both newspapers and magazines.

Consider offering three types of features to your local paper --

- general features, for example, on your group.
- personal profiles, for example, on members of your group.
- interviews with former prisoners of conscience.

#### *General features*

News agencies are always looking for interesting local organizations to cover. Few organizations are as interesting as an AI group -- why are all these local folks writing to these strange foreign countries?

When proposing a feature to an editor, stress, as you would with a news story, the **local** angle. Add any human interest angle you can -- newspapers seem to be particularly interested in groups that correspond with the families of prisoners overseas. But be sure to check with your co-group before you release such information.

Consider inviting a reporter to a letter-writing session or other photogenic activity. Give the reporter a case summary.

You should brief your group prior to contact with the media on --

- what is and is not appropriate to discuss with the media.
- the group's objectives for the media coverage, particularly the mentioning of the prisoner's name.

Group 19's media coordinator explicitly tells editors and reporters how valuable it is to a prisoner's health and safety for his or her name to appear in the newspaper, and this has always resulted in the prisoner's name being mentioned.

If the reporter wants to attend a regular group meeting as part of the story, make it clear **at the outset** that some of the proceedings are **off the record**.

- **Philippines ("Disappearance")**, Group 35, San Jose, CA. The group succeeded in getting a feature story, with a photograph, on the group's work for its prisoner in the San Jose Mercury News.
- Group 169, Brunswick, ME. On Human Rights Day (December 10), the group was the subject of a feature story on its history and activities. The group's prisoners were mentioned in the story.

#### *Personal profiles*

Human rights activists also may be the subjects of features. Is there a member of your group who has been active in AI or other human rights organizations for many years and has interesting stories to tell? Has someone been elected to the AIUSA Board of Directors, promoted to a national-level volunteer position in AIUSA, such as a co-group leader, or received some other award? Many news agencies have special story slots for volunteers, award-winners, and general "do-gooders." Some papers especially value stories on youths or senior citizens.

The subject of the story should be briefed on your action file and should be instructed to raise it during the interview.

- Peninsula magazine (published on the San Francisco peninsula) ran an extended interview with long-time AI activist Ginetta Sagan.

#### *Former prisoners*

As we all know, the stories of former prisoners can be dramatic and poignant. An articulate former prisoner of conscience is an almost sure-fire story idea. If one lives in your area, understands AI's work, and hasn't been "overexposed" in the local media, he or she should be a wonderful profile subject. Contact your regional office to discover if a former prisoner of conscience lives in your area.

Again, the former prisoner of conscience should be briefed on your action file.

#### **Religion section**

Editors of religion sections will be interested in activities by members of religious communities and in activities on behalf of a prisoner imprisoned due to his or her religion. Approach a religion editor by letter with a brief story idea and a promise to call the following week. When you call, be sensitive to the fact that he or she may be under time pressure, and volunteer to call back at a more convenient time. Ask when that would be.

A religion editor will be interested in actions such as those described on pp. 125 to 127.

#### *Arts or living section*

The major goal of an event that will be covered in the arts or living pages is usually either fundraising or outreach. However, you may be able to garner media coverage for your prisoner without harming your event's fundraising or outreach goal. If so, go for it. Think about using breaks or intermissions in your events as opportunities for people to carry out quantity actions such as signing petitions, postcards, or photocopied letters.

For an event such as those listed below, contact the arts or living editors of local newspapers about doing a story. Local magazine editors may be willing to print a few paragraphs on your event, especially if it is a large event expected to attract an elite crowd.

These editors are harassed every day by commercial promoters who want free publicity. Stress your advantages -

- local.
- volunteer.
- non-profit.
- good cause.

If an editor is unwilling to assign a reporter to your event, possibly you can convince him or her to send a photographer. Exhibit 11-11 is an arts photograph that appeared in the news pages.

The following events might attract arts or living section coverage.

Contact the director of a local theater company. Ask if the company will --

- perform a play by an imprisoned writer or a play about political imprisonment.

- hold a special performance in honor of your prisoner.

Write and produce a play about your prisoner.

Consider using an existing play or dramatic reading as the focus for an arts or living event, such as the following:

- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, Wayzata High School. "Where Does the Horizon Lie" is a play about a man on death row. The play requires one woman and nine men; it runs about 90 minutes.
- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, Minnesota Satellite Office. "Wheel of Misfortune" is a black comedy that depicts the arbitrariness of the death penalty by putting it in the form of a game show. The play has six characters; it runs about 20 minutes. For both "Where Does the Horizon Lie" and "Wheel of Misfortune," contact Alissa Winternheimer c/o Winternheimer, 2450 Garland Lane, Plymouth, MN 55447, 612-475-0994.
- "Every Good Boy Deserves Favor" by Tom Stoppard (Grove Press, 800-521-0178, \$7.95) is a three-man play about a political prisoner and an insane person imprisoned together in a mental institution. Tom Stoppard has permanently given any AI group permission to produce this play.
- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, Group 60, Denver, CO. "James Terry" is a 45-minute play about James Terry Roach, a mentally retarded man executed by the state of South Carolina. The play requires at least six actors, some of whom perform double roles.
- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, Group 60, Denver, CO. "Killer's Head" is a ten-minute monologue given by a man in an electric chair. For both "James Terry" and "Killer's Head," contact Jeremy Cole, 303-698-9372.
- "When the First Two Hundred Letters Came" weaves together words and phrases from AI members' letters to prisoners and their responses. The play requires six professional-caliber performers and runs about 80 minutes. The fee to perform the play is \$25 or negotiable depending on the contribution to AI. To contact playwright Marie Cartier, call the membership department of the Dramatists' Guild, 212-398-9366, and request Marie's current contact information.
- **Chile**, Smoky Hills High School and Group 60, Denver, CO. The groups performed a six-page, nine-person dramatic reading on human rights violations in Chile; the reading also introduces AI. Groups can obtain copies from the National Student Program Coordinator in the Mid-Atlantic office.

The Urgent Action office has developed three different dramatic readings that your group could perform. Contact the National Student Program Coordinator in the Mid-Atlantic office to obtain --

- a 3-page, 7-person reading about Urgent Action cases in the USSR, Israel, Afghanistan, the Sudan, South Africa, and Chile.
- a 6-page, 15-minute, 15-person reading describing the growth of the Urgent Action Network as illustrated by 13 Urgent Action cases. This reading was first performed at the 1987 AIUSA Annual General Meeting.
- a 7-page, 10-minute reading made up of excerpts of letters written by children and excerpts from government replies. It requires 5 to 14 children and at least one adult.

Group 570, Ravenswood, IL. A group member is developing a pamphlet of literature suitable for public readings, which is expected to be completed in 1993. Contact Maureen Greenwood c/o Amy Greenwood, 708-674-5017.

Consider presenting readings from Conscience Be My Guide, by Geoffrey Bould (Zed Books, Ltd., 165 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716, 908-872-1441, \$15). The book is an anthology of prisoners' writings compiled by a member of AI's British section.

**(Children's Campaign)**, Group 39, Pittsburgh, PA. The group held a month-long series of events in an art gallery. Events included --

- performance art (rap songs and a short play).
- an exhibition of art by local artists.
- a high school art exhibition with a human rights for children theme.
- an afternoon "card party" for elementary students who made greeting cards for prisoners of conscience included in the AIUSA Holiday Card Action (see p. 88).
- a reception with music and letter writing.

**Chile ("Disappearance") and Syria**, Group 96, Santa Monica, CA. The group organized a Mother's Day concert on behalf of its prisoners, in solidarity with the mothers of the "disappeared."

**Syria**, Group 125, Ossining, NY. Pete Seeger and the Sloop Singers staged a benefit concert for the group, which was able to sell all 1,000 tickets and net \$4,400. During the evening, concert goers signed 660 letters on behalf of the group's prisoner of conscience.

**Sri Lanka**, Group 200, Cuttingsville, VT. The group held a fundraising dinner with food and music of its target country.

Another group held a dinner and wrote letters between courses and over drinks. A dinner can be followed by a talk or a film.

35 New York City High Schools. The groups sponsored a five-hour concert called "Jamnesty" in a fashionable night club, with special guests, including a local DJ, Saturday Night Live's A. Whitney Brown, and five popular New York City bands. This event made more than \$4,000, most of which was donated to AIUSA. Signatures were gathered on petitions, and postcards were distributed. For information on this action, contact the Northeast Regional office student coordinator.

Napa County, CA, High Schools. The cluster held a district-wide human rights art contest with categories in sculpture, painting, photography, and others. The local art commission sponsored the contest, and a local winery held a reception at the end. Many presentations were given; much press was generated; awards were distributed; and the art was displayed at local shops and sold to raise funds. This is now an annual event.

**Argentina ("Disappeared" Campaign)**, Group 9, Manhattan, NY. The group held an Argentina Concert Series. All proceeds went to families of the "disappeared." The first concert featured an Argentine mime and was followed by a discussion of the repression of intellectuals and artists in Argentina. Two music concerts were followed by a discussion of the repression of workers and professional groups. The final concert, on two successive nights, was followed by a discussion of the repression of women and children.

Group 158, Fargo, ND. The group held a dramatic reading of the prose and poetry of imprisoned writers around the world.

Hold an Amnesty dance in honor of your prisoner. This action has been successful for campus groups.

Sponsor a walk, run, bicycle race, or other athletic event in honor of your prisoner. You may find that an area hiking club, biking club, or running club would jump at the chance to schedule another event. The club can handle all the logistics that you would have trouble with. Appendix III includes guidelines on co-sponsoring an event.

University of Wyoming. The group sponsored a 5K/10K race. A four-page write up on this action is available from the National Student Program Coordinator in the Mid-Atlantic office.

**Greece**, Group 396, Bainbridge Island, WA. The group held a holiday party on December 21 and laid an extra place for its prisoner. A group member took pictures.

To attract press coverage, such a party would probably have to be open to the public.

**Philippines**, Group 184, Lafayette, IN. The group holds an Annual Fall Folk Festival, with an emphasis on its prisoner.

**Czechoslovakia**, Menlo School, Atherton, CA. The group asked a songwriter to write a song about its prisoner of conscience. The songwriter performed the song at a benefit concert for the prisoner. The performance was videotaped; the tape and lyrics were sent to the target embassy. The lyrics were sent to other officials of the target government, along with copies of the press coverage.

Urgent Action office. Each of 24 Denver area artists created a work based on the biography of a particular prisoner of conscience; the works were shown in a five-week art exhibit. The exhibit featured an opening pops concert by Arlo Guthrie and performances of "When the First Two Hundred Letters Came" and "Every Good Boy Deserves Favor." The Urgent Action office has a film that describes how to hold such a series of events.

**Morocco**, Group 75, Atlanta, GA. The group held a benefit performance of Brian Friel's play "Translations." Proceeds went in part to the prisoner of conscience and his family. The group has no further information on this action.

**USSR**. David Taylor of the David Taylor Dance Theatre choreographed an original dance piece to Shostakovich's "Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, opus 67," which Shostakovich wrote in 1944 in memory of a friend who died in a Nazi concentration camp.

Group 21, Davis, CA. The group holds an annual art show, "Artists for Amnesty" (see Exhibit 12-1) and uses the opportunity to --

- draw the attention of the press to its action files.
- distribute quantity actions.
- raise funds for prisoner relief.

**Bulgaria**, Group 458, San Francisco, CA. The group held a "Balkan Benefit," featuring a performance by an Eastern European women's chorus (Kitka) and a speech by a former Yugoslavian prisoner of conscience. Publicity for the event noted that all proceeds from the event would go towards the group's work for its prisoner of conscience, who was identified by name and country, and the group's other human rights work.

**USSR**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group organized a "Concert of Modern Dance" for International Women's Day and dedicated it to a female prisoner of conscience. International Women's Day was a major holiday in the USSR. The group coordinator was interviewed in advance by Voice of America about the event, and the interview was broadcast to the USSR, where the prisoner's husband heard the broadcast.

**Uruguay**, Group 46, Santa Barbara, CA. The group held an auction of cartoons by Paul Conrad of the Los Angeles Times and Garry Trudeau, among others, to benefit a prisoner of conscience who was a political cartoonist.

**Syria**, Group 191, Brockport, NY. An artist turned letters and newspaper articles on behalf of the group's prisoner into a collage of doves, surrounding a painted image of the group's prisoner. The image was the artist's conception, as the group had no photograph of the prisoner. Prints were made of the 2' by 3' painting; a large professional-quality photograph was sent to the Syrian Embassy to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the prisoner's arrest. The collage generated five newspaper articles and was publicly displayed prior to and during a write-a-thon. Copies of the collage and

articles were enclosed with the group's letters.

The Northeast Regional office commissioned a 12-minute musical piece from composer Thomas Oboe Lee. Lee set to music five poems from the anthology I Never Saw Another Butterfly, a collection of poems and drawings by children who were inmates at the Terezin concentration camp outside Prague. "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" is scored for clarinet, piano, and voice (mezzo-soprano). There is a modest royalty for using this piece. For information, contact the Northeast Regional office.

Approach the manager of a local movie theater. Ask what the schedule is of films for the coming season, and ask who is the distributor. Contact the distributor and ask if there can be an Amnesty benefit performance on opening night. Explain what your press strategy would be.

Write to a performer who lives in your area and ask if he or she would contribute a concert to Amnesty International. **Never contact a performer who has appeared in an AI concert tour without clearing it with Office of the Executive Director in the National office.**

**Eastern Europe**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group held a folk dancing event featuring music of prisoners' countries. Ethnic refreshments were sold.

## Calendar section

Most newspapers and local magazines offer free calendar listings of upcoming events. For any event, incorporate the name of your prisoner and his or her country into your submission for the listing. Calendar deadlines tend to be weeks in advance of the event, even for daily papers.

In some smaller newspapers, it may even be possible to have your group meeting listed. If so, some months you may wish to have, for example, "Special meeting on behalf of (NAME), a victim of extrajudicial execution in (TARGET COUNTRY)."

Obviously, one calendar listing mentioning your prisoner will not impress your target government. But five or ten might, especially if your target country is rarely mentioned in U.S. papers.

## Editorials

Editorials are the usually unsigned opinions of a newspaper. They can carry substantial weight and be of great influence both to your target government and to other persons who might assist you, especially local politicians.

It will probably be difficult to get an editorial that focuses only on your action file, especially from a major metropolitan daily. However, it may be possible to convince an editorial board --

- to write an editorial about human rights violations in your target country, particularly if it is in the news, and to mention local human rights activity and your prisoner.
- to write an editorial about human rights activity in your community, which mentions your action file.
- to write an editorial on Amnesty International and include a mention of your action file, particularly for May 28, the anniversary of the founding of AI, or for December 10, Human Rights Day.

**Contact your Regional Press Officer before you contact an editorial board.** Consult with your local media coordinator and/or area coordinator. Either of them may prefer to make the first contact.

Generally, you start the process by requesting from the editorial page editor a meeting with the editorial board. You will have to provide reasons why AI activities in your local area as well as human rights violations in your target country are important enough to justify such a meeting. You might cite the numbers of people or groups

that are active locally and/or the type and extent of human rights violations in your target country.

Ask your Regional Press Officer if an AIUSA staff member could attend a meeting with an editorial board or be available for telephone consultation. The editorial board will be interested in local AI activity beyond your group, so invite your area coordinator to attend the meeting also.

### Exhibit 11-12

#### **Editorial during Prisoner of Conscience Week**

It is imperative that you have your act together before you meet with an editorial board. Know your goals. Know what key points you would like to see in an editorial, and express them repeatedly in a meeting.

Editorial boards expect you to know your material thoroughly. You should bring a copy of any recent country report, the most recent country listing in the AI Annual Report, and recent country press releases, all of which are available from your regional office. Plan to leave these materials with the Board.

You may find that a small-paper reporter writing an article about your action file is sympathetic to your efforts. If so, you could suggest that the newspaper might want to do an editorial on the action file and your group's activities. Listen to the response you get. If you get an encouraging response, ask how to proceed.

The activities of AI groups in the Palo Alto area have been the subject of three unsolicited editorials in the Peninsula Times Tribune, and each time the names of Group 19's current prisoners have been mentioned.

- **China (Investigation)**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The Madison Capital Times published an editorial about the group's prisoner, a student activist.
- **USSR**, Group 81, Lansing, MI. The Lansing State Journal ran an editorial about the group's prisoner of conscience, a Ukrainian nationalist. The editorial included the time and location of a group meeting.
- **Turkey and USSR**, Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The Brunswick Times Record published an editorial about Amnesty International during Prisoner of Conscience Week in October. The editorial described the cases of both of the group's prisoners of conscience (see Exhibit 11-12).

#### **Op-eds (commentaries)**

Op-eds, also called commentaries, are the signed opinion columns that generally run on the page opposite the editorial page in a newspaper. Op-eds offer your group the opportunity to take your message to your community. They also offer a chance to get your prisoner's situation in newsprint.

No fee is paid for an op-ed. Just like letters to the editor (see p. 256), there can be no guarantee that a submitted op-ed will be used. However, by being flexible and responsive to the op-ed editor, you can maximize the chances that your op-ed will be printed.

Call the newspaper and ask for the name, title, and direct telephone number of the person responsible for the op-ed page. Call that person, who is usually the "op-ed editor," although smaller papers will assign this responsibility to the editorial page editor.

The editor will care that you are --

- local.
- a volunteer.
- not a fanatic.
- writing something of relevance to the community and/or to current news.
- understanding of the time, space, and policy constraints on the editor.

- (if applicable) responding to something that has recently appeared in the paper.

Ask the editor if he or she has time to discuss a potential op-ed, or if there is a better time for you to call. An editor will not be interested in your op-ed at deadline.

Briefly outline the op-ed, and ask if the editor is interested. Ask for suggestions or additions to the op-ed. Identify anything that might affect the optimal date of publication. Ask for a limitation on the total number of words. Ask for a deadline for submission. The op-ed editor will tell you that there is no guarantee that your op-ed will be printed, if submitted, but this warning is given to everyone.

An editor may be more receptive to an op-ed signed by someone important in your community, for example, a bishop, chancellor, doctor, attorney, or judge.

Be simple and straightforward when writing an op-ed. Try to be conversational. Provide the sources of your facts. Don't throw out numbers without backing them up. Avoid being didactic, and don't resort to hyperbole -- when dealing with human rights violations, the facts are usually dramatic enough. But don't be afraid to show some emotion either.

If time constraints permit, review your op-ed with a writer or another member of your group who has a clear writing style.

After you submit the op-ed, call the editor. Ask if the op-ed was okay or if changes should be made. It is better to rewrite your op-ed than never have it appear at all.

Exhibit 11-13 is an op-ed tied to an AI public event. Exhibit 11-14 is an op-ed in response to another op-ed.

Your op-ed is subject to editing for space, style, and grammar. Exhibit 11-13 had a paragraph mentioning the efforts of local Representatives in Congress edited out.

After your op-ed appears, call the editor, thank him or her for printing your op-ed, and indicate that other local AI volunteers would, from time to time, like to submit more op-eds. Listen to the response, and report it to your area coordinator. Even if you get a positive response, don't become a pest by returning to the editor every three months for an op-ed on every new action file activity or campaign.

**USSR**, Group 106, Milwaukee, WI. A Russian supporter of the group wrote op-eds on the group's prisoner of conscience; the op-eds appeared in Chicago and Detroit newspapers.

## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time, but they are particularly appropriate in response to an item that has just appeared in the paper, **especially an editorial**. In any letter, be sure to mention that local people are working on the action file. There is a great deal of injustice in this world; what matters to the editor is that **local** people care about it.

Letters should be as concise as possible. Editors reserve the right to condense letters without your approval, so don't depend on a three-paragraph buildup to make your main point. Practice expressing your ideas in as few words as possible while maintaining the key facts and attribution. A small paper may print letter-writing instructions, but many editors will cut them out. If you ask for letters to be mailed to addresses outside the U.S.A., tell readers how much postage is necessary.

The person signing the letter should be listed in the telephone book, so if the letter sets off an interest in a reader, he or she can find the group easily by locating the letter writer in the phone book.

Sign a letter with your name, and identify yourself as a member of the your local AI group below your signature. Don't send 30 letters to the editor to demonstrate the interest of your group in having a letter to the editor published. Instead, send one on group letterhead, and have the other members of your group sign it also. A letter is even more likely to be printed if it is signed by a prestigious person or persons.

Each newspaper has guidelines on letters to the editor: these usually involve length and format (for example, typed, double-spaced, and less than 300 words). If these guidelines are not printed in the paper, call the paper and ask. Match your letter to the guidelines. If you feel you do not have enough space, consider an op-ed (see p. 254).

Exhibits 11-15 and 11-16 are letters to the editor about prisoners.

Don't send letters to the editor too often: once every two months maximum. But your group can be published more often if you rotate writers and don't explicitly mention AI in some letters.

- Send a letter to the editor about your prisoner, citing the fact that a recent, otherwise excellent story (provide the date) in the paper about your target country omitted discussion of the country's human rights violations. Include brief letter-writing instructions.
- Send a letter to the editor about your prisoner, citing a recent story on human rights violations that omitted discussion of your target country. Include letter-writing instructions.
- Send a letter to the editor thanking the paper for coverage of an action-file-oriented event (see Exhibit 13-4). Include letter-writing instructions.
- Send a letter to the editor thanking the paper for an editorial. Include letter-writing instructions.

*"Some people might well ask, 'But why would any Syrian official give a damn about a letter to the editor published in my hometown's only newspaper? After all, the Daily Eagle has never circulated beyond the town limits of Cutbank, Montana.' To which we reply: The printed word has a powerful impact, regardless of its source. Besides, few people outside of Cutbank have any way of questioning the influence of the Daily Eagle, especially if your monthly cover letter to a Syrian official begins something like this: 'Your Excellency, I would like to take the liberty of bringing to your attention the regrettably grave harm being done to the international reputation of Syria due to publicity in the most influential and widely-read newspaper in my region of the United States . . . .' Such a strategy is likely to grab the attention of the clerk who actually opens the letter in Damascus and who now, it is safe to assume, has strict orders to rush all examples of bad publicity straight to the boss for review."*

-- Syria Newsletter, Middle East co-group

- **Chile ("Disappearance")**, Group 175, Long Beach, CA. A letter about the "disappearance" of an architect appeared in Architectural Review. Letter-writing instructions were included.
- **Chile**, Group 21, Davis, CA. The group sent a letter to the editor about Chilean human rights violations in response to an article in the Food section on cooking with Chilean fruits. This action will only work with small newspapers.
- **USSR**, Group 26, Manhattan, NY. The group recruited six professors of economics at Princeton University to sign a letter to the editor of the New York Times about its prisoner of conscience, an economist, and the letter was printed.
- **USSR**, Group 56, Lexington, MA. The Christian Science Monitor printed a letter to the editor that was written by a Harvard University professor who was a member of the group.
- **Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. In 1986, when Syria was much in the news because of potential help for the American hostages in Lebanon, the group asked the co-group for the numbers of groups with Syrian cases. The area coordinator provided the names and addresses of the coordinators of those groups (these names and addresses are now only available from regional offices). The group drafted a letter to the editor citing recent coverage of Syria in the newspaper, condemning human rights violations in Syria, and including letter-writing instructions for the group's prisoner. The draft and a cover letter were sent to each group with a Syrian prisoner. The cover letter asked each group

to add the name of its prisoner to the letter, to retype the letter, and to send the letter to its local newspaper. Letters to the editor eventually appeared in 11 newspapers. The published letters were clipped from the newspapers and copies were mailed to a number of Syrian officials. Exhibit 11-16 was a letter written as part of this effort.

- **South Africa (Urgent Action)**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. The Peninsula Times-Tribune reprinted an editorial that had originally appeared in the San Diego Union. In response, a group member sent a letter to the editor incorporating letter-writing instructions to the Peninsula Times-Tribune, but the letter was not printed. At the same time, the group member sent a letter addressed to the San Diego Union to the San Diego area coordinator. The area coordinator signed the letter and mailed it to the San Diego Union, where it was printed.

## Exhibit 11-16

### Letter to the editor

**in response to general news coverage**

**[Do not write for this prisoner --**

**he has been released]**

### **Obituaries or death notices**

If you have a death in detention or extrajudicial execution action file, consider contacting a local newspaper about running an obituary or death notice about your prisoner. Death notices may be a form of advertising in your newspaper. In the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner (715,000 circulation), death notices were \$9.65 a line in 1993, and the newspaper required a death certificate.

- **Zimbabwe (Death in Detention)**, Group 427, Rydal, PA. The group found a cooperative reporter on a newspaper staff; the reporter wrote an obituary that was printed. The group sent copies of the obituary to the target embassy.

### **Advertising**

In advertising, your group has control over the content of material that appears in a newspaper. Recognize, however, that even a "charity rate" is expensive, and your group may want to try an op-ed or letter to the editor first. Also, your group may want to reduce its expenditure by sharing the cost with other groups or by having space paid for by named donors. Before doing **any** work on this idea, check into the cost.

Occasionally, you may see small ads in your newspaper for the Red Cross or other worthwhile organizations. These ads are run for free, to fill up otherwise empty space. They are called "public service ads." The Red Cross supplies these ads to newspapers in an assortment of sizes (2", 3", 4", 5", and 6" high by one or two columns wide, for example). If your local paper has a particular affinity with AI, and if you have someone associated with your group who can design and produce camera-ready ads, you may wish to approach the paper about running some. The smaller the ad, the more likely it will run. Even if you get a positive response, there can be no guarantee that any ad will appear, and certainly not at any particular time. Often papers prefer to run in-house ads instead, touting some future stories or other sections of the paper. You may be more likely to be successful with student newspapers.

Some newspapers take "remainder" ads. These ads receive a discount rate because the advertiser does not care where in the newspaper the ad appears or what day the ad appears. The ad appears when an editor has an emergency need to fill space. Again, there can be no guarantee that the ad will appear, but since your group is paying something, it will have more priority than a public service ad.

- **Sudan**, Group 174, Portland, ME. The group placed an ad in the Casco Bay Weekly on October 4, 1990 (see Exhibit 11-17).
- Your group can organize an "opinion" advertisement, with the names of supporters listed at the bottom of the ad.
- **Syria**, Group 356, Woodstock, CT, and others. A full-page ad was placed in the March 28, 1990, New York Times by groups with Syrian prisoners of conscience. The ad featured all of the Syrian prisoners adopted by AIUSA groups. It appeared three days before a demonstration at the Syrian embassy. The ad cost \$12,000, which was raised from the participating groups. The same ad later appeared in the Stanford Daily and in the newspapers of other universities with Middle East Studies departments.
- **Syria**, Group 355, Yarmouth, ME. The group placed a full-page ad in a small paper, the Falmouth Forecaster, for a special rate of \$300. Group members sent letters accompanying the ad to the government, saying the ad had appeared in the largest paper in their area (see Exhibit 11-18).
- **Syria**, Group 26, Manhattan, NY. The group placed a small ad in the Washington Post appealing to the Syrian government for information about their investigation case. To magnify the impact of the ad, every local group coordinator was sent multiple copies of the ad in the Monthly Mailing, along with a request that the ads be mailed to Syrian officials.
- **Israel**, Middle East co-group. An advertisement was placed in the Washington Post to coincide with the visit of the Israeli prime minister to Washington. The ad was an open letter identifying AI concerns.
- **Philippines (Country Action)**. The co-group ran a full-page ad in the western edition of the New York Times.
- See the **Syria**, Group 204 action described on p. 138.

## Radio

**Recall that as an action file coordinator, your main goal is to influence your target government to resolve the human rights violation represented by your action file.** If you do get coverage for your action file on the radio, how would you use that to influence the government? Would you know of the broadcast time in advance so you could advise a local consular official to tune in? If you let the consulate know of your participation in a live talk show, could you handle the planted calls from the consulate's lackeys? Could you make a tape of the broadcast and transcribe it? Could you send the tape to your target ambassador? Will members of your group mention the radio coverage in letters? Radio is a good medium for public relations, education, and membership recruiting, but it may not represent the best use of your time with respect to your action file.

### Types of radio stations

#### *Commercial radio*

Due to federal deregulation of radio in recent years, few commercial radio stations, with the exception of all-news and "talk" stations, devote any significant amount of time to news. But those all-news and talk stations need a lot of material to fill 24 hours. Other commercial stations retain public affairs shows, usually aired early on Sunday mornings, and some stations have reporters.

#### *Public radio*

Public radio stations tend to run more public affairs and news programming than their commercial counterparts. Many are affiliated with national, regional, or state networks, which might rebroadcast a report on your action file.

#### *Campus radio*

Most universities have their own student-supported and/or commercial radio station. A university group sharing your action file may find it relatively easy to obtain an hour of coverage on air to discuss your action file.

## **Generating radio coverage of your action file**

There are basically three ways to get your action file mentioned on the radio --

- coverage of news events.
- public affairs talk shows.
- public service announcements for arts, educational, or outreach events.

### ***News coverage***

All-news radio stations and public radio stations will be interested in any news event that would attract a newspaper (see pp. 228 to 242). Send copies of your press releases to all of the all-news, all-talk, and public radio stations serving your area. In the San Francisco Bay Area, the fifth largest media market in the U.S.A., there are only five such stations.

### ***Public affairs talk shows***

Public affairs talk shows are the radio equivalent of the op-ed page in a newspaper. Some are on late at night or in the pre-dawn hours of the morning, but many shows -- like Michael Jackson's on radio station KABC-AM in Los Angeles -- have large and sophisticated audiences. Nearly all of these shows are hungry for guests. You should be a pretty cool customer to go on the air live -- it's tough to think on your feet, especially if your

interviewer likes to play the devil's advocate and to catch guests off-guard.

Most commercial radio stations, even all-music stations, are required by FCC regulations to broadcast some public affairs shows. Usually these shows are taped in advance. A radio station that plays a lot of music by stars supportive of AI (virtually any rock station!) may be interested in a show on local AI activity. Call the station and ask.

Prepare in advance by determining your objectives in appearing on the talk show. Practice taking questions from other people, especially people who know little about AI. If you cannot explain all of AI's mandate clearly, concisely, and not "by rote," you need more preparation before going on the radio. Your area coordinator, local media coordinator, or another veteran public representative of AI with an attractive speaking voice may be a better choice for the interview.

During an interview, take opportunities to tell your audience how they can join your group and work on your action file. Take general questions on human rights, and personalize them by using your action file as an example. After the interview is taped, alert your target consulate or embassy to the broadcast time.

Calling in to talk shows is a great way to get free air time, especially for the Death Penalty Abolition Campaign near the time of an execution or when legislation is being debated. If you feel uncomfortable calling in, many talk shows will receive faxes to be read on the air.

### ***Public service announcements***

To show an interest in public service as well as to fill time when they can't sell ads, radio stations run public service announcements, or "PSAs," which are prerecorded notices seldom longer than 30 seconds. To get a PSA on the air, contact the public affairs director at the radio station. When trying to persuade a station manager or public affairs director to put an Amnesty PSA on the air, stress that AI is a humanitarian, not a political organization. Most stations will not run a PSA if they consider it "political."

You will probably be instructed to develop PSA texts of various lengths (for example, 10 seconds, 15 seconds, and 30 seconds). Read them aloud, repeatedly, to ensure that the text is clear and fits within the time frame. Include pronunciations of foreign names and words.

### Exhibit 11-19

#### Sample public service announcement

##### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Contact: Tom Gill 758-5758

or Carole Hinkle 756-1020

START: Wednesday, April 10, 1985

STOP: Friday, April 26, 1985

#### **30 SECONDS**

Amnesty International will present a week-long series of public events on "Torture: The Unspeakable Word, the Everyday Act" from April 22nd through 26th in the UC Davis Memorial Union. Speakers at noon and films at 7 PM will focus on the torturers and the tortured, torture as a women's issue, and the historical, psychological, political and legal aspects of torture. All events will be held at M.U. 2, except for Tuesday and Thursday in the Mee Room. For more information, call 756-1020 or 758-5758.

PSAs can be used to promote --

- a special group meeting on behalf of your prisoner.
- a write-a-thon for your prisoner.
- an arts, educational, or outreach event dedicated to your prisoner.

Exhibit 11-19 is a PSA: note the START and STOP dates. Some stations require that PSAs be submitted on their own forms; check with the public affairs director.

- Group 278, Homer, AK. The group wrote and produced human rights radio shows, which included music, testimony, banned prose, and/or poetry. The group informed a target embassy or consulate about a show in advance. Group members taped programs, made transcripts, and sent the tapes and transcripts to target embassies and governments.
- **Chile ("Disappearance")**, Group 175, Long Beach, CA. The group sent a letter about its case to a talk radio station, and a brief summary was read over the air.
- **China**, Group 326, Milwaukee, WI. The group was interviewed about its prisoner of conscience on a Wisconsin public radio talk show.
- **Israel**. The group called its prisoner on a live radio show.
- Group 21, Davis, CA. Group members called talk shows and discussed their prisoner.
- Group 21, Davis, CA. A group member co-hosts a music and talk show on a radio station on an irregular basis. Each show has a different focus, like "human rights" or "THE TARGET COUNTRY." To match the theme, the show includes --
  - music about human rights and/or by artists that support AI (such as Sting or U2).
  - music by artists from the target country.
  - descriptions of prisoner cases.
  - letter-writing instructions.
  - AI PSAs.
- KCRW produces a weekly AI show that is syndicated to many other public radio stations. Shows usually focus on urgent situations facing prisoners of conscience in countries in the news. The

Western Regional Press Officer is the AI liaison with KCRW.

## Television

Television shines a bright but extremely temporary beacon on your casework.

### Types of television entities

There are four types of television entities of interest to you:

- network television.
- local commercial television.
- local public access cable television.
- foreign language television.

#### *Network television*

Do not contact television networks without clearing it with your Regional Press Officer first.

#### *Local commercial television*

Local commercial television stations include both network affiliates and independents. Like metropolitan newspapers, these stations divide their news "space" among local, national, and international topics.

#### *Local public access cable television*

Most franchise agreements with cities require cable television stations to set aside public access channels for general public use. Such channels offer you the opportunity to broadcast information through your own programs or through other public affairs programming.

Usually any member of the community may produce public access TV programming. The station will provide production facilities and complete training in all aspects of producing a program -- running cameras or camcorders, lighting and sound, and editing. Your local cable operator should be able to provide details.

However, because planning, production, and post-production are extremely labor-intensive ("edit" is a four-letter word), you may choose to approach an established local access producer. Your public access channel probably has shows that feature community activities in a news or an interview format. With a good local angle, you should be able to interest a producer in your story fairly easily.

After a show is taped, ask the producer to give you a copy of the program on 1/2" tape (VHS size), or find out when it will be televised and get two members of your group who have cable and a VCR to tape it.

With the widespread availability of portable video cameras (you can borrow these from the access station or rent one), you can provide footage of group events to producers of local access or commercial television for inclusion with a feature on your concerns. Home camcorders are not TV quality, but they are usually fine for public access.

- Group 21, Davis, CA. The group had its own TV show every week on the local public access channel. The show, called "Human Rights Now," sometimes incorporated AI videos (see p. 14).
- Group 169, Brunswick, ME. The group made two cable television programs from tapes of Maine's Banned Books Week observance (see p. 7).

## ***Foreign-language television***

Many large cities have foreign-language (frequently Spanish-language) television. Contact them with stories of special interest to their target audience, but only if you have a **fluent and well-informed** spokesperson available to be interviewed.

## **Generating TV coverage**

### ***News coverage***

Send press releases to local television stations for any large news event that would attract a news photographer (see p. 244).

Television coverage of a public event will usually include at least one interview. Know your objectives for such an interview. Practice your answers to potential questions out loud, in advance. Keep your responses brief -- under 15 seconds. If you don't edit yourself, someone else will. If a reporter does not ask you the questions you want to answer, provide your answers anyway (it always works on Nightline).

### ***Editorials and public service announcements***

Many television stations offer an opportunity for short citizen editorials or announcements of upcoming events.

Citizen editorials are generally available only in response to an editorial opinion of the station, perhaps on a topic like the death penalty.

In your event planning, consider that TV public service announcements can require very long lead times (greater than two months). Contact the public affairs director at the television station to find out the requirements of these spots. It will help your credibility tremendously if you know the title that the station gives these spots. Use announcements to invite the public to events on behalf of your prisoner.

## **Get copies of your TV coverage**

If you do not obtain copies of your TV coverage, then as far as your target government is concerned, there was no TV coverage.

Be sure to assign at least two people to videotape any mention on television, as VCRs can fail. These people should be lined up in advance, called after your event, and told which channel's news to videotape. Both the early evening and late evening news should be videotaped, as sometimes the versions of a report differ.

If you want duplicates of the tapes made, commercial services are available for a small fee (about \$10), or you can hook up two VCRs. Some TV stations will sell videotapes of a broadcast.

As noted in Chapter 8, it is unlikely that the VCR standard in your target country is VHS. Check with your co-group. If not, look into converting the tape to your target country's format. If conversion is not possible, send a copy of the tape to your target embassy, with a transcript, and send transcripts to officials in your target country.

## **Wire Services**

The dominant wire service in the U.S.A. is the Associated Press (AP), a cooperative organization owned by its

member newspapers. AP has offices and reporters in every major city in the country, and the AP "wire" is used by virtually every news agency in America. A smaller rival is United Press International (UPI), which has offices only in the largest cities. AP and UPI only cover big stories, since their audiences are national and international. In addition, many local wire services serve specific cities, counties, or states.

Both local and national wire services produce a calendar of upcoming news events, which is used by news agencies to assign reporters to events. This calendar is called a "budget." **Send all press releases on events to local and national wire services, and ask that they be included in the budget. Two days before your event, call and make sure that your event is in the budget.**

Wire service stories can be particularly difficult to find in print, because if your event is really big, staff reporters will cover it for your local papers. If you know the story was covered by the wire services, call the coordinators of groups in towns not served by your local papers. Ask them to look for the story in their newspapers. Your regional office can provide the telephone numbers. The story may be picked up by AIUSA's clipping service, but you won't find out for some time.

If you can't immediately find the story in print, obtain the story that moved over the wire. **Within 24 hours** of the wire story being filed by the wire service reporter, call the reporter and ask for a copy of the story. After 24 hours, the story will be dumped from the computer, and if you don't have a copy of it, you won't be able to show your target government that it even went out over the wire. If you have a good relationship with a reporter at a local daily, ask that person to check for the wire story. Finally, wire service stories may be available through on-line services after your event (see p. 24).

## Media Received in your Target Country

Some media that are received or widely distributed in your target country are produced and edited outside your target country. For countries without a free press, these media may offer the best chance for your prisoner's family, friends, and other supporters to learn of your activities.

**Be sure to call your co-group and the Director of Communications in the AIUSA National office before making contact with any of these media.** Your co-group will need to get the permission of the International Secretariat.

These media include --

- the foreign edition of Time.
- the International Herald Tribune.
- the Asian edition of Wall Street Journal.
- Radio Free Europe.
- Radio Liberty.
- Voice of America.
- BBC Radio.
- CNN.
- Radio Marti (to Cuba).
- **USSR.** Students were interviewed for a Voice of America broadcast during an in-school birthday party for a prisoner of conscience.
- **USSR**, Group 125, Ossining, NY. Radio Liberty broadcasted information about a Seventh Day Adventist prisoner of conscience to the USSR.
- See the **USSR**, Group 421 action described on p. 233.
- See the **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)** action described on p. 235.
- See the **USSR**, Group 326 action described on p. 251.

## Media of your Target Country

Many countries have a relatively free press. The mention of your prisoner or of your group's activities in that press may be an effective way to put pressure on your target government.

This mention can be in the form of --

- news, that is, reporting on your news events.
- a letter to the editor.
- an op-ed.
- advertising.

### **Information sources**

To identify media in your target country, find the Europa World Yearbook (see p. 20). Your co-group and the Urgent Action office should also have this information.

In most foreign countries, the news media are structured quite differently than in the United States. Electronic media are usually government-controlled, and therefore it is difficult if not impossible to persuade them to carry AI news. Except in the biggest countries, most newspapers serve a national rather a local audience, so the "local angle" you need to stress in dealing with U.S. editors is not so important.

**It is very important that you consult your co-group before you approach any media in your target country.** Most foreign papers have a much stronger and more obvious political orientation than American newspapers. It may not help your cause if your group's news appears in a slanted opposition newspaper. Try to identify the largest, most influential, and most respected newspapers.

### **News**

Do not send any news material to news agencies outside the U.S.A. without the specific approval of the International Secretariat. Ask your co-group to get permission for you to send --

- U.S. newspaper clippings of an event on behalf of your prisoner.
- black and white photographs of your event.
- press releases for your event.

Newspapers published in more unusual foreign languages will be especially surprised to hear from you. Any material should be translated to the language of the newspaper.

Co-groups are encouraged to develop contacts with U.S.A.-based correspondents of media of your target country. For example, EFE, a Spanish-language wire service, has U.S. regional correspondents, and the Central American co-group has contact with one such correspondent. Check with your co-group about sending material to such U.S.A.-based correspondents. Many are listed in the GPO's Congressional Directory (see p. 186) and in press directories.

### **Letters to the editor**

Letters to the editor can be an effective way of showing grass-roots support overseas for your prisoner. A letter from the United States is exotic enough for most foreign newspapers that it almost always gets notice, regardless of the content. The mere fact that someone in the United States wrote the paper can be considered news.

Before you can send a letter to the editor of a target country newspaper as a member of AI, you must have the specific approval of the International Secretariat. If that approval is not in your dossier, ask your co-group to

contact the International Secretariat.

If a newspaper prints your letter, you might consider submitting an op-ed (see p. 254), particularly one signed by a prestigious individual.

In writing letters overseas, follow the same general guidelines you would in writing to a U.S. newspaper, allowing for cultural differences and any limitations on mentioning AI in dealing with that country. Also, a letter should identify the writer as a member or volunteer of AI, not as Amnesty International, the organization. Your letter should be in the language of the publication.

If you read the FBIS Daily Report (see p. 23), you may find articles in newspapers of your target country that you can respond to with a letter that mentions your prisoner.

- **Chile ("Disappearance")**, Group 96, Santa Monica, CA. The group sent postcards with a cover letter to media in Chile.
- **Peru (Campaign)**, Group 139, Madison, WI. The group monitored a major Peruvian magazine, Caretas, and sent letters to the editor.
- **Nigeria**, Group 21, Davis, CA. A group member sent letters to the editor to Nigerian newspapers regarding the detention without trial of the group's prisoner. One of the letters was published in the Vanguard newspaper.
- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, Japanese section. An AI member sent a letter to the editor opposing the death penalty, written in Japanese, to the San Jose Mercury News. It was translated by an editor, and both the original and the translation were printed. The letter was unremarkable -- the fact that it came from Japan made it worthy of publication.
- **U.S.A. (Death Penalty Abolition Campaign)**, French section. An AI member had an anti-death penalty letter published in the Louisiana Times-Picayune.

#### **Advertising**

Advertising in newspapers, magazines, and on radio can notify the government of your concern for your prisoner. It may also provide a way for others to find you and provide you information.

Advertising in foreign publications that mentions Amnesty International can only be done in consultation with the International Secretariat, and **it is extremely difficult to get approval**. If you are interested, ask your co-group to contact the International Secretariat.

Write to newspapers and magazines in your target country and request information on advertising, including a rate card and a copy of the publication. Do not use AI stationery.

Consult with your co-group on the content of an ad. Consider your goals. What should the ad accomplish? Obtain co-group approval of the translation of any text.

Try to find an advertising designer willing to donate his or her time. Considering the advertising already in the targeted publication(s), design an ad that is distinctive. Use graphics if at all possible. Do not try to crowd too much information into a small space.

If your action file is co-adopted, ask the co-adopting group to contribute to the cost of the ad.

- **South Africa**, Southern Africa co-group. The co-group placed an ad in a South African newspaper.
- **Guatemala (Urgent Action)**, Central American co-group. The co-group placed a radio advertisement in an area's indigenous language that asked that human rights abuses be investigated. The ad was paid for by "concerned people in North America" and did not mention AI.

*"I write to express my deepest gratitude . . . for the very great effort you put towards my release from detention. . . [My wife] assures me that your direct assistance and moral support was a great factor in her being able to survive the nightmare."*

-- released prisoner of conscience from East Africa,  
in a letter to Amnesty International

## Chapter 12

### Relief

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  - o [Exhibit 12-3](#) Form: AIUSA Special Relief Relief Program Application

**Summary: Your prisoner and/or his or her family may be in need of relief, either goods or money. Assess their needs carefully. Work closely with your country coordination group (co-group).**

**If you choose just one action from this chapter** -- Consult with your co-group about writing to your prisoner and/or his or her family about relief.

## Overview

Because imprisonment or "disappearance" can cause prisoners and their families serious physical and financial hardship, providing relief can be an important part of your group's effort on behalf of your prisoner.

Aid to your prisoner's family has many benefits. It can help the family cope better, both financially and emotionally. Should your prisoner learn of it, relief could boost his or her morale. Finally, providing relief can bolster your group's commitment to your action file by increasing the emotional investment group members have in your prisoner's circumstances.

Individual adopted prisoners and their families, many (but not all) prisoners under investigation by AI and their families, and families of the "disappeared" and victims of extrajudicial execution are all eligible for relief. Relief can be provided during imprisonment and during aftercare, usually up to six months after release.

However, AI does not and cannot provide relief in all circumstances that fall within its relief policy; in some instances, it may be advisable to find other organizations or institutions that could provide relief (see Appendices V and VI).

Appropriate uses for AI relief include legal and medical expenses and general living costs (basic sustenance, educational expenditures, and so forth) for both your prisoner and his or her family.

The International Secretariat may indicate in your dossier or at a later time that relief is needed by your prisoner and his or her family. If your group discovers this need independently, consult with your country coordination group (co-group) before proceeding.

## Safety

All details on the sending of relief are **strictly confidential** and for use within AI only. Government authorities frequently disapprove of efforts to send relief to prisoners or their families. Groups should **never** publicize the recipients of relief, the amounts sent to them, or the channels used, nor disclose this information to anyone who is not directly involved.

In many countries there are strict regulations concerning the receipt of relief from abroad: **some forms of relief are illegal and might jeopardize your prisoner**. Also, certain countries may impose excessive duties on certain types of items, or on new rather than used items. These regulations change from time to time, so be sure to check with your co-group.

The U.S. Postal Service publication International Mail Manual, which is available at your post office, identifies each country's mail restrictions, some of which may be unexpected. For example, chessboards and children's toys, among other items, are prohibited in mail to Afghanistan.

## **Work with your co-group and co-adopting groups**

**Always plan relief programs with the advice and agreement of your co-group.** Only your co-group has up-to-date information on local laws, prison rules regarding relief, and knowledge of general levels of relief appropriate to specific situations.

**Coordination with co-adopting groups is critical.** If you are sharing your case with any other groups, be sure to --

- ask what they are doing in terms of relief.
- plan your relief program with them.

## **Establishing a relief program**

Once the need for relief in an individual case is clear, it is important for your group to discuss a relief program. Several questions need to be answered, including --

- how much relief should be sent?
- how frequently should relief be sent?
- in what form should relief be sent?
- by what means should relief be sent?
- how should funds for relief be raised?

### **How much relief should be sent?**

What are the needs of your prisoner and his or her family, and what are co-adopting groups sending now? What is the value of money in the area where they live, that is, what is the standard of living there? How much are the other prisoners and families getting? It is important to standardize relief giving among prisoners and families who know each other, so as not to jeopardize their solidarity. What are the resources of your group, other nearby groups, and co-adopting groups that might assist? If your prisoner's needs far outstrip the resources of your group, you should discuss this problem with your co-group and area coordinator -- other groups may be able to help. You don't want to send so much that the family becomes dependent on your group.

## **How frequently should relief be sent?**

This depends on your prisoner's or his or her family's circumstances. What is the nature of your prisoner's or his or her family's needs? Is your prisoner newly released and in need of aftercare assistance? Are there large bills that must be paid at regular times, for medical, legal, or educational costs? If so, one payment or several at specific times during the year might be advisable. Or is the need constant -- for subsistence? In that case perhaps monthly or bi-monthly payments would be good.

## **In what form should relief be sent?**

Different forms of relief might be best for your prisoner, his or her family, or both in aftercare. In some countries, certain goods are more useful than money. Talk with your co-group about whether to send --

- money.
- money orders.
- special (country-specific) coupons, which can be exchanged for money in your prisoner's country.
- food (for example, dried meat, dried fruits, nuts, and so forth).
- clothing (for example, winter clothes or a T-shirt from your city).
- medical supplies.
- toiletries for your prisoner.
- non-political books.
- pastimes (such as playing cards, puzzles, and Rubik's cube).
- toys for your prisoner's children.
- tools of your prisoner's trade (for example, carpentry tools).

## **By what means should relief be sent?**

Should you just mail the relief directly to your prisoner or his or her family? Should you send it in care of the International Secretariat or some other intermediary institution or individual? Should you give it to someone going to the country for hand delivery? Efficacy and legality are the main issues here: Is the means of transmission reliable? Will the relief get to where you are sending it? Does registering your letter make this more or less likely? Is the means legal and safe? Will it in any way endanger your prisoner, his or her family, or AI efficacy? Any use of intermediaries not mandated in your dossier by the International Secretariat must be cleared by your co-group or the relief officer. The relief officer is an AIUSA volunteer who can be located for you by the Casework office.

## **How should funds for relief be raised?**

Your group may raise funds directly through the contributions of group members or through your general group fundraising efforts. If you try to raise money outside your group for a particular prisoner, you should be guided by your dossier's instructions relating to the advisability of publicity. A relief effort in some countries cannot be publicized for security reasons. **The specifics of a particular relief effort must always be considered confidential.**

## Implementing a relief plan

Having planned a relief program and checked it with your co-group, ask the beneficiaries for their suggestions and approval. Inform them of your plans. Remember that you are making a commitment to them, and know that they will be counting on you.

If the funds are not being channeled through the International Secretariat, it may be a good idea to send a small first installment of relief, just to make sure that it is getting through successfully; you usually want to ask for a return receipt for confirmation of delivery or a letter from the family verifying delivery. Try to stay in close touch with the recipient during your relief program. Make sure that the amount of relief being sent, the frequency, the form, and the means continue to be correct.

**Argentina ("Disappearance")**, Group 122, Santa Fe, NM. A "disappeared" mother left five children. The group raised over \$5,000 to aid the family with food, clothing, education, and housing. The group sends money in the form of a cashier's check (mailed registered, return receipt requested). The group waits for the return receipt before sending more money. The group raised money through diverse techniques, including a "five percent day" at a local grocery store. The store donated five percent of its profits earned during the day (\$1,700) to the relief effort.

**Uruguay**, Group 21, Davis, CA. For a prisoner of conscience who was an artist, the group worked with a local art cooperative, a group of Uruguayan exiles, and Uruguayan-Americans to sell originals and reproductions of the prisoner's artwork, which had been sent out of Uruguay by his friends. The art sales raised funds for the prisoner's defense and for relief for him and his family. "Artists for Amnesty" has become an annual Group 21 event (see Exhibit 12-1). Note the naming of the group's two prisoners in the article on this event. For the same case, a local Catholic church group collected clothing to send to the prisoner and his family.

**South Africa**, Group 109, Baltimore, MD. The group publicized the need for relief for a prisoner of conscience with flyers and newspaper ads. The prisoner was under house arrest; the group sent money to the prisoner through his lawyer.

### Travel to the U.S.A.

One way to exert pressure on your target government is to invite your prisoner to the U.S.A. Obviously, it is essential to have your prisoner's consent before beginning negotiations.

Several strategies are possible, among them --

- raise the possibility of a simple release and asylum in the U.S.A.
- find a university in your country willing to accept your prisoner as a student or teacher.
- offer medical treatment in the U.S.A.

#### Raise the possibility of a simple release and asylum in the U.S.A.

After consultation with your co-group and district legislative coordinator, contact your Representative in Congress seeking advice about whom to approach in the Executive Branch to discuss your prisoner's situation. Send copies of your letters to Executive Branch officials to your target ambassador. If you are able to obtain even a **conditional** statement from a government official suggesting that your prisoner could emigrate to that country or receive asylum, write your target ambassador, your target minister of justice, and so forth. Ask that your prisoner be released and be permitted to leave the country.

#### Find a university in the U.S.A. willing to accept your prisoner as a student or teacher

Universities may be willing to --

- provide your prisoner enrollment in a college or university class.
- provide your prisoner a scholarship.
- offer your prisoner a job as a professor, lecturer, graduate assistant, postdoctoral fellow, and so forth.
- nominate your prisoner for an honorary degree, and invite him or her to visit the U.S.A. to accept the degree.

You may wish to seek the assistance of university-based campus groups (see p. 135).

**Chile.** Members of the American Mathematical Society contacted mathematicians and asked them to approach their universities about obtaining one-year graduate assistantships. Several Chileans were given assistantships at different universities.

#### **Offer medical treatment in the U.S.A.**

Does your prisoner need medical attention? Seek out a doctor who would be willing to provide free treatment. The AIUSA Health Professionals Network (see p. 83) and Physicians for Human Rights (see Appendix V) are excellent starting points for identifying local physicians who might be willing to help you. The Center for Victims of Torture (see Appendix V) may be able to assist your prisoner or give you advice.

To obtain a visitor's visa for your prisoner to come to the U.S.A. for medical treatment, you will need to establish that -

- the medical care your prisoner needs is available in the U.S.A. and not in his or her country.
- you will pay for the treatment -- either your group will raise the funds, or the doctor(s) will provide the treatment gratis.

The U.S. embassy in your prisoner's country must approve the visa. Your Representative in Congress can help by writing the U.S. Ambassador in your target country and asking for "every proper consideration" for your prisoner. Also, the AIUSA Legal Support Network (see p. 84) has expertise with refugee cases and may be willing to assist you.

For further information, see the Immigration Procedures Handbook by A.T. Fragomen and others (Clark, Boardman, Callaghan; 800-221-9428; the 1993 edition is \$145).

#### **Relief funds**

##### **Ivan Morris Fund for Prisoner Relief**

AIUSA's Ivan Morris Fund will match funds your group raises up to \$250 a year for each prisoner and/or his or her family. An application form is presented here as Exhibit 12-2, which you may simply photocopy. In your application, you should demonstrate that your group has --

- matching money on hand or good plans to raise it.
- a well-conceived relief program for your prisoner.
- the means to transmit the relief successfully.

Applicants usually receive a reply within three weeks. If you do not, call or write the relief officer in care of the Casework office to make sure your application was not lost. When the matching grant is approved, the Ivan Morris Fund will send a check to your group.

Any group with extraordinary relief needs (such as an emergency need on the part of your prisoner, an inability to

raise matching funds, or the need for more than \$250 in matching funds) should still apply. The purpose of the Ivan Morris Fund is to make sure all prisoners get the relief they and their families need. No applications that are well-conceived are refused. If you have any questions, call or write the relief officer in care of the Casework office.

**Special Relief Program**

The Special Relief Program accepts applications from AIUSA co-groups for larger scale relief projects benefiting individuals or groups of --

- prisoners of conscience and their families not adopted by AIUSA groups.
- families of the "disappeared" and of those killed by extra-judicial execution not the subject of AIUSA action files.
- victims of torture and their families not the subject of AIUSA action files.
- refugees and those threatened by execution or imprisonment who need assistance to leave their countries.
- other beneficiaries deemed appropriate under AI's mandate.

Relief projects appropriate for support include sustenance, legal and medical costs, educational expenses, and so forth. Relief funds may be sent directly to the beneficiaries or indirectly through approved intermediaries or through the International Secretariat Relief Committee.

If your group has such a large-scale relief project in mind, you should contact your co-group to make the appropriate application. Your co-group then applies through the relevant International Secretariat researcher. Regular relief to prisoners and their families, however, should always go through the Ivan Morris Fund.

Applications to the Special Relief Program are considered by AIUSA's Relief Committee. In making grants, the Relief Committee takes into account not only need and the soundness of the project designed to meet it, but also issues of geopolitical balance with respect to AIUSA's overall relief outlay.

An application form for the Special Relief Program is provided as Exhibit 12-3.

This page will be replaced by Exhibit 12-2 p. 1

This page will be replaced by Exhibit 12-2 p. 2

This page will be replaced by Exhibit 12-3 p. 1

This page will be replaced by Exhibit 12-3 p. 2

*"A straight path never leads anywhere except to the objective."*

-- Andre Gide

## Chapter 13

### Prisoner Release

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**Summary: When your prisoner is released, contact the press, thank the people who helped you, and celebrate!**

**If you choose just two actions from this chapter** -- Schedule a public party to celebrate your prisoner's release. Send all local newspapers a press release about your celebration that names your group's other prisoners or campaigns, cites the assistance of any politicians or celebrities, invites the public to your celebration, and tells readers how to make contact with your group.

## Overview

You have learned your prisoner has been released or your "disappearance" victim has reappeared a free person. Congratulations. You may think that your job is completed. Wrong. You will be responsible for --

- (1) Spreading the word.
- (2) Contacting the press.
- (3) Thanking those who helped.
- (4) Arranging a celebration.
- (5) Aftercare (if appropriate).

## If your prisoner can't be "released"

Since the focus of an action file can be extrajudicial execution or torture, not every case will end in a prisoner being freed. Some action files will close when the required investigations are carried out and when those responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice. Others may close after a period of time, because AI's Research Department feels that the Amnesty groups working on an action file have accomplished all they can. The goals of the action file may not have been entirely met, but the researchers may want to try addressing Amnesty's concerns through different means. The Research Department may want to free up group resources to take on newer action files. If the closure of your action file represents any victory for human rights, you may wish to adapt the information in this chapter.

## SPREADING THE WORD

Almost always you will learn of a prisoner's release from the International Secretariat, from your country coordination group (co-group), or from a co-adopting group abroad.

However, occasionally you may learn that your prisoner has been released from a source other than AI -- from media reports, a Member of Congress, the State Department, a letter from your prisoner, a phone call from a member of your prisoner's family, and so forth. In that event, immediately call your co-group. Then call your regional office and ask a staff member to fax the country research team at the International Secretariat with the news. If your action file is co-adopted with a foreign group, telephone or telegram the foreign group's coordinator with **unconfirmed** word of the prisoner's release. The International Secretariat will probably want to confirm the release before announcing it.

If the prisoner has been released from jail but has been sent into internal exile or is faced with trial, you will be informed of the change of circumstances and be expected to continue working on his or her behalf as an adoption or investigation action file.

Whether or not you learn of a release from AI, **if your action file is being shared with another U.S. local group or campus group, call that group immediately.** The group will not learn from the International Secretariat that the prisoner has been released.

## CONTACTING THE PRESS

A prisoner release is probably **the best** opportunity your group will have to obtain news coverage.

"Timeliness" is essential to "news-worthiness." In any prisoner release, there are four elements that can be "news:"

- **the release**, if it happened in the past day or so.
- **your group's learning of the release**, if the release happened a while ago, but you just learned about it.
- **your group's celebration of the release**, if the release happened a while ago, and your group learned about it a while ago.
- **your group's announcement of the release**, for small newspapers only.

Your strategy in approaching the press also depends on the quality and quantity of effort your group has put forth on the action file, as this effort represents the critically important "**local angle**" an editor looks for in a story. If your group has not done much, an editor won't be very interested.

These two factors -- the effort your group has made and when you learned of the release -- yield three different scenarios for obtaining press coverage:

- short duration action file (little effort put forth).
- long duration action file, delayed news of release (substantial effort, less timeliness).
- long duration action file, immediate news of release (substantial effort, breaking news).

## Short duration action files

If your prisoner is released after your group has worked on the action file for only two or three months, then your group has made a relatively minor commitment of resources. What local newspaper editors are interested in is the **local** aspect of the story, that is, **your effort**. Instead of pressuring local newspapers to write an article, you may want to simply send in a brief press release. This helps maintain your group's credibility as an organization that does not pressure editors into covering stories that are not newsworthy.

Such a press release might read: "Amnesty International Group (##) of (city) invites all members of the community to join in the celebration of the release of our adopted prisoner of conscience, (name), a (occupation) from (country). The group will recommit to its efforts on behalf of (ANOTHER action file OR campaign the group is working on). The celebration will take place (); for information, call ()." In the experience of Group 19, only personally invited members of the community will attend such a party. However, an announcement of this kind builds goodwill; the community learns of your success; and you can send the clippings to the target government of your other action file or campaign.

Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. When the group had a prisoner released after only two months of letter writing, the group distributed a press release about their celebration. The release appeared as "news" paragraphs in two local newspapers.

If you are in doubt about whether your prisoner's release might justify a reporter writing a news story, as opposed to the paper just printing an announcement of your celebration, consult with your local media coordinator or your area coordinator.

### Long duration action files -- delayed news of release

If your prisoner is released after your group has toiled for many months or years for that victory, then the success of your effort is news. However, if you learn about your prisoner's release weeks or months after it happened (and unfortunately, this is the norm), you will have more trouble getting press coverage than if you had prompt news. Nevertheless, editors are always on the lookout for good news, and, to a certain extent, the fact that your group just found out makes the story "news" to the community. Group 19 always gets press coverage of a release, no matter how delayed the news.

While it behooves you to act quickly to get your news out, you also need to make AI appear well-organized and reliable.

Call your group coordinator, media coordinator, members of your action file committee, any previous coordinators of the action file, and your area coordinator. Try to arrange a meeting that very evening, with as many as can attend, to --

- set goals on press coverage.
- agree on the number and type of actions that had been conducted on the action file.
- identify the times that the participants would be available to be interviewed by the press.
- set a date for a group celebration.
- determine the content of a press release.

#### Goals for press coverage

All participants in your meeting should agree on what the group is trying to achieve by taking the news of the release to the media. Goals could include, for example --

- favorable publicity for AI and your group.
- letting people in the community know about your group, and how to join it.
- rewarding those who have helped with your action file, especially politicians, by having their help mentioned in print (see p. 285).
- getting mention of your other action file(s) or current campaign activities in the paper.
- informing the public of and protesting any continuing human rights abuse in your target country.
- (if appropriate) letting your just-released prisoner and his or her family and lawyer know of your support.

Identifying your goals in press coverage enables you to focus on them in your press release. Also, participants will be reminded to bring up points, such as your group's other action file, in speaking with members of the press.

#### Actions your group has done

In preparing to write a story, a reporter will probably want to talk with more than one member of your group. It would be unfortunate if you reported that your group had written 1,000 letters on the action file, while your group coordinator reported that the group had written 5,000. Achieve some agreement among the meeting participants on the number of letters written, number of petition signatures gathered, number of telegrams sent, number of postcards mailed, and so on. Also, you may have forgotten some of the actions that had been taken on the action file, especially if you and any previous action file coordinators have not kept good records.

By polling the attendees at the meeting, you have a good chance of remembering all the actions your group has taken. Include this information in the press release and in discussions with reporters.

#### Identify hours members are available

You should provide a reporter with phone numbers and hours at work and at home for two or three members of your committee and your group coordinator. Try to have at least two persons available for comment at any one time, especially during the work day. Providing this information to a reporter will demonstrate that you have your act together and understand a reporter's job.

#### A date for a group celebration

It may not be possible to arrange a time and place for your celebration on very short notice. However, you may be able to select a Saturday or Sunday at least two weeks away to meet the publication date constraints of local weekly papers. Announce that you will celebrate on that date -- and for further information, call (NAME OF GROUP COORDINATOR, PHONE NUMBER). This announcement gives reporters another current news hook for your story.

#### Determine the content of the press release

The press release should meet your goals for press coverage. For example, if your goals include attracting new people to your group, there should be a paragraph in your press release that reads something like "Group 19 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at All Saints Church, 555 Waverley, Palo Alto. For more information, call Jim Smith, (415) 555-5555." The planning meeting is probably not the best place to write your press release, but the participants in the meeting should agree on what should be included.

Finally, you will have to decide who should write the press release.

With one caveat concerning politicians and celebrities (see next page), the press release should be written immediately and hand-carried or faxed to local newspapers. Recall that if you learned about your prisoner's release last week, and contact the media today, then even your learning about the release is old news. Group 19 still gets press coverage of such a release, but it is more difficult. For more information on writing and following up on press releases, see p. 225.

AI never takes credit for the release of a prisoner. However, if you have a quotation from your prisoner thanking your group and citing your invaluable assistance in obtaining his or her release, then (unless your co-group considers this dangerous) give it to the reporter.

Exhibit 13-1 is a sample press release; note the mention of --

- the assistance of the group's Representative in Congress.
- the group's other action file.
- the group's next meeting.
- a phone number for the group.

Your first priority will be getting the press release to local daily papers, then to local weeklies. Some metropolitan dailies may be too large to be interested in this type of story, but there is no harm trying. However, before you contact major metropolitan dailies (see p. 222), you must clear it with your regional press officer.

Your area coordinator, local media coordinator, or regional office should be able to provide contact names in the local press. Your area coordinator will almost certainly recommend that you contact the press directly, as you will have details about the action file that the area coordinator will not. If you have no contacts at a particular paper, call the paper and ask for the name and title of the person to whom your press release should be addressed. Even if you do have a contact, call and verify that the person will be at the newspaper office to receive your release.

Once the press release has been faxed or delivered to your local papers, your work is not over. It is **critical** that you follow up with phone calls and continue to follow up until a decision has been made either to run or not to run the story. An editor receives hundreds of press releases each day. Don't let yours get overlooked. In your phone calls, reiterate that your group is made up of volunteers who have conducted a large, **local** effort on behalf of someone incarcerated halfway around the world (see the phone call on p. 289).

Offer the editor a photograph of the prisoner or of members of the group working on the action file, if you have one (with any luck, your group coordinator keeps a group photograph file, as recommended in Chapter 11). A photograph will make the story more attractive to an editor as well as draw the attention of readers.

Until the editor makes up his or her mind about covering your story, continue to call to offer new information about your release party, the types of actions your group took, the current phone numbers of other people to be interviewed for the story, and so forth. **But if the editor says no, accept it.** Get the news of your celebration to the attention of the calendar editor.

**Syria**, Group 19, Palo Alto, CA. Persistence pays. The group learned of the release of its prisoner of conscience two months after the event. It took four phone calls to one newspaper, over three days, before the story was assigned and written; the story appeared two days after the reporter wrote it.

Exhibits 13-2 and 13-3 are articles about prisoner releases. Note the extensive discussion of the assistance of politicians in Exhibit 13-2 and the mention of the group's other case in Exhibit 13-3.

When the story appears, call everyone listed in the story, so that they have the opportunity to purchase the paper immediately. Clip the story and send copies to --

- your regional office.
- your co-group.
- your group coordinator, for your group's media files.
- the coordinator of the other action file or campaign mentioned in the article.
- anyone who assisted with your action file (with a cover letter or note).
- SMU AI, 121 Clements Hall, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275-0272.
- your area coordinator, for information and to assist other groups with media contacts.
- (if appropriate -- ask your co-group contact) human rights groups in your target country.
- (if appropriate) your prisoner, his or her family, and his or her lawyer.
- (if appropriate) officials in your target country, with a cover letter thanking them for releasing your prisoner and asking them to release (NAMES OF OTHER PRISONERS) also.

Follow up any story with a letter to the editor (see Exhibit 13-4) that --

- thanks the paper for the story on the release of your prisoner.
- thanks by name the non-AI members who assisted with the action file, especially the politicians and celebrities.
- invites members of the community to attend your group's next meeting (at time and place) and become active in working for your group's other prisoner, (name and country of prisoner), and the (country) campaign(s).

Send a brief thank-you note to the reporter.

**Long duration action file -- immediate news of release**

In a small proportion of action files, you may learn of the release of your prisoner on the day it occurs. In this case, the release is the news story, not the group's learning of the release or the group's celebration of the release. Here it is vital to go to the press immediately, or the release becomes old news.

Call your area coordinator or media coordinator. If neither is available, call your group coordinator. Agree briefly on the goals of any press coverage (see p. 282). Identify contacts at daily newspapers.

Initiate contact with politicians (see p. 285).

Find at least one other member of your group (perhaps your group coordinator or a member of the action file committee) who is available to be interviewed. Let that person know the goals of any interview. Agree on the number and type of actions that have been taken on the action file.

You may then call a reporter or the city editor on the staff of a local daily paper and say: "(Name of area coordinator) with Amnesty International recommended that I call you. My name is (), and I'm a volunteer with the (city) chapter of Amnesty. I'm extremely pleased to report that our chapter's prisoner of conscience from (country) was released today. Our chapter has been working for (period of time) on obtaining (HIS OR HER) release, has written () hundred letters to (HIS OR HER) government and collected () hundred signatures on petitions calling for (HIS OR HER) release,

among many other actions. [Mention if the paper has previously covered local efforts on behalf of the prisoner.] (name) thought you would be interested in doing a story on the release."

The reporter will probably consult with an editor and then get back to you to accept or reject the story. If the story is accepted, you will probably be interviewed on the telephone. Be sure to bring up points that will meet the goals of the interview. If you want the name of another prisoner in the story, spell it for the reporter. If the reporter is unsure how to spell a name, it won't be in the story.

If you are uncomfortable dealing with reporters, your area coordinator may be willing to call the press and "sell" the story first, and then have the reporter call you. Also, you may ask your area coordinator to set up a joint interview with your area coordinator or another experienced volunteer.

Exhibit 13-5 is an example of an article that ran on the front page of the local suburban daily the day after a prisoner's release.

With weekly papers you probably have more time. Weekly papers usually come out on Wednesday and have a deadline of Friday. Consider writing up a press release, faxing it or hand delivering it to local weeklies, and following up with a phone call. Weekly papers may even run your press release without editing. Exhibit 13-6 was a local AI press release on the same case that ran virtually unedited in a small suburban weekly. This press release was customized: it only named schools in the paper's defined circulation area. Also, note the comment from a Representative in Congress.

### **THANKING THOSE WHO HELPED**

Following the release, you should attempt to thank those who assisted with the action file.

If the action file was featured in any of the AI networks, be sure to notify the network that the prisoner was released. If your group receives any thank you letter from the prisoner, pass it along so it can be reprinted in the network newsletter.

Send letters to the organizations and individuals who assisted with the action file, along with any comment from the prisoner, if available and safe to use (ask your co-group). See Exhibit 13-7.

**If your co-group approves**, write to your released prisoner and ask him or her to write to any politician who assisted with your action file and to thank the politician for the assistance.

### **CELEBRATION**

AI groups are encouraged to hold celebrations following the successful conclusion of their action files. Consult with your group coordinator about whether to celebrate the release at your next group meeting (for short duration action files) or at some later time (for long duration action files if non-AI persons assisted). You will want to invite to your celebration anyone who worked the action file, especially congressional staff or the staff of other politicians. They may not attend, but they will remember that they were invited.

On the San Francisco Mid-Peninsula, the area coordinator requires students to throw parties at their schools to celebrate their releases. Naturally, they protest mightily. AI benefits from students learning about the release through the vehicle of a party, and new members are more likely to join such an effective good-time organization.

#### **The traditional toast**

Amnesty International was founded after Peter Benenson read of two Portuguese students sentenced to seven years in prison for drinking a toast "To Freedom" in a cafe. It has therefore become traditional, during the celebration of a prisoner's release, to gather the attention of your group, to raise a glass, and to drink a toast "To Freedom."

### **AFTERCARE**

If no further action is required, the Research Department of the International Secretariat will notify you of the closure of your action file. Ask group members to return to you photocopies of internal information on the action file. If your prisoner is likely to be re-arrested, you may be asked to keep the dossier temporarily. If not, return it to the Casework office for safekeeping or do as instructed in the dossier.

If the prisoner needs further assistance from the group, the Research Department will change the action file status to "aftercare" and instruct your group to continue specified activities, usually relief (see Chapter 12). Aftercare generally lasts no more than six months, but the International Secretariat may recommend a shorter or longer period, depending on the requirements of the action file. If you are providing aftercare, continue to work closely with your co-group, forwarding copies of letters received and passing on any new developments.

Aftercare may include writing more letters to your target government, especially if major changes have occurred in that government.

When aftercare is over, return the prisoner dossier to the Casework office or do as instructed

in the dossier. You may keep letters from the prisoner or his or her family, quotations from letters written by personalities who have contributed to your work on the action file, contact addresses, and relief information. Please send to the International Secretariat any sensitive information on the action file that you think they may not have.

Once an action file has been closed by the International Secretariat, your group's activities on your prisoner's behalf must cease. Private initiatives may be undertaken on your prisoner's behalf, but all correspondence must be signed by someone other than the group members who have previously been writing about the action file to authorities.

Your group will not get a new action file unless you request one. Contact your regional office for a new action file.

Finally, have you, over the course of work on your action file, developed a considerable body of knowledge and experience related to your target country? If so, consider joining the co-group. Contact your regional office if you are interested. You could assist in generating more success for more prisoners, and more toasts "To Freedom."

# Appendix I

## Amnesty International Offices

### International Secretariat

Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

Telephone +44-171-413-5500 (from U.S.A.dial 011 first to get international connection)  
Fascimile +44-171-956-1157 (from U.S.A.dial 011 first to get international connection)

For AI offices in various countries, see <http://www.amnesty.org/aisect/contacts.htm>

### AIUSA Regional offices

#### Mid-Atlantic regional office

(responsible for Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia) Amnesty International Mid-Atlantic 600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Fifth Floor

Washington, DC 20003  
Telephone: 202-544-0200  
Facsimile: 202-546-7142  
E-mail: aiusamaro@amnesty-usa.org

#### Midwest regional office (Chicago office)

(responsible for Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin)

Amnesty International Midwest  
53 West Jackson, Room 1162  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Telephone: 312-427-2060  
Facsimile: 312-427-2589  
E-mail: aiusamwro@amnesty-usa.org

#### Northeast regional office

(responsible for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont)

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Somerville, MA 02144  
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### **Southern regional office**

(responsible for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas)

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Facsimile: 404-876-2276  
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### **Western regional office**

(responsible for Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming)

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Second Floor  
Culver City, CA 90232  
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Facsimile: 310-815-0457  
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## **OTHER AIUSA OFFICES**

### **Campaign office**

Amnesty International Campaign Office  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Fifth Floor  
Washington, DC 20003  
Telephone: 202-544-0200  
Facsimile: 202-546-7142

### **Casework office**

Amnesty International Casework Office  
131 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE  
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Atlanta, GA 30308  
Telephone: 404-876-5661  
Facsimile: 404-876-2276  
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### **Cincinnati satellite office**

Amnesty International Cincinnati Office  
103 William Howard Taft  
Cincinnati, OH 45219  
Telephone: 513-221-7659

### **National office (NY office)**

Amnesty International USA  
322 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10001  
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Facsimile: 212-627-1451

### **National Field Program office**

Amnesty International National Field Program  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Fifth Floor  
Washington, DC 20003  
Telephone: 202-544-0200  
Facsimile: 202-546-7142

### **Refugee office**

Amnesty International Refugee Office  
500 Sansome Street, Suite 615  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
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Facsimile: 415-291-8722

### **San Francisco office**

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### **Urgent Action Network office**

AIUAN  
P.O. Box 1270  
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E-mail: [sharrison@amnesty-usa.org](mailto:sharrison@amnesty-usa.org)

### **Washington, DC office (DC office)**

Amnesty International Government Program Office  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Fifth Floor  
Washington, DC 20003  
Telephone: 202-544-0200

Facsimile: 202-546-7142

## Appendix II

# Statute of Amnesty International

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The following six pages make up the Statute of Amnesty International as amended by the 23nd International Council Meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa, December 12-19, 1997. The six pages are EXTERNAL and may be photocopied and given to organizations and individuals who want or need more information on Amnesty International. The Statute may also be given to officials of your target government or embassy.

Every two years, AI holds an International Council Meeting, during which the Statute may be amended. Therefore, starting in the late fall of 1999, you may wish to contact your regional office to get the most recent Statute. Alterntatively, you can find the statute on the web at <http://www.amnesty.org/aboutai/statute.htm>.

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Statute of Amnesty International

***As amended by the 23nd International Council  
Meeting,  
Cape Town, South Africa,  
12 -19 December 1997***

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## OBJECT AND MANDATE

1. The object of *Amnesty International* to contribute to the observance throughout the world of human rights as set out in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

In pursuance of this object, and recognizing the obligation on each person to extend to others rights and freedoms equal to his or her own, *Amnesty International* adopts as its mandate:

To promote awareness of and adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognized human rights instruments, the values enshrined in them, and the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and freedoms;

To oppose grave violations of the rights of every person freely to hold and to express his or her convictions and to be free from discrimination and of the right of every person to physical and mental integrity, and, in particular, to oppose by all appropriate means irrespective of political considerations:

a) the imprisonment, detention or other physical restrictions imposed on any person by reason of his or her political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs or by reason of his or her ethnic origin, sex, colour, language, national or social origin, economic status, birth or other status, provided that he or she has not used or advocated violence (hereinafter referred to as 'prisoners of conscience') *Amnesty International* shall work towards the release of and shall provide assistance to prisoners of conscience);

b) the detention of any political prisoner without fair trial within a reasonable time or any trial procedures relating to such prisoners that do not conform to internationally recognized norms;

c) the death penalty, and the torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons, whether or not the persons affected have used or advocated violence;

d) the extrajudicial execution of persons whether or not imprisoned, detained or restricted, and "disappearances", whether or not the persons affected have used or advocated violence.

2 In order to achieve the aforesaid object and mandate, *Amnesty International* shall:

a) at all times make clear its impartiality as regards countries adhering to the different world political ideologies and groupings;

b) promote as appears appropriate the adoption of constitutions, conventions, treaties and other measures which guarantee the rights contained in the provisions

## METHODS

referred to in Article 1 hereof;

- c) support and publicize the activities of and cooperate with international organizations and agencies which work for the implementation of the aforesaid provisions;
- d) take all necessary steps to establish an effective organization of sections, affiliated groups and individual members;
- e) secure the adoption by groups of members or supporters of individual prisoners of conscience or entrust to such groups other tasks in support of the object and mandate set out in Article 1;
- f) provide financial and other relief to prisoners of conscience and their dependants and to persons who have lately been prisoners of conscience or who might reasonably be expected to be prisoners of conscience or to become prisoners of conscience if convicted or if they were to return to their own countries, to the dependants of such persons and to victims of torture in need of medical care as a direct result thereof;
- g) provide legal aid, where necessary and possible, to prisoners of conscience and to persons who might reasonably be expected to be prisoners of conscience or to become prisoners of conscience if convicted or if they were to return to their own countries, and, where desirable, send observers to attend the trials of such persons;
- h) publicize the cases of prisoners of conscience or persons who have otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;
- i) investigate and publicize the disappearance of persons where there is reason to believe that they may be victims of violations of the rights set out in Article 1 hereof;
- j) oppose the sending of persons from one country to another where they can reasonably be expected to become prisoners of conscience or to face torture or the death penalty;
- k) send investigators, where appropriate, to investigate allegations that the rights of individuals under the aforesaid provisions have been violated or threatened;
- l) make representations to international organizations and to governments whenever it appears that an individual is a prisoner of conscience or has otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;
- m) promote and support the granting of general amnesties of which the beneficiaries will include prisoners of conscience;
- n) adopt any other appropriate methods for the securing of its object and mandate.

## ORGANIZATION

- 3 *Amnesty International* is an organization based on worldwide voluntary membership and it shall consist of sections, affiliated groups and individual members.
- 4 The directive authority for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International*&nbspis vested in the International Council.
- 5.Between meetings of the International Council, the International Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
- 6.The day-to-day affairs of *Amnesty International* shall be conducted by the International Secretariat headed by a Secretary General under the direction of the International Executive Committee.
- 7.The office of the International Secretariat shall be in London or such other

place as the International Executive Committee shall decide and which is ratified by at least one half of the sections.

- 8. Responsibility for *Amnesty International* work on violations of human rights in any country or territory, including the collection and evaluation of information, and the sending of delegations, lies with the international governing bodies of the organization, and not with the section, groups or members in the country or territory concerned.

## **Sections**

- 9. A section of *Amnesty International* may be established in any country, state, territory or region with the consent of the International Executive Committee. In order to be recognized as such, a section shall (a) prior to its recognition have demonstrated its ability to organize and maintain basic *Amnesty International* activities, (b) consist of not less than two groups and 20 members, (c) submit its statute to the International Executive Committee for approval, (d) pay such annual fee as may be determined by the International Council, (e) be registered as such with the International Secretariat on the decision of the International Executive Committee.

Sections shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated object and mandate of *Amnesty International*. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of sections. Sections shall act in accordance with the working rules and guidelines that are adopted from time to time by the International Council.

- 10. Groups of not less than five members may, on payment of an annual fee determined by the International Council, become affiliated to *Amnesty International* or a section thereof. Any dispute as to whether a group should be or remain affiliated shall be decided by the International Executive Committee. An affiliated adoption group shall accept for adoption such prisoners as may from time to time be allotted to it by the International Secretariat, and shall adopt no others as long as it remains affiliated to *Amnesty International*. No group shall be allotted a prisoner of conscience detained in its own country. Each section shall maintain and make available to the International Secretariat a register of affiliated *Amnesty International* groups. Groups in a country, state, territory or region without a section shall be registered with the International Secretariat. Groups shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated object and mandate of *Amnesty International*. Groups shall act in accordance with the working rules and guidelines that are adopted from time to time by the International Council.

## **Individual membership**

- 11. Individuals residing in countries, states, territories or regions where there is no section may, on payment to the International Secretariat of an annual subscription fee determined by the International Executive Committee, become members of *Amnesty International* with the consent of the International Executive Committee. In countries, states, territories or regions where a section exists, individuals may become international members of *Amnesty International* with the consent of the section and of the International Executive Committee. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of such members.

## **International Council**

- 12. The International Council shall consist of the members of the International Executive Committee and of representatives of sections and shall meet at intervals of not more than two years on a date fixed by the

- International Executive Committee. Only representatives of sections shall
- have the right to vote at the International Council.
  - 13.All sections shall have the right to appoint one representative to the International Council and in addition may appoint representatives as follows:
- 10-49 groups:1 representative
- 50-99 groups:2 representatives
- 100-199 groups:3 representatives
- 200-399 groups:4 representatives
- 400 groups and over:5 representatives
- Sections consisting primarily of individual members rather than groups may as an alternative appoint additional representatives as follows:
- 500 - 2,499 members: 1 representative
- 2,500 members and over:2 representatives
- Only sections having paid in full their annual fee as assessed by the International Council for the two previous financial years shall vote at the International Council. This requirement may be waived in whole or in part by the International Council.
- 14.One representative of each group not forming part of a section may attend a meeting of the International Council as an observer and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.
  - 15.A section unable to participate at an International Council may appoint a proxy or proxies to vote on its behalf and a section represented by a lesser number of persons than its entitlement under Article 13 hereof may authorize its representative or representatives to cast votes up to its maximum entitlement under Article 13 hereof.
  - 16.Notice of the number of representatives proposing to attend an International Council, and of the appointment of proxies, shall be given to the International Secretariat not later than one month before the meeting of the International Council. This requirement may be waived by the International Executive Committee.
  - 17.A quorum shall consist of the representatives or proxies of not less than one quarter of the sections entitled to be represented.
  - 18.The Chairperson of the International Council and an alternate shall be elected by the preceding International Council. The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the alternate, shall preside at the International Council. In the absence of the Chairperson and the alternate, the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee or such other person as the International Executive Committee may appoint shall open the proceedings of the International Council which shall elect a Chairperson. Thereafter the elected Chairperson, or such other person as the Chairperson may appoint, shall preside at the International Council.
  - 19.Except as otherwise provided in the Statute, the International Council shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast. In case of an equality of votes the Chairperson of the International Council shall have a casting vote.
  - 20.The International Council shall be convened by the International Secretariat by notice to all sections and affiliated groups not later than 90 days before the date thereof.
  - 21.The Chairperson of the International Executive Committee shall at the request of the Committee or of not less than one third of the sections call an extraordinary meeting of the International Council by giving not less than 21 days' notice in writing to all sections.

- 22.The International Council shall elect a Treasurer, who shall be a member of the International Executive Committee.
- 23.The agenda for the meetings of the International Council shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee.

### **International Executive Committee**

- 24.a) The International Executive Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, one representative of the staff of the International Secretariat and seven regular members, who shall be members of *Amnesty International* , or of a section, or of an affiliated group. The regular members and Treasurer shall be elected by the International Council. Not more than one member of any section or affiliated group or member of *Amnesty International* voluntarily resident in a country, state, territory or region may be elected as a regular member to the Committee, and once such member has received sufficient votes to be elected, any votes cast for other members of that section, affiliated group or country shall be disregarded.
  - b) Members of the permanent staff, paid and unpaid, shall have the right to elect one representative among the staff who has completed not less than two years' service to be a voting member of the International Executive Committee. Such member shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. The method of voting shall be subject to approval by the International Executive Committee on the proposal of the staff members.
- 25.The International Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a year at a place to be decided by itself.
- 26.Members of the International Executive Committee, other than the representative of the staff, shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum tenure of three consecutive terms.
- 27.The Committee may co-opt not more than two additional members who shall hold office until the close of the next meeting of the International Council; they shall be eligible to be re-co-opted once. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote.
- 28.In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee, other than in respect of the representative of the staff, it may co-opt a further member to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the International Council, which shall elect such members as are necessary to replace retiring members and to fill the vacancy. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee in respect of the representative of the staff, the staff shall have the right to elect a successor representative to fill the unexpired term of office.
- 29.If a member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting, such member may appoint an alternate.
- 30.The Committee shall each year appoint one of its members to act as Chairperson.
- 31.The Chairperson may, and at the request of the majority of the Committee shall, summon meetings of the Committee.
- 32.A quorum shall consist of not fewer than five members of the Committee or their alternates.
- 33.The agenda for meetings of the Committee shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairperson.
- 34.The Committee may make regulations for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* and for the procedure to be followed at the International Council.

### **International Secretariat**

- 35.The International Executive Committee may appoint a Secretary General who shall be responsible under its direction for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
- 36.The Secretary General may appoint senior executive staff in close cooperation with the International Executive Committee, and may appoint all other staff as are necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* .
- 37.In the case of the absence or illness of the Secretary General, or of a vacancy in the post of Secretary General, the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee shall, after consultation with the members of that Committee, appoint an Acting Secretary General to act until the next meeting of the Committee.
- 38.The Secretary General or Acting Secretary General and such members of the International Secretariat as may appear to the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee to be necessary shall attend meetings of the International Council and of the International Executive Committee and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.

### **Termination of membership**

- 39.Membership of or affiliation to *Amnesty International* may be terminated at any time by resignation in writing.
- 40.The International Executive Committee may deprive a section, affiliated group (Article 10) or a member (Article 11) of membership of *Amnesty International* if in its opinion that section, affiliated group or member does not act within the spirit of the object, mandate and methods set out in Articles 1 and 2 or does not organize and maintain basic *Amnesty International* activities or does not observe any of the provisions of this Statute. Before taking such action, the section, affiliated group or member and, when the deprivation of membership of a section is considered, all other sections will be informed in writing of the grounds on which it is proposed to deprive it or such person of membership, and such section, affiliated group or member shall be provided with an opportunity of presenting its or such member's case to the International Executive Committee. Once the International Executive Committee has decided to take such action in respect of a section, affiliated group or member, the section, affiliated group or member may appeal to the Membership Appeals Committee. This committee shall consist of five members and two alternate members who shall be elected by the International Council in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as provided for in Article 24 a) for the International Executive Committee. Once deprived of membership, a section, affiliated group or member may no longer use the name of *Amnesty International*

### **Finance**

- 41.An auditor appointed by the International Council shall annually audit the accounts of *Amnesty International* which shall be prepared by the International Secretariat and presented to the International Executive Committee and the International Council.
- 42.No part of the income or property of *Amnesty International* shall directly or indirectly be paid or transferred otherwise than for valuable and sufficient consideration to any of its members by way of dividend, gift, division, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit.

### **Amendments of Statute**

- 43.The Statute may be amended by the International Council by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes cast. Amendments may be submitted by the International Executive Committee or by a section. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the International Secretariat not less than nine months before the International Council meets, and presentation to the International Council shall be supported in writing by at least five sections. Proposed amendments shall be communicated by the International Secretariat to all sections and to members of the International Executive Committee.
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## **AI Index: POL 20/01/95 Amnesty International Publications, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom .**

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## Appendix III

# Public Identification with AI and Cooperation with Outside Groups

*(Adopted by the AIUSA Board of Directors, April 1992)*

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AIUSA staff and groups are increasingly seeking ways to strengthen the human rights movement and mobilize larger numbers of people on the issue of human rights within Amnesty's mandate. One way that we do this is through greater cooperation with other non-governmental organizations. That cooperation can take place through formal and informal cooperation, as well as advice, consultation and support.

Active members and staff have expressed the need for clear, explicit guidelines on these methods of increasing action on AI issues. These guidelines are designed to allow for the broadest possible range of cooperation, while still maintaining AIUSA's independence, impartiality and integrity as an organization.

Many decisions on whether cooperation with other organizations is appropriate need to be made on a case-by-case basis. These guidelines indicate when proposed cooperation is appropriate. The guidelines should be used as a framework for making decisions on cooperation and to help staff and groups determine when and whom to consult.

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- B. Approved methods of cooperation

### II. General Guidelines

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### III. Informal Cooperation

- A. Advice and consultation
- B. Participation in other organizations' events and activities
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IV. Financial and Material Support of Other Organizations

- A. Providing AI materials and services to other organizations
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V. Formal Cooperation and Affiliation

- A. Approved groups for formal cooperation
- B. Cooperating in and co-sponsoring public events and activities
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- F. Special rules: death penalty coalitions
- G. Appeal process when approval is not received

VI. Hosting of AI Events and Meetings

VII. Guidelines for the Use of AI's Name

## I. INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Amnesty International has established policy and some guidelines on cooperation with other non-governmental organizations which apply to Amnesty sections and groups all over the world.

### A. Goals of cooperation

Cooperation with other organizations has the following aims --

1. To gather information about violations of human rights falling within AI's mandate.
2. To develop and strengthen the movement.

3. To increase opposition to and active campaigning against human rights violations within AI's mandate.

## **B. Possible methods of work with other organizations**

Of greatest concern to AIUSA volunteer groups and leaders is point 3, above. The many questions which are raised regarding appropriate ways of cooperating with other organizations relate to how we can make Amnesty's work more effective at the state and local levels. Cooperation with other organizations aimed at concrete action against human rights abuses are approved in the following ways by international policy.

1. Dissemination of information: Distributing Amnesty materials to other organizations is an important form of contact with other organizations and is encouraged. AI's EXTERNAL information can be made available to any interested organization. INTERNAL information should be distributed only to AI members, Board, and staff.

2. Requests for action: Amnesty asks others to oppose the violations of human rights falling within our mandate and therefore to take action using either AI techniques or their own methods of operation. However, we join in the activities of other organizations only in very limited ways, described in these guidelines.

3. Assistance and advice: AI has been called on increasingly by other organizations for assistance and advice. AI is willing to give some practical suggestions and support to other organizations' human rights activities. As this relates to financial support, AIUSA has prepared guidelines, below.

4. Informal cooperation: Cooperation with other organizations may also have the purpose of consultation and coordination. The guidelines that follow address various forms of informal cooperation, which is strongly encouraged.

5. Formal cooperation/affiliation: There are ways in which formal cooperation through joint action can take place, including: joining coalitions or umbrella groups, producing joint publications, and co-sponsoring individual events or activities. Except for death penalty coalitions (see section V.F), each proposal for formal cooperation must be examined, and approval must be obtained in most cases. This guideline addresses criteria, guidelines, and procedures for formal cooperation.

# **II. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION**

These guidelines have been developed by AIUSA for volunteer groups, volunteer leaders, and regional and national staff in accordance with AI's international guidelines. They fall into several areas: informal cooperation, formal cooperation, financial and material support of other organizations, and use of suitable spaces for AI events and meetings.

## **A. Requirements of cooperation with other groups**

All types of AIUSA cooperation with other non-governmental organizations must --

- > Relate to activities which are a part of AIUSA's own plans and strategies.
- > Remain consistent with AI's mandate and policy.
- > If involving volunteer groups or leaders, be approved by AIUSA staff when there is any possibility that it does not fulfill the above two requirements.

## **B. Procedure for considering types of cooperation**

If you think you want and/or need to cooperate with other groups, think about the following things. You must review the specific guidelines which follow later in this paper related to each of the types of cooperation involved before proceeding with any action.

1. What are the specific goals you want to achieve? Do they fall within the international goals of: gathering information, developing the AI movement, or increasing opposition to and active campaigning against human rights violations in AI's mandate? Do they relate to activities which are part of AI's own plans and strategies? Are you sure they do not contradict AI's mandate or policies? If you have any doubt about these things, speak with an area coordinator or regional or national staff person.
2. Can your goals be accomplished by informal cooperation or support: advice and consultation; participating in other organizations' events or activities, or having them participate in yours; distributing AI materials to them, or using their materials; sponsoring activities that might be beneficial to the other organization; and so forth? If so, it is simpler and easier to try informal cooperation before considering formal affiliation.
3. If not, is formal cooperation or affiliation appropriate? What are the specific reasons for the formal affiliation? What is the project? Which groups do you want to work with: are they approved for cooperation in general? Can you veto any activity or element of an event which links AI's name with other's?
4. Can you write a written proposal if necessary? If so, and you volunteer, be in touch with your area coordinator, who will contact the regional office, or contact the regional office directly. Regional or national staff who are not certain whether formal affiliation is appropriate should contact a member of the staff of the Executive Unit. Note the special procedure for death penalty coalitions (see Section V.F).
5. If your proposal for formal cooperation is not approved, go back and think about other possible ways to cooperate informally which might accomplish your goals.

## **III. INFORMAL COOPERATION**

There are many ways to cooperate with other organizations which do not involve public identification of Amnesty with other organizations. Informal cooperation is generally appropriate in the following ways.

### **A. Advice and consultation**

AI has become, in many places, one of the more experienced human rights/cause organizations. We are called on increasingly by other such organizations for assistance and advice. It is appropriate to provide advice to other organizations, so long as their goals are not inconsistent with Amnesty's, on specific human rights issues, how they can build their organization, how to do fundraising, or any other area of AI work in which a volunteer or staff person has expertise.

On the other hand, we often have a great deal to learn from other organizations. We should call on them when possible to provide us with information on human rights issues, advice on lobbying or fundraising or any other area of work, advice on how to approach a specific issue in our work, or anything else that will help AI accomplish its goals.

### **B. Participation in other organizations' events and activities**

AIUSA representatives and groups are frequently invited or choose to participate in the events, activities, and meetings of other organizations. It is important to distinguish between an internal meeting for another organization's membership and a public event at which AI will appear to be linked with other issues. There is more flexibility in groups which are appropriate to address when it is an internal meeting rather than a public meeting. Participation in the

events, activities, and meetings of other groups can be a very valuable method of cooperating with other groups and is generally encouraged in the following ways.

1. Speaking to internal membership meetings: It is allowed to present AI's mandate or concerns to an internal meeting for the membership of an organization, even if that organization is a campaign committee, a political party committee, or an organization with an agenda contrary to AI's mandate, as long as --

- a. The meeting is not publicized.
- b. The purpose of the meeting is to brief those present on AI's mandate or concerns or advise them on how they can work on issues within AI's mandate.

2. Speaking at public events, panels, rallies, speeches, and remarks at events: Other organizations' and community events can be valuable opportunities to inform more people of Al's mandate and concerns and build ties. However, we must be very careful to guard AI's independence, impartiality, and integrity when AI is publicly linked with other groups.

- a. The primary reason for the appearance should be to benefit and promote Amnesty's program or agenda, not to promote the program or agenda of the other organization.
- b. The AI representative or group must be able to control what they speak on -- it must be possible to focus solely on issues within our mandate.
- c. If the event is a panel, rally, or other event with a number of speakers, a broad spectrum of organizations must be represented. For example, an AI representative should not be appearing only with groups perceived by the public as being aligned with the left or the right in the political spectrum.
- d. It is not appropriate to appear at events of the following kinds. This list is not exhaustive, but points out characteristics of events which must be considered.
  - > An elective event, for example, a campaign rally for an elected official.
  - > An event sponsored by a group with a narrow political perspective.
  - > A public event sponsored by a political party.
  - > A public event related to an electoral issue, like a rally on a ballot referendum, unless it directly relates to an issue on Amnesty's legislative agenda.

3. Participation in parades and marches: Carrying an Amnesty banner, or a banner on an AI issue, in a parade or march is appropriate as long as the event meets the guidelines listed in number 2 above.

4. Distribution of AI materials at other organizations' events: Public events can be good opportunities to distribute AI's materials and invite people to AI events. This can be an alternative to appearing at the event if there is any question that an Amnesty representative's appearance is not appropriate. The same guidelines listed in number 2 above apply.

## **C. Use and distribution of other organizations' materials**

Sometimes other organizations produce materials that are needed by or useful to AIUSA and which we have neither the staff, resources, nor the expertise to develop. There may also be materials announcing other groups' events and activities. In limited cases, we can distribute such materials to the Amnesty membership, in Amnesty mailings, or at Amnesty events, with the following guidelines.

1. Distribution must be approved by regional or national staff.

2. The materials must not contradict Amnesty's mandate, and must relate to current AIUSA programs and priorities.
3. The materials should be carefully evaluated for their quality and general political tenor.
4. Some AI mailings are very internal and are never distributed to the general public (for example, most of the Monthly Mailings, student mailings, and co-group mailings). Others are frequently copied and distributed broadly, or may be distributed to the public (for example, Amnesty Action, Urgent Actions, or The Fourth R [National Educators Network Newsletter]). Stricter guidelines must be applied to those mailings which are also used for public distribution.
  - a. Generally, materials on human rights abuses in a particular country will not be approved for inclusion in materials distributed to the public.
  - b. Materials relating to the following areas are most likely to be approved for distribution:
    - > Human rights education.
    - > Human rights treaty ratification.
    - > Refugees.
    - > Death penalty abolition.
    - > Activities which provide specific outreach opportunities for Amnesty in relation to a particular action.
    - > Events at which an Amnesty representative is appearing or speaking.

5. The organization which produced the material must be credited and a disclaimer must be attached if the organization's mandate is broader than or contradicts Amnesty's.

- a. For example, an organization which focuses solely on the ratification of a human rights treaty we are working on, or works solely for the abolition of the death penalty, need only be identified. Materials from organizations like a Central American refugees group, women's organization, or professional organization on mental retardation must also include a disclaimer.
- b. Appropriate wording for a disclaimer might be: "Amnesty International distribution of these materials in no way implies endorsement of the \_\_\_\_\_, or agreement with the policies, positions and activities of the \_\_\_\_\_."

6. No Amnesty mailing list, either a national membership or local list, should be given to another organization to do its own mailing, for two reasons. This removes Amnesty's control over the contents of the mailing. Also, once an organization has the list, it may use it for other mailings as well.

## **D. Distribution of other organizations' materials at Amnesty events**

Other organizations frequently ask Amnesty offices, groups, and leaders to distribute their materials at our events. This is allowed only if:

1. The materials have been approved for distribution as in C above.
2. The event has been approved for co-sponsorship (see IV.A below).

Otherwise, other organizations may distribute or put their fliers, brochures, and so forth outside of the area in which the AI event is being held. This must be done in such a way that no endorsement by or affiliation with Amnesty is implied.

## **E. Sharing office space or phone numbers with community centers or other organizations**

It is usually not appropriate for Amnesty groups or volunteer leaders to use the address or phone number of a local peace and justice or community center for the group.

1. Some such centers provide office space and telephone referral service for community service and social change groups. It is fine if such a center provides its own referral service for groups in the community and gives the volunteer group's or volunteer leader's number out through that service. However, the Amnesty group should not use that number or address and should never list it on publicity or promotional material for the group.
2. In some circumstances an Amnesty group may rent space in the same building as such a center or rent part of its space. That can be appropriate, as long as the Amnesty phone number is separate and not used by other groups, and the address Amnesty uses does not include the name of the center.
3. The sole exception to this rule is an instance where Amnesty has approved joining a state or local death penalty abolition coalition for a specific period of time. For the approved period, the coalition address and number may be given in Amnesty materials, if necessary. However, it is still preferable to maintain a separate address and phone number for AI's death penalty abolition contact in that area.

## **IV. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Increasingly, other human rights organizations are seeing Amnesty as a source of financial and material support. There are limited ways in which we can provide such support. However, we must always keep in mind that Amnesty's budget is made up primarily of donations from individuals -- individuals who have given their money to AIUSA and not to the other organization which requests our support. It is also important to remember that we can only support organizations whose work is consistent with Amnesty's mandate.

### **A. Providing AI materials and services to other organizations**

1. AI publications, videos, and other printed materials: It is appropriate to support any organization whose mandate does not violate Amnesty's by providing them with copies of AI publications, other printed materials, and videos which will be of use to them.
2. Office supplies and materials for which we have no further use: In order to help other human rights organizations only, it is possible to provide them with limited quantities of office supplies and office materials or equipment for which we have no further use (that is, old desks, shelves, filing cabinets, and so forth).
3. Use of the AI mailing list: The AIUSA mailing list should never be given to another organization. We do sell and exchange that list -- in order for a group or organization to obtain it, they must contract with a mailing house to approach Amnesty's mailing house to arrange for purchase or exchange.
4. Mailings for other organizations' activities or events: This may be allowed when the activity or event relates to current AIUSA programs and priorities (see III "Use and distribution of other organizations' materials," above, for more details).
5. Paying for an Amnesty representative to attend another organization's activities or events: If an activity or event is consistent with the guidelines on appearing at other organizations' events (see III.B.2, above), it is appropriate for Amnesty to pay for our own representative to attend or make a presentation or speech at the event.

## **B. Purchasing materials and services from other organizations**

It is possible to support other organizations by purchasing materials or services from them which we need to support Amnesty's current program and priorities.

1. Buying publications or materials for use by AI: Sometimes organizations produce materials which we have neither the staff, time, nor expertise to produce within AI but which are of use to our work. In these cases, we can buy the materials (for further guidelines on distribution of such materials, see III "Use and distribution of other organizations' materials").
2. Paying honoraria to representatives of other groups: In exceptional cases, when a representative of another organization speaks at an Amnesty event, it is possible to pay a reasonable honorarium to the organization.
3. Purchasing services: If an organization provides a service that Amnesty needs, it is possible to pay fees for the service. However, those fees should not be used as a way of providing funding for another organization.

## **C. Funding activities that would benefit others as well**

It is sometimes possible to fund activities that will benefit other organizations as well as Amnesty.

1. These might include newspaper ads, polls, press conferences, meetings, events, and so forth that are sponsored by Amnesty and are part of our existing program and priorities and which also address the issues and concerns of other organizations.
2. Amnesty can also share speakers that we bring in. For example, if an Amnesty group is paying for a former prisoner to fly in to the group's area for an Amnesty event, the group can also offer the person as a speaker for other groups' meetings and events.

## **D. Making our office space available to other organizations**

On occasion, Amnesty may make its office space available to other organizations on a short term basis, where the mandate of the organization is limited to work which fits completely within our mandate. This should be only to help an organization get on its feet and must be decided with approval of national staff on a case-by-case basis.

## **E. Cash donations to other organizations**

It has been decided that Amnesty may financially support other groups in order to further the goals of AIUSA in exceptional circumstances for the next year. Decisions on such support must be made with consultation of regional and national staff on a case-by-case basis, and will be evaluated at the end of the year. [Review of this policy was still pending as of January 1994.]

# **V. FORMAL COOPERATION AND AFFILIATION**

Formal cooperation and affiliation, because they pose greater possible threats to Amnesty's independence and impartiality, require careful consideration and a formal internal review and approval process (see Section V.F for death penalty coalition simplified rules). Formal cooperation, while often valuable, also increases the threat of Amnesty being involved in work on issues outside our mandate and might even involve us unwittingly in activities contrary to

our mandate. This is true because this type of cooperation --

1. Links Amnesty International publicly with other organizations.
2. Might decrease Amnesty's control over the agenda, content, and format of a program or event.

This is why formal cooperation or affiliation is subject to a careful review and approval process.

## **A. Approved groups for formal cooperation**

There are types of groups which may be acceptable to formally cooperate with and be publicly affiliated with. This is not an exhaustive list.

### **Generally acceptable**

Community groups

Social clubs

Service organizations

Non-partisan social change groups, like peace and social justice groups

Student governments

Academic departments

Religious groups and institutions

Women's groups

Ethnic groups

Professional groups

Human rights groups

Foreign affairs councils

### **Generally unacceptable**

Republican/Democratic/other political parties and affiliated groups

Revolutionary groups

Solidarity groups (like Central American solidarity and anti-apartheid groups)

Groups advocating violence

Political officials/candidates

League of Women Voters

## **B. Cooperating in and co-sponsoring public events/activities**

1. Events with the assistance, cooperation, or support of AIUSA or another group. It is possible to coordinate events with acceptable organizations. These events can be sponsored by AIUSA or an AIUSA group, with the assistance, cooperation, and support of other groups. Likewise, they can be sponsored by another group with the assistance, cooperation, and support of an AIUSA group. There might also be events which other organizations hold to benefit AI. AI should not hold events to benefit other organizations.

a. General guidelines --

> Use of a group or AIUSA membership list: You can send out a mailing to your group's or the AIUSA membership list for an event you are cooperating with another group on. Never give another group either list.

> Use of AIUSA or group money: If the event is an AIUSA event, with the support of other groups, you can cover all expenses. If the event is sponsored by another group, with AI support, assistance, or cooperation, you can pay for some expenses related to the event: travel or honoraria for an AI speaker, mailing to AIUSA lists, refreshments, and so forth. Never give money directly to another group to reimburse them for expenses related to a cooperative event.

b. Wording for publicity. In these cases, acceptable wording for publicity might be --

> Sponsored by the \_\_\_\_\_ Ecumenical Council with the assistance of Amnesty International Group 999.

> Sponsored by the Amnesty International XYZ High School Group with the support of the XYZ High School Key Club.

> Sponsored by the \_\_\_\_\_ College Student Association. Proceeds to benefit Amnesty International.

> Speaker sponsored by the International Relations Club Reception following, sponsored by the \_\_\_\_\_ High School Amnesty International Group.

> Sponsored by Amnesty International Group 999. The assistance of the following groups/people is gratefully acknowledged: City Women's Club, City NOW affiliate, City First Baptist Church.

NOTE: An event sponsored or supported by AIUSA volunteer group is not "Sponsored by AIUSA:" it is "Sponsored by AIUSA Group 999" or "Sponsored by the Amnesty International City High School Group."

2. Co-sponsored events. Co-sponsorship of events with other organizations, while sometimes desirable, can pose serious risks for Amnesty's independence, impartiality, and integrity as an organization. For that reason co-sponsorship generally requires review and approval.

a. General guidelines --

> Approval must be obtained from the regional or national staff in order to co-sponsor an event.

> One exception to this rule is co-sponsorship of an event by an academic department or student government. Many high school and college groups can get funding for activities from their schools only if an event is co-sponsored by a department of the school or the student government or student activities board. For this reason, and because such co-sponsorship rarely poses any threat to Amnesty's independence, impartiality, and integrity, student groups do not need to obtain approval for this kind of co-sponsorship.

> Veto power over speakers, materials, press releases, ads, and so forth: The Amnesty group or office involved in a co-sponsored event must have the power to veto any part of the event or related activities which might violate Amnesty's mandate, compromise AI's independence and impartiality,

or go against AI's approach, programs, and priorities.

> Use of a group or AIUSA membership list: Mailings publicizing a co-sponsored event can be sent to a volunteer group's or the AIUSA membership list. Never give another group either list.

> Use of AIUSA or group money: Expenses for a co-sponsored event should be shared by the sponsors. If Amnesty is paying all expenses, the event should not be co-sponsored: it is solely an Amnesty event. Generally, Amnesty and the co-sponsoring organization should pay separate expenses. Amnesty should not give money directly to another group to reimburse them for expenses related to a co-sponsored event unless there is no alternative.

> Joint bank accounts for a co-sponsored event: Joint bank accounts with other groups are not allowed, even if co-sponsoring an event.

b. Wording for publicity: Where an event is approved for co-sponsorship, acceptable wording for publicity might be --

> Sponsored by the College Amnesty International Group and the College Political Science Department.

> Co-sponsored by Amnesty International Group 999, the City Chapter of the NAACP, and the State Association for the Mentally Retarded.

## C. Joint meetings with elected officials

Private meetings with elected officials (Members of Congress, Governors, State Legislators, and so forth) and/or their staff can be made jointly with other groups on certain issues where the following requirements are met.

1. The major focus of the meeting should be on one of the following areas of Amnesty's work:

a. Death penalty abolition.

b. Human rights treaty ratification.

c. Legislation on Amnesty's agenda (for example, the Torture Victim Protection Act or the Moakley-DeConcini Bill).

d. Urgent action investigation or adoption cases on behalf of one or more prisoners of conscience (POC) and the like undertaken by AI.

2. The major focus of the meeting should be agreed on by all groups before the meeting. If there is not agreement on the joint purpose, Amnesty should have a separate meeting.

3. At the beginning of the meeting, the major focus must be clearly stated, and the AI representative(s) must have an opportunity to make clear what Amnesty's particular concern is.

4. None of the organizations participating should have a partisan political agenda: political party affiliates, solidarity groups, and groups with a strictly political agenda are not appropriate.

5. Each organization can raise issues outside the joint purpose, as long as the joint purpose is the primary focus of the meeting and it is clear that all the groups participating do not support every issue being raised.

## D. Production of joint materials

Amnesty should not be involved in the joint publication of materials with another organization. Alternatives are --

1. Providing another group with AI materials to distribute.
2. Purchasing another group's materials for AI distribution (see III "Use and distribution of other organizations' materials," above).
3. Arranging a regular Amnesty insert in another organization's publication with full editorial control by Amnesty: this should be approved by regional or national staff.

## **E. Coalitions/umbrella groups**

Formal affiliations with other groups can be allowed in relation to several areas of Amnesty work, including --

- > Death penalty abolition (national, state, and local coalitions).
- > Refugees (national councils and umbrella groups).
- > Human rights national councils and advisory committees.

Formal affiliations relating to refugees and human rights platforms must be approved by national staff. Refugee coalitions may be locally based but address national concerns.

## **F. Special rules: death penalty coalitions**

The following special guidelines relate to affiliation with state and local death penalty abolition coalitions which, provided the stated conditions are met, by vote of the 1990 AGM is excepted from the normal coalition approval rules.

1. Associate membership: State death penalty coordinators, area/regional membership coordinators, local AIUSA groups, and regional offices can become associate members of death penalty abolition coalitions without specific approval. This is the simplest and easiest way of participating in coalitions and should be considered as an option before applying to formally join a coalition. This is also the only way in which Amnesty can be affiliated with state and local coalitions on a long term basis.

The following applies to associate membership:

- a. Amnesty representatives can attend general meetings of the coalition.
- b. Amnesty representatives can participate in coalition task forces working on passage of a piece of legislation, overall strategy, particular public events, and so forth.
- c. Amnesty cannot be listed on the letterhead or publications of the coalition as a member.
- d. Amnesty cannot make donations or pay membership dues to the coalition.
- e. Amnesty representatives may pursue forms of informal and formal cooperation described above, including co-sponsoring events with the coalition approval.
- f. Mailings to Amnesty's mailing list for events which are not co-sponsored should follow the guidelines in III.C, "Use and distribution of other organizations' materials."

2. Regular membership: State death penalty coordinators, local AIUSA groups, and regional offices may become regular members of state and local death penalty abolition coalitions for a limited period of time for work on a particular state legislative project. Local groups and individual members may not join coalitions as Amnesty representatives.

The following applies to regular membership:

- a. Information must be submitted to the regional office and forwarded by them to the Director of the Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty. Information must be provided to the regional office before any action may be taken by Amnesty representatives as members of the coalition. This proposal must include a(n) --
  - > Description of the specific project involved, for example, fight against reinstatement of the death penalty, work for passage of a bill limiting application of the death penalty, or work for passage of a bill abolishing the death penalty.
  - > Description of the other members of the coalition (there must be a diversity of organizations).
  - > End date, at which point Amnesty will withdraw from the coalition or Amnesty's affiliation will become associate membership.
  - > Request for funding requested from the regional and/or national budget for Amnesty's work in the project.
- b. As a regular membership, the following is allowed for the period of time specified.
  - > AIUSA can be publicly listed as a member of the coalition.
  - > Amnesty representatives can use the coalition office space, address, and phone numbers, if necessary. It would be preferable to keep Amnesty's contact information separate, however, so that there will not be confusion when the approved period of time ends.
  - > Events can be co-sponsored with the coalition without specific approval, as long as the events adhere to guidelines of events targeted for abolition.
  - > AIUSA's and a volunteer group's mailing lists may be used, carefully, for mailings involving the specific project approved. Neither of these lists should be given to the coalition: mailings to these lists should be done for the benefit of the coalition by Amnesty representatives.
  - > Amnesty funds can be used, as approved, for the specific project involved. Amnesty money should not be given directly to the coalition. Rather, expenses related to the joint project of Amnesty and the coalition should be paid directly by Amnesty as our share/part of the project.
- c. It is possible to extend the period of time for the project if the current period of time runs out and the project is not completed. Regional offices must be notified of this extension, in consultation with the Director of the Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty.
- d. Any questions not addressed in these guidelines regarding appropriate actions as a member of a coalition should be addressed to regional offices.

## **G. Appeal process when approval is not received**

Where approval for cooperation or affiliation has been sought in accordance with this guideline and has been refused or where, in the opinion of the requesters, it has either been unduly delayed or made subject to impractical conditions, the (Amnesty International) requesters may appeal the decision to the AIUSA Board Ombudsperson. The Ombudsperson shall promptly look into the matter and after consultation with all affected parties shall make a binding decision as soon as possible and in all cases within 30 days of receipt of a written appeal.

## **Vi. Hosting OF AI EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

AI events and meetings may be held in a variety of places where such location is open to the public for the event or meeting and where the use of the site does not conflict with AI's message. Typical of such locations are public buildings, schools and universities, churches, hotels, conference centers, and private homes.

## **VII. Guidelines for the use of AI's name**

Members of AIUSA must make clear when they are speaking/writing --

- > as individuals.
- > as AI members.
- > as volunteers in AIUSA.

1. When acting as individuals, for example in political action or public discourse on issues outside the mandate, we should not identify ourselves as AI, because that conveys a falsehood: that AI has a stand on such matters. But especially because Amnesty International is fundamentally devoted to freedom of expression, and indeed was founded on that principle, volunteer members will not in any way be penalized for exercising their rights as individuals.
2. When acting as members of AIUSA, we should hold the mandate in mind. Generally speaking, we should mention that AI membership in every positive connection, so as to spread awareness of and respect for the organization. Good judgment would indicate not using the label in highly charged positions or otherwise controversial contexts.
3. When acting as a volunteer in AIUSA, we should clearly identify ourselves as that, for example on stationery. This label conveys trust. It should be vigorously asserted on appropriate occasions when working on the mandate. We should never use this label on any but mandate and organizational issues.
4. Members of AIUSA should avoid using their identification with Amnesty International when their public statements and/or activities contradict or go beyond AI's mandate.
5. If speaking as a representative of AI, a member may be asked questions which go beyond the mandate. The individual should make clear when their statements do not represent the views of Amnesty International.
6. Members who are uncertain if their activities and/or their correspondence violate these guidelines or who feel that an exception to these guidelines should occur should consult with a member of their regional staff.
7. In keeping with Amnesty policy, nationals (meaning citizens of a specific country) should not play a leading public role in Amnesty International actions, letters, or appeals to countries where they could be identified as potentially "hostile." They should not be members of a coordination group on that country. In local and student groups, nationals should not work on cases from or sign any letters or appeals to their country of origin. These criteria also apply to any others who may be considered non-objective by virtue of country of birth, ancestry, or other close identification where such a relationship could lead to a perception of bias. For more information on these and other AI policies, see the Amnesty International Policy Manual, 1992, which is available from regional offices.

# Appendix IV

## Special Initiatives Fund

The **Special Initiatives Fund** was established to encourage creative projects that help advance the goals of AIUSA and to allow groups to take advantage of opportunities that would be difficult to finance otherwise. The Fund provides support for projects that would normally be beyond the budgetary capabilities of campus groups, local groups, clusters, co-groups, etc. Fundraising projects are required to reimburse the SIF for the amount loaned. Funding decisions are made during the month following submission by a [five-member committee of volunteers](#), one from each region, chaired by a member of the Board of Directors.

### Goals of the proposed project

The project needs to have the potential to substantially advance AI's mission and strategic plan in two or more of the following ways:

- educate the public about human rights issues
- enhance AI's visibility in the community
- recruit new members
- stimulate membership activism
- foster multi-cultural development in AIUSA
- impact both US and other governmental policies and practices
- strengthen area/regional collaboration amongst AI groups
- support networking with human rights organizations

### Criteria for eligibility

- The Regional SIF representative must be consulted.
- The project should contain a *special initiative* rather than be a means to meet ordinary group expenses.
- Demands on staff, co-groups, or others for implementation must be agreed upon **in advance**.
- The same or similar projects should not be submitted by the same applicant if funded in a previous year.
- Projects that are already in progress or have been completed **will not be considered for funding**. Preplanning is encouraged but it should not include expenditures or commitment to expenditure.

### Proposal Narrative

Complete the following narrative and application form (limit = 4 pages) and submit (postal mail, or fax) to the Staff Liaison to **ARRIVE** by the last day of the month.

Specific Aims: Briefly describe the goals and objectives of the project. Include a statement of the problem to be addressed.

Method: The proposal should indicate the means by which it is to be carried out, including a time-line and an outline of the project. It should be specific, demonstrating its feasibility in terms of resources (money, people, time).

Budget: Include itemized costs you expect this project to incur in detail and justify each item; include other sources of funding. If you are requesting a loan of funds, a repayment scheme with expected date of repayment should be included within this budget document.

Evaluation: Describe the criteria by which the project will be evaluated and **give the date** on which the evaluation report (limit 2 pages) will be sent to your regional SIF representative.

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# Appendix V

## Addresses of Human Rights Organizations

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This appendix lists some of the organizations concerned with human rights abuses worldwide and includes notes on their activities of interest to AI action file coordinators. The information in this appendix came from Human Rights Internet and from the Encyclopedia of Associations and the Encyclopedia of Associations: International Organizations.

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### Overview

Organizations in this appendix are arranged in the following order --

- international/general human rights organizations.
- organizations that work for imprisoned lawyers and judges/against legal system abuses.
- organizations that work against torture.
- organizations that work for writers and journalists.
- organizations that work for scientists and engineers.
- organizations that work for health professionals or against medical or psychiatric abuse.
- organizations that work for religion cases.
- other human rights organizations.

### Contact Human Rights Internet

It is most strongly recommended that you contact Human Rights Internet (see page 145) for --

- a more complete and up-to-date listing of human rights organizations, with extensive descriptions and contact names.
- a list of human rights organizations that focus on the situation in your target country.

Your co-group will also be able to identify some human rights organizations that focus on your target country or

region.

## **Telephone organizations**

Organizations sometimes move, merge, or fold. Also, your letters will have more power, and you will find it easier to follow them up, if they are addressed to the appropriate person in an organization. Therefore, it is most strongly recommended that before you write any organization listed here, you call to --

- verify the organization's address.
- obtain the name and title of the person to whom your letter should be directed.

If you find that an organization has moved, and directory assistance cannot help you find it, phone the reference librarian at your local library. Ask him or her to look up the organization's current phone number in the latest edition of the Encyclopedia of Associations.

## **Coordination**

Recall that you may not write an international organization as a member of AI without permission from the AI International Secretariat (ask your co-group to contact the International Secretariat for you if you believe such an approach would be valuable).

Before contacting the representatives of U.S. organizations, coordinate with the appropriate national staff member. These staff members are --

- for organizations of lawyers, health professionals, academics, teachers, and scientists -- the Action Unit Director in the Chicago office.
- for religious and women's organizations -- the Outreach Coordinator in the National office.
- for organizations of writers, journalists, editors, and other members of the media -- the Director of Communications in the National office.
- for military, security, or police organizations, or for human rights organizations with no professional focus -- the Director of the DC office.

## **International/general human rights organizations**

### **International League for Human Rights (ILHR)**

432 Park Avenue South, Room 1103

New York, NY 10016

212-684-1221

(especially for cases of human rights advocates)

(produces many publications)

### **Freedom House**

120 Wall Street, 26th Floor

New York, NY 10005

212-514-8040

(conducts worldwide survey of human rights)

(has a research and documentation center)

(produces many publications)

(bestows awards)

**Human Rights Watch**

485 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10017

212-972-8400

(includes Africa Watch, Americas Watch, Asia Watch, Helsinki Watch, and Middle East Watch)

(publishes reports, including Review of Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights and the annual Summary of Persecution Against Human Rights Monitors)

(lobbies the U.S. Congress)

(affiliated with the Fund for Free Expression)

(coordinate with your co-group)

(see p. 147)

**International Federation for Human Rights**

27, rue Jean-Dolent

F-75014 Paris

France

phone 1-43319495

fax 1-43363543

(conducts missions)

(publishes 30 mission reports each year, a weekly newsletter in French)

(works to defend victims of arbitrary government abuse of human rights)

(maintains a library)

(has research programs)

(sends observers to trials)

(conducts public protests)

**Organizations that work for imprisoned lawyers and judges/against legal system abuses**

**International Commission of Jurists**

P.O. Box 160

26, chemin de Joinville

CH-1216 Geneva Cointrin

Switzerland

phone 22-7884747

fax 22-7884880

(sends observer missions to trials of major significance)

(includes the Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, which works for lawyers who are being persecuted or harassed for their professional work in upholding the principles of the Rule of Law)

(has a U.S. section)

(publishes country reports, quarterly newsletter)

**International Human Rights Law Group**

1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20009

202-232-8500

(on a pro bono basis, assists and cooperates with non-governmental organizations in preparing complaints of human rights violations to be filed before international, regional, and domestic legal fora)

(bestows awards)

(produces many publications)

(has an affiliate: The Human Rights Advocates, P.O. Box 5675, Berkeley, CA 94705, 415-540-8017)

**Lawyers Committee for Human Rights**

330 Seventh Avenue, Tenth Floor North

New York, NY 10001

phone 212-629-6170

fax 212-967-0916

(has volunteer lawyers)

(helps with pro bono representation of indigent political asylum applicants in the U.S.)

(bestows human rights medal)

### **American Bar Association**

Sub-committee on the Independence of Lawyers in Foreign Countries

Section of International Law and Practice

1800 M Street, NW, Suite 450 South

Washington, DC 20036

202-331-2239

(writes letters and acts on behalf of individual lawyers or jurists who are harassed, imprisoned, or persecuted in other ways for their legal work)

(also has the Committee on International Human Rights, Section of International Law and Practice)

### **Federal Bar Association**

International Human Rights Committee

1815 H Street, NW, Suite 408

Washington, DC 20006

202-638-0252

(is an organization of attorneys employed by the federal government)

(holds human rights seminars)

### **Human Rights Advocates International**

341 Madison, 20th Floor

New York, NY 10017

212-986-5555

(investigates alleged human rights violations)

(maintains a law library of international texts)

(represents exiles)

(publishes research results)

### **Organizations that work against torture**

#### **World Organizations Against Torture**

37-39, rue de Vermont

Case Postale 119

CH-1211 Geneva

Switzerland

phone 22-7333140

fax 22-7331051

(works against torture, "disappearances," and summary executions)

(works closely with AI)

(rapidly disseminates information about torture victims at risk)

(offers rehabilitative services to victims of torture)

(produces publications)

#### **Association for the Prevention of Torture**

Case Postale 2267

1211 Geneva 2

Switzerland

phone 22-7342088

fax 22-7345649

(visits detention centers)

(publishes newsletter in French and German; book, How to Combat Torture; other publications)

### **Organizations that work for writers and journalists**

#### **Writers and Scholars Educational Trust/Index on Censorship**

32 Queen Victoria Street

London EC4N 4SS

United Kingdom

phone 71-3296434

fax 71-3296461

(documents the censorship and repression of writers, artists, scholars, journalists, and others worldwide)

(gets information from AI's International Secretariat)

(publishes Index on Censorship, 6 times per year)

### **International PEN**

Writers in Prison Committee

9/10 Charterhouse Buildings

London EC1M 7AT

United Kingdom

phone 71-2534308

fax 71-2535711

(works for the release of imprisoned writers, journalists, translators, and publishers)

(will "adopt" imprisoned writers as honorary PEN members)

(gets information from AI's International Secretariat)

(has U.S. affiliates in New York and Los Angeles)

(sends delegations to visit imprisoned writers)

(organizes letter-writing groups)

(conducts research)

(publishes biannual reports)

(see p. 148)

### **PEN American Center**

568 Broadway, Fourth Floor

New York, NY 10012

212-334-1660

(affiliated with International PEN)

(receives Freedom Writers mailings)

### **PEN Center USA West**

c/o Sherrill Britton

672 S. Lafayette Park Place, Number 41

Los Angeles, CA 90057

213-365-8500

(affiliated with International PEN)

**Committee to Protect Journalists**

330 Seventh Avenue, 12th Floor

New York, NY 10001

phone 212-465-1004

fax 212-465-9568

(works for imprisoned journalists and editors)

(publishes quarterly newsletter, CPJ Update, which includes the Committee's current case list and updates on cases; numerous other publications, including annual Attacks on the Press, \$10)

(bestows awards)

(receives Freedom Writers mailings)

(see p. 147)

**International Press Institute (IPI)**

American Committee

c/o Gene Giancarlo

819 N. Kiowa Street

Allentown, PA 18103

215-432-6700

(helps imprisoned and persecuted journalists around the world)

**World Press Freedom Committee (WPFC)**

11600 Sunrise Valley Drive

Reston, VA 22091

703-648-1000

(maintains a strong global voice "against . . . those who abuse newsmen")

**Organizations that work for scientists and engineers**

**American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**

Science and Human Rights Program

1333 H Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

202-326-6400

(organizes missions)

(responds to violations of the basic human rights of scientists, engineers, and students)

(see p. 146)

Affiliates of the Program

American Academy of Arts and Sciences

American Anthropological Association

American Association of Biological Chemists

American Association of Scientific Workers

American Astronautical Society

American Chemical Society

American Educational Research Association

American Geographical Society

American Geological Institute

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Institute of Chemists

American Institute of Industrial Engineers

American Mathematical Society

American Medical Association

American Philosophical Association

American Physical Society

American Political Science Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Public Health Association

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Society of Zoologists

American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Geographers  
Association of Computing Machinery  
Biophysical Society  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
Institute of Mathematical Statistics  
Linguistic Society of America  
National Science Teachers Association  
Operations Research Society of America  
Optical Society of America  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Observer/Participant Societies

American College of Physicians  
American Nurses Association  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars  
Committee of Concerned Scientists  
Committee of Defense of Human Rights of the French Academy of Sciences  
Federation of American Scientists  
Institute of Medicine/NAS  
International Association on Political Use of Psychiatry  
International Council of Scientific Unions  
International Medical Commission  
National Academy of Sciences  
New York Academy of Sciences  
Society of Neuroscience  
World Medical Association

**World Psychiatric Association**

**National Academy of Sciences (NAS)**

Committee on Human Rights

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20418

202-334-3043

202-334-2614

(takes action on behalf of scientists who are tortured, detained without formal charges or trial, or are imprisoned in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

(organizes missions)

**Committee of Concerned Scientists**

53-34 208th Street

Bayside, NY 11364

718-229-2813

(is deeply involved with cases of imprisoned scientists, including prisoner of conscience and torture cases)

(aids refugees by putting them in touch with professional organizations and individuals who may provide leads for employment)

(has worked with AIUSA's China co-group)

(has an adopt-a-scientist program)

**Federation of American Scientists (FAS)**

307 Massachusetts Avenue, NE

Washington DC 20002

phone 202-546-3300

fax 202-675-1010

(works to protect the freedom of expression of all scientists)

**Organizations that work for health professionals/against medical or psychiatric abuse**

**Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry**

Postbus 3754

NL-1001 AN

Amsterdam, Netherlands

phone 20-6279491

fax 20-6208116

(attempts to prevent irresponsible use of psychiatric medicine for political purposes; assists individuals suffering from such use)

(bestows awards)

**World Medical Association, Inc.**

28 Avenue des Alpes

F-01210 Ferney-Voltaire

France

phone 50-407575

fax 50-405937

(will help on misuse of psychotropic drugs)

**Physicians for Human Rights**

100 Boylston Street, Suite 702

Boston, MA 02116

617-695-0041

(conducts missions)

(comes to the defense of health professionals who are targeted for repression because they are engaged in the protection and promotion of human rights)

(receives Freedom Writers mailings)

(Associate Director Susannah Sirkin is a former AIUSA staff member)

**Organizations that work for religion cases**

**Christian Solidarity International**

Forchstrasse 280

Postfach 881

CH-8029 Zurich

Switzerland

phone 1-4226646

fax 1-4226714

(works for religious freedom)

(assists persecuted Christians)

(provides legal aid to ensure a fair trial, where possible)

(has a U.S. affiliate)

**Christian Solidarity International**

P.O. Box 70563

Washington, DC 20024

301-989-0298

(protests against religious persecution)

(has an "Adopt-a-Nation" prayer and correspondence program)

(bestows awards)

(holds human rights briefings with Members of Congress)

(provides legal counsel for arrested Christians)

**PAX Christi USA**

348 East Tenth Street

Erie, PA 16503-1110

814-453-4955

(deals with peace, justice, and nonviolence issues)

(has task force on Haiti)

(bestows awards)

**Quaker United Nations Office**

13, Avenue du Mervelet

CH-1209 Geneva

Switzerland

phone 22-7333397

fax 22-7340015

(publishes the quarterly QUNO newsletter)

(publishes reports on human rights)

(lobbies on conscientious objection)

**World Jewish Congress, American Section**

501 Madison Avenue, 17th Floor

New York, NY 10022

212-755-5770

(defends the rights of Jews whenever those rights are denied, violated, or imperiled)

(produces numerous publications and reports)

**Other human rights organizations**

**International Confederation of Free Trade Unions**

Rue Montagne aux Herbes Potageres 37-41

B-1000 Brussels

Belgium

phone 2-2178085

fax 2-2188415

telex 26785 ICFTU BRU

(defends fundamental human and trade union rights)

(maintains International Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to workers who are victims of oppression)

(has 144 affiliates in 99 countries with a total membership of 82 million in 1985)

**Minority Rights Group International**

379 Brixton Road

London SW9 7DE

United Kingdom

phone 71-978 9498

(publishes reports)

(publicizes violations of human rights of minorities)

**International Committee of the Red Cross**

19, avenue de la Paix

CH-1202 Geneva

Switzerland

phone 22-7346001

fax 22-7332057

(visits political detainees worldwide)

(works to ensure that political prisoners' detention conditions conform to international standards)

(seeks to ban torture and summary execution)

(publishes Annual Report, publications on humanitarian law)

### **National Lawyers Guild**

55 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10013

212-966-5000

(produces many publications)

(has Central American Refugee Defense Fund)

(has subcommittees or task forces on Cuba, the Middle East, the Philippines, Southern Africa, Central America, Chile, and Ireland)

(works for the right of political dissent)

### **Defense for Children International**

U.S. Office

21 South 13th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-569-8850

(responds to individual cases in which children have suffered human rights abuse)

### **Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN)**

3112 Mount Pleasant Street, NW

Washington, DC 20010

202-328-9799

(provides emergency legal assistance for refugees)

(operates social service referral program)

(researches human rights violations in El Salvador)

(produces publications on refugees)

**Survival International**

310 Edgware Road

London W2 1DY

United Kingdom

phone 71-7235535

fax 71-7234059

(seeks human rights for indigenous peoples)

(conducts missions)

(provides speakers and educational materials)

(publishes semiannual newsletter, monthly Urgent Action Bulletin, reports)

**Center for Victims of Torture**

717 East River Road

Minneapolis, MN 55455

612-626-1400

(provides medical and psychological treatment for victims of torture)

## Appendix VI

# Addresses of Other Organizations that May Assist

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**This appendix provides 1993 addresses and phone numbers for most of the organizations cited in Chapter 9. Organizations are listed in alphabetical order.**

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### Telephone organizations

Organizations sometimes move, merge, or fold. Also, your letters will have more power, and you will find it easier to follow them up, if they are addressed to the appropriate person in an organization. Therefore, it is most strongly recommended that before you write any organization listed here, you call the organization --

- verify its address.
- obtain the name and title of the person to whom your letter should be directed.

If you find that an organization has moved, and directory assistance cannot help you find it, phone the reference librarian at your local library. Ask him or her to look up the organization's current phone number in the latest edition of the Encyclopedia of Associations.

### Coordination

Before contacting the representatives of U.S. organizations, coordinate with the appropriate national staff member. These staff members are --

- for organizations of lawyers, health professionals, academics, teachers, and scientists -- the Action Unit Director in the Chicago office.
- for religious and women's organizations -- the Outreach Coordinator in the National office.
- for organizations of writers, journalists, editors, and other members of the media -- the Director of Communications in the National office.
- for military, security, or police organizations, or for human rights organizations with no professional focus -- the Director of the DC office.

No coordination is necessary for contacts with trade unions.

### AFL-CIO

815 16th Street, NW, Room 705  
Washington, DC 20005

202-637-5050

**Amalgated Clothing and Textile Workers Union**

15 Union Square West  
New York, NY 10003  
212-242-0700

**American Academy of Religion**

c/o James Wiggins  
501 Hall of Languages  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY 13244-1170  
315-443-4019

**American Association of University Women**

1111 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-785-7700

**American Bar Association**

750 N. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-988-5000

**American Chemical Society**

1155 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-872-4600

**American College of Physicians**

Human Rights and Medical Practice Subcommittee  
Independence Mall West, 6th Street at Race  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-351-2400

**American Correctional Association**

8025 Laurel Lakes Court  
Laurel, MD 20707-5075  
301-206-5100

**American Federal of School Administrators**

853 Broadway, Room 2109  
New York, NY 10003  
212-477-2580

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**

1625 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-452-4800

**American Federation of Teachers**

555 New Jersey Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-879-4400

**American Friends Service Committee**

1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
215-241-7000

**American Historical Association**

400 A Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-544-2422

**American Institute of Physics**

335 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
212-661-9404

**American Library Association**

50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-944-6780

**American Mathematical Society**

P.O. Box 6248  
Providence, RI 02940  
401-455-4000

**American Medical Association**

515 N. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60610  
312-464-4818

**American Nurses Association**

2420 Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
816-474-5720

**American Physical Society**

335 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017-3483  
212-682-7341

**American Political Science Association**

1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-2512

**American Psychiatric Association**

Committee on the International Abuse of Psychiatry and Psychiatrists  
1400 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-682-6000

**American Public Health Association**

1015 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-789-5600

**Association of Women in Mathematics**

Wellesley College, Box 178  
Wellesley, MA 02181  
617-237-7517

**Association of American Editorial Cartoonists**

4101 Lake Boone Tr., Ste. 201  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
919-787-5181

**Association of American Publishers**

220 E. 23rd Street  
New York, NY 10010  
212-689-8920

**Authors League of America**

330 West 42nd Street, 29th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
212-564-8350

**Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers Int'l Union**

10401 Connecticut Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895  
301-933-8600

**BERI, S.A.**

1808 Swann Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-462-0007

**Catholic Charities U.S.A.**

1731 King Street, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-549-1390

**Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Workers**

753 State Avenue, Suite 570  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
913-371-2640

**Center for Defense Information**

1500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-862-0700

**Church Committee for Human Rights in Asia**

1729 Lunt Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
312-561-4953

**Clergy and Laity Concerned**

340 Mead Road  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404-377-1983

**Coalition of Labor Union Women**

15 Union Square West  
New York, NY 10003  
212-242-0700

**Council for International Business Risk Management**

61 Broadway, Suite 310  
New York, NY 10006  
212-510-0404

**CREED Christian Rescue Effort for the Emancipation of Dissidents)**

787 Princeton Kingston Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
609-497-0224

**CWA/UTW Bargaining Council**

20525 Center Ridge Road, Suite 420  
Cleveland, OH 44116  
216-333-0114

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

Office for Ecumenical Affairs  
8765 W. Higgins  
Chicago, IL 60631  
312-380-2700

**FCIA Management Company, Inc.**

40 Rector Street, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
212-306-5000

**Fund for Free Expression**

485 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
212-972-8400

**Graphic Communications International Union**

1900 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-462-1400

**International Assn. of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers**

1750 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-383-4810

**International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers**

1300 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-857-5200

**International Chemical Workers Union**

1655 W. Market Street  
Akron, OH 44313

216-867-2444

**International Labor Communications Association**

815 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-637-5068

**International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union**

1188 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
415-775-0533

**International Union of Operating Engineers**

1125 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-429-9100

**Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law**

1400 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-371-1212

**Maryknoll Communications Coordinator**

The Office of Justice and Peace  
Maryknoll, NY 10545  
914-941-7590

**Mystery Writers of America**

17 East 47th Street, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
212-888-8171

**National Black Police Association**

3251 Mount Pleasant Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20010-2103  
202-986-2070

**National Conference of Catholic Bishops**

U.S. Catholic Conference  
3211 4th Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20017-1194  
202-541-3000

**National Conference on Christians and Jews**

71 5th Avenue, Suite 1100  
New York, NY 10003  
212-206-0006

**National Council of Churches of Christ of the U.S.A.**

Human Rights Office, Room 634  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115  
212-870-2227

**National Education Association**

1201 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-833-4000

**National Organization for Women**

1000 16th Street, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-331-0066

**National Women's Studies Association**

c/o Deborah Louis  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742-1325  
301-405-5573

**New York Academy of Sciences**

Ad Hoc Committee on Human Rights of Scientists  
2 East 63rd Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212-838-0230

**Newspaper Guild**

8611 2nd Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-585-2990

**Poets & Writers**

72 Spring Street  
New York, NY 10012  
212-226-3586

**Printing, Publishing, and Media Workers Sector of the CWA**

501 East 3rd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-434-1238

**Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union**

30 East 29th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
212-684-5300

**Sierra Club International Program**

408 C Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-547-1141

**The Economist Intelligence Unit, Ltd.**

Country Risk Service  
40 Duke Street  
London, W1A 1DW  
United Kingdom  
44 71 493 6711

**Transport Workers Union of America**

80 West End Avenue

New York, NY 10023  
212-873-6000

**Union of Councils for Soviet Jews**  
1819 H Street, NW, Suite 230  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-775-9770

**United Auto Workers**  
8000 E. Jefferson  
Detroit, MI 48214  
313-926-5000

**United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America**  
101 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-546-6202

**United Farm Workers of America**  
P.O. Box 62 - La Paz  
Keene, CA 93531  
805-822-5571

**United Food and Commercial Workers International Union**  
1775 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-223-3111

**United Steelworkers of America**  
5 Gateway Center  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-562-2400

**Writers Guild of America, West**  
8955 Beverly Blvd.  
West Hollywood, CA 90048  
213-550-1000

## Appendix VII

# Guidelines for Approaching Companies

*(Adopted by the 1982 International Council)*

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### A. Preamble

#### **(i) Definition and Scope**

For the purpose of these guidelines, the term "company" should be understood as including any entrepreneur, corporate body, institution or agency from the business world having a commercial, financial or trading relationship with the government, a government agency or any other body in the country which is the object of Amnesty International's concern.

Approaching such companies in general means approaching the management. Where appropriate, such approaches can be supported by an approach to the company's work force.

It should be noted that these guidelines, which are regulated by the provisions of International Council (ICM) Decision 26 of 1979, are concerned only with approaches to companies undertaken in the spirit of Amnesty International "target sector" work; that is to say, they are analogous to approaching such influential groups as churches, trade unions, professional bodies and so on. They do not cover cases where there is evidence of economic enterprises themselves initiating or facilitating directly governmental violations of the human rights which Amnesty International defends. Such cases are governed by the terms of Referred Resolution 16 of the 1979 ICM, which was accepted by the International Executive Committee (IEC) at its December 1979 meeting.

It should also be noted that these guidelines are not intended to cover approaches to international financial institutions or international economic agencies (such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and so on), which should be made either directly by the International Secretariat (IS) or by sections on the request of the IS.

#### **(ii) Principles and Purpose**

In accordance with ICM Decision 26 of 1979, Amnesty International does not address itself to the general economic or political system in operation in any country—only to that country's observance of human rights within Amnesty International's mandate. Accordingly, Amnesty International abstains from drawing conclusions of a "political" nature from its information.

In the same spirit, Amnesty International does not call for sanctions against governments or other bodies guilty of human rights violations. Similarly, Amnesty International takes no stand on the legitimacy of economic relations as such between a government guilty of human rights violation and those who have a commercial or financial relationship with it. Further, Amnesty International implies neither guilt nor innocence on the part of a company doing business in a country whose government violates human rights or having economic relations with the government itself.

Amnesty International's actions are grounded on the principle that the governments of all countries, however diverse their political systems, are bound by and therefore should be expected to comply with the human rights which Amnesty International defends. In pressing governments to accept their human rights responsibilities, Amnesty International often seeks the support of certain bodies which Amnesty International believes could be instrumental, directly or indirectly, in furthering its aims with particular governments. Such bodies are known as "target sectors" and comprise institutions or groups of people with a common interest, occupation, profession set of religious or other beliefs, or other shared affiliation.

Similarly, in approaching companies, Amnesty International's purpose, in general terms, is to further its aims, directly or indirectly. However, as a rule, approaches to companies present more complexities than working with other types of target sectors. The complexities arise largely from the different roles played by different foreign companies in the countries of Amnesty International's concern, or the multiple roles that any one company might perform.

For example, a company may be active, directly or through a subsidiary or associated company, in a region of the country or a sector of the economy which is characterized by a significant number of human rights violations. On the other hand, its activities may center on an area where such practices are not common. Alternatively, a company may have a close and intimate relationship with a particular government such as handling its public relations, funding its major projects, acting as its financial adviser or performing some other consultative role. By way of contrast, another company may have just a low-level trading or commercial relationship with an independent enterprise in the country concerned.

In sum, a foreign company's role in a given country, its leverage with the government concerned and its inclination to use that leverage can vary greatly depending on the nature and degree of its stake in the economy, its relationship with the government, and on a host of other factors often difficult to measure or assess.

Consequently, when approaching companies in the furtherance of its aims, Amnesty International should be conscious of the possible limitations and pitfalls and be ready to adapt the content and details of its approach according to the situation of the particular company.

## **B. Procedure and Action**

1. In deciding which countries to select as the object of Amnesty International's approaches to companies, priority should normally be given to those countries for which an action is scheduled in the Action Calendar.
2. The companies to be approached should normally be selected on the basis of such considerations as the extent of human rights violations in the region of the country or sector of the economy in which the company operates or trades, and the potential leverage of the company (or of the economic sector to which it belongs) on the government concerned.
3. Approaches could also be made according to a "company strategy" followed by a section whereby one or more home companies with extensive international trade or investment links are systematically approached on various countries in which Amnesty International has concerns. The Action Calendar would again be the guide as to which countries to approach those companies on at any given time.
4. Multilateral approaches by different sections to transnational companies with branches in two or more countries should be coordinated by one section.
5. Outside the framework of the Action Calendar, companies could be approached as part of an unscheduled action request by the IS or, where appropriate, as part of the activities of certain other techniques such as country action dossiers, regional action networks and other group-level activities, including activities connected with adoption work.
6. However, prior to approaching companies to intervene on behalf of a named prisoner of conscience, groups should inform the responsible section body of their intention. Unless the IS has specifically warned against approaching companies in that particular case, or in some other way suggested that the case is a complex one, the section body

should use its own discretion on whether or not to proceed. If in doubt, the advice of the IS Research Department should be sought.

7. All approaches to companies should be taken with the knowledge of the section, which generally should monitor contacts with companies and ensure compliance with both Amnesty International policy and guidelines.

8. The initial approach to a particular company should include an introduction of Amnesty International and an explanation of its mandate, its general principles and its concerns. Special attention should be given to its impartiality and universality.

9. Appeals for action on the part of the company during the first or subsequent contacts should usually contain a request which is specific enough to enable the company's subsequent compliance with it to be verified. Such requests should be followed up after a suitable period.

10. Approaches to companies should be frank and open. Confidential or "off-the-record" talks or understandings which would inhibit reporting the substance of the discussions to the section, the IS or the international movement should therefore normally be avoided. It is also desirable to keep open the option of making the discussions public at a later stage if judged to be appropriate. An obvious exception would be when prisoners or any other individuals in the country concerned might be endangered.

11. Approaches to companies on human rights questions should never be combined with a request for funds. If the management should offer a donation during the course of the discussion with Amnesty International representatives, clarify that your visit is not for fundraising purposes.

# Appendix VIII

## A Note on the AI Index

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**AI's International Secretariat identifies documents according to index numbers. This appendix uses an example to show you how to read index numbers.**

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AI's index system may be confusing. A document with the index number ASA 17/07/87, for example, may have been issued in September of 1987. The "17/07/87" does not stand for 17 July 1987.

Rather, ASA stands for Asia, 17 stands for the People's Republic of China, and 07/87 indicates that this is the seventh document on China issued in 1987. This system insures that an index number is assigned only once.

Other abbreviations are --

- AFR (Africa).
- AMR (America).
- EUR (Europe).
- MDE (Middle East).
- POL (Policy).
- ACT (Actions; for example ACT 50 is an action on the death penalty).
- ORG (Organization).
- NWS (News).
- IOR (International Organizations; for example, the United Nations).
- DOC (Documentation).

To continue the example, all documents that have to do with China are under ASA 17, except for those concerned with the death penalty, which go under ACT 50.

For more information, contact your country coordination group (co-group).

# Appendix IX

## Relevant United Nations Agreements

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**Consider providing your group relevant articles from human rights documents in letter-writing instructions, such as Exhibit 4-2. You may also wish to incorporate them in quantity actions, such as letter-writing instructions for the public or pre-printed postcards. All the articles listed in this appendix are EXTERNAL.**

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## OVERVIEW

Amnesty International seeks the observance of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. In cases of torture, Amnesty cites the United Nations' Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1975.

Some particularly relevant articles contained in these documents follow.

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**Article 3.** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**Article 5.** No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**Article 7.** All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

**Article 9.** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

**Article 10.** Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charges against him.

### **Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners**

**Article 22.** (1) At every institution there shall be available the services of at least one qualified medical officer who should have some knowledge of psychiatry. The medical services should be organized in close relationship to the general health administration of the community or nation. They shall include a psychiatric service for the diagnosis and, in proper cases, the treatment of mental abnormality. (2) Sick prisoners who require specialist treatment shall be transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals. Where hospital facilities are provided in an institution, their equipment, furnishings and pharmaceutical supplies shall be proper for the medical care and treatment of sick

prisoners, and there shall be a staff of suitably trained officers. (3) The services of a qualified dental officer shall be available to every prisoner.

**Article 23.** (1) In women's institutions there shall be special accommodation for all necessary pre-natal and post-natal care and treatment. Arrangements shall be made wherever practicable for children to be born in a hospital outside the institution. If a child is born in prison, this fact shall not be mentioned in the birth certificate. (2) Where nursing infants are allowed to remain in the institution with their mothers, provision shall be made for a nursery staffed by qualified persons, where the infants shall be placed when they are not in the care of their mothers.

**Article 24.** The medical officer shall see and examine every prisoner as soon as possible after his admission and thereafter as necessary, with a view particularly to the discovery of physical or mental illness and the taking of all necessary measures; the segregation of prisoners suspected of infectious or contagious conditions; the noting of physical or mental defects which might hamper rehabilitation, and the determination of the physical capacity of every prisoner for work.

**Article 31.** Corporal punishment, punishment by placing in a dark cell, and all cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments shall be completely prohibited as punishments for disciplinary offenses.

**Article 37.** Prisoners shall be allowed under necessary supervision to communicate with their family and reputable friends at regular intervals, both by correspondence and by receiving visits.

### **Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

**Article 2.** Any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is an offense to human dignity and shall be condemned as a denial of the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and as a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Article 4.** Each State shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Declaration, take effective measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment from being practiced within its jurisdiction.

**Article 8.** Any person who alleges that he has been subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by or at the instigation of a public official shall have the right to complain to, and to have his case impartially examined by, the competent authorities of the State concerned.

**Article 9.** Wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture as defined in Article 1 has been committed, the competent authorities of the State concerned shall promptly proceed to an impartial investigation even if there has been no formal complaint.

# Appendix X

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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The following page contains the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is EXTERNAL. You may make photocopies of that page and --

- distribute copies during outreach to and education of the public.
  - distribute copies to young people in the classroom.
  - send copies with appeals to organizations and individuals, to show that the standards AI supports are international standards.
  - send copies with letters to your target government.
- 

### The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

WHEREAS recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

WHEREAS disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

WHEREAS it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

WHEREAS it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

WHEREAS the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

WHEREAS Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

WHEREAS a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of the Member States themselves and among the peoples of

territories under their jurisdiction.

## **Article 1**

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

## **Article 2**

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status or the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

## **Article 3**

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

## **Article 4**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude, slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

## **Article 5**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## **Article 6**

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

## **Article 7**

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

## **Article 8**

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

## **Article 9**

No one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

## **Article 10**

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

## **Article 11**

Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to the law in public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.

No one shall be held guilty of any penal offense on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offense, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offense was committed.

## **Article 12**

No one shall be subject to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

## **Article 13**

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country.

## **Article 14**

Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

## **Article 15**

Everyone has the right to a nationality.

No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality, nor denied the right to change his nationality.

## **Article 16**

Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state.

## **Article 17**

Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

## **Article 18**

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in his community with others and in public or private, to manifest his

religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

## **Article 19**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

## **Article 20**

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

## **Article 21**

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; This will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

## **Article 22**

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

## **Article 23**

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family and existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

## **Article 24**

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

## **Article 25**

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

## **Article 26**

Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

## **Article 27**

Everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

## **Article 28**

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

## **Article 29**

Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare of a democratic society.

These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

## **Article 30**

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any state, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

## Appendix XI

# Amnesty International's Stand Relating to Military, Economic and Cultural Relations and on Military, Security and Police Transfers

*(These guidelines were adopted by the 1983 International Council and updated on the basis of Decision B17 of the 1991 International Council)*

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## 1. MEC "Target Sector" work

### [The International Council] Reaffirms

1.1 That Amnesty International should disseminate its external information on human rights in different countries in a systematic way to parties which are active in the military, economic and cultural fields (MEC "target sectors").

1.2 That the purpose of this activity may sometimes be to prod these parties into using their influence in support of human rights within Amnesty International's mandate in their dealings with the governments concerned. However, in such cases, note should be taken of the possible limitations and pitfalls as elaborated in 1982 International Council (ICM) Decision 22 ("Guidelines for Approaching Companies," reproduced in document POL 34/05/82 [and as Appendix VII]). Where applicable, all approaches to MEC "target sectors" should conform to the provisions of those guidelines.

1.3 That potential effectiveness should be the guiding principle determining when to approach MEC "target sectors," which ones to approach and the requests to be made of them ("timing and targeting").

1.4 That this type of work should be undertaken by the International Secretariat (IS) with respect to international MEC "target sectors," but recognizes that the bulk of the work will be "decentralized," and calls on sections as well as the IS to give it the necessary priority.

1.5 That all Amnesty International action is bound by the following principles:

a) Amnesty International does not address itself to the general economic or political system in operation in any country; only to that country's observance of human rights within Amnesty International's mandate. Consequently, Amnesty International abstains from drawing conclusions of a "political" nature from its information;

b) Amnesty International takes no stand on the legitimacy of military, economic or cultural relations being maintained with countries where human rights are violated and takes no position on punitive measures of any kind, such as sanctions or boycotts.

1.6 That when approaching MEC "target sectors," Amnesty International should inform them of the above principles, of its statutory objects and of its concerns in the relevant country or countries.

1.7 That approaches to MEC "target sectors" should be frank and open rather than of a secretive or confidential nature.

## Requests

1.8 The International Executive Committee (IEC) to explore and report back on:

- a) The prospects and means of urging agencies responsible for international aid to require potential receiving governments to provide information about human rights in their countries along with the normal economic data.
- b) Whether Amnesty International should press for human rights issues to be included in codes of conduct for transnational corporations, in particular in the case of the proposed code of the United Nations.

## 2. Legislation on MSP transfers

### Supports

2.1 The introduction of legislation and regulations in all supplier countries, requiring the human rights situation in receiving countries to be taken into consideration prior to decisions being made about military, security and police (MSP) transfers.

### Proclaims

2.2 That Amnesty International's position is such that such laws should prohibit MSP transfers from taking place unless it can be reasonably demonstrated that such transfers will not contribute to human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate. Such laws will aim to ensure that the sender should take responsibility for the use of MSP transfers. In practice, such laws may be broader and more comprehensive than Amnesty International's position.

### Resolves

2.3 That in campaigning for legislation on MSP transfers Amnesty International can make comments on existing or drafted legislation relating to Amnesty International's objectives and position.

2.4 That Amnesty International may express its support in principle for those clauses of the proposed legislation which accommodate Amnesty International's objectives and position, and oppose the repeal of such clauses once they have been enacted.

2.5 That the legislation should be precise in its terms and concrete in its procedures, avoiding ambiguities and minimizing the scope for interpretation which could contradict the purpose of the law. It should provide for the legislature to be notified of all information necessary to enable it to exercise proper control over the implementation of the law, for all MSP transfers to be publicly disclosed in advance, for reports to be issued on the human rights situation in the receiving countries and for effective channels to be established for receiving information from non-governmental organizations.

2.6 That once legislation has been enacted, Amnesty International could submit its information on the human rights situation in relevant countries to the appropriate bodies designated by the legislation to consider such information.

2.7 That, where feasible, support should be given to practical efforts to complement these types of control with suitable mechanisms at the international level, which could include registering all MSP transfers on a global or regional scale; and **requests** the IEC to keep this matter under review.

### Urges

2.8 All Amnesty International sections in supplier countries to strive for the introduction of appropriate national

legislation in their home countries. The IS should assist these efforts by sections, particularly by coordinating joint section initiatives where practicable.

### **Resolves**

2.9 That in supplier countries where no Amnesty International section exists, or at the request of an Amnesty International section with regard to its own country, the IS could make such approaches. In any country where there is no Amnesty International section, but Amnesty International groups, the IS should in principle consult with such groups before making any approaches.

### **Further resolves**

2.10 That, on grounds of potential abuse, Amnesty International should take no part in the drafting of human rights training programs for MSP personnel from countries where human rights within Amnesty International's mandate are systematically and persistently violated. However, this would not prevent Amnesty International from clarifying that international human rights instruments should routinely be part of the training of all MSP personnel.

## **3. Action on MSP transfers**

### **Affirms**

3.1 That Amnesty International is in principle opposed to MSP transfers which are used for human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate.

3.2 That Amnesty International neither supports nor opposes sanctions against governments guilty of human rights violations.

### **Resolves**

3.3 That Amnesty International sections may ask "searching questions" of the supplier government and companies in their home countries about the use to which intended MSP transfers will be put by the receiver government.

3.4 That in supplier countries where no Amnesty International section exists, or at the request of an Amnesty International section with regard to its own country, the IS could ask "searching questions." In any country where there is no Amnesty International section, but Amnesty International groups, the IS should in principle consult such groups before asking "searching questions."

3.5 That such questions could draw attention to the danger of the MSP transfer being used in the receiving country for the violation of human rights within Amnesty International's mandate, but should contain no demand, explicit or implicit, that the transfer be stopped. Where appropriate, such actions could be publicized.

3.6 That all such actions must be approved by the board or executive of the Amnesty International section concerned in prior consultation with the appropriate IS staff, whose role is to advise on country strategy and on the probable impact and effectiveness of alternative proposals.

3.7 That in the event of serious disagreement between the Amnesty International section and the IS staff, the section should refer the matter to the IEC for decision if it wishes to pursue its preferred course.

### **Further resolves**

3.8 (a) That Amnesty International may oppose MSP transfers that can reasonably be assumed to contribute to human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate.

(b) That a call for the cessation of an MSP transfer requires the mutual agreement of a section of the supplier country and the IS. In case of disagreement, a section may refer the issue to the IEC for final determination.

3.10 The 1991 International Council decided that all proposed calls for cessation of MSP transfers require the mutual agreement of the section supplier country and the IS. In case of disagreement a section may refer the issue to the IEC for final determination. However, the International Council did not amend the old paragraph 3.10 in the light of its decision. The IEC is presently preparing an amended text for the guidelines.

[The old text of paragraph 3.10 reads as follows: That all proposed calls for cessation of MSP transfers be referred to the IEC which should consider the effectiveness of a proposed action which, among other things, should involve assessing its consistency with the country strategy. The IEC should report and explain its decision to the relevant section.]

### **Asserts**

3.11 That Amnesty International's opposition to certain human rights violations committed by governments extends to the conscious collusion or unconscious collaboration of non-governmental parties in their commission, be they individuals, organizations or corporations. In such cases, on the authority of the IEC, Amnesty International may expose, publicize, appeal to, or campaign against, such parties with a view to their ceasing their collaborative actions.

3.12 That all accusations, explicit or implicit, of complicity, collaboration or collusion on the part of second governments or non-governmental parties in the commission by governments of human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate be confined to specific instances according to the relevant provisions of this decision; and that any such accusation be made only with the approval of the IEC in each case.

## Appendix XII

# Annual Action File Report

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**Every year, each action file coordinator is asked to complete an annual action file report. Such reports help AI learn which actions are effective and may identify ways that AIUSA may assist groups better in the future. Reviewing this report may prompt you to try new types of actions.**

**The following blank report shows you what information you will be asked to provide at the end of each year. More blank space for comments appears on the actual report form than in this appendix.**

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## 1997 ANNUAL ACTION FILE REPORT

\*\* This report is to be completed by all AI groups that worked on an Action File during 1997. The term "Action File" refers to both Action Files and Amnesty's older "case sheet" dossiers.

\*\* Complete a separate report for each Action File worked on, and keep a copy for your records.

\*\* This form can also be completed on-line at AIUSA's website: [www.amnesty-usa.org/members/afreport.html](http://www.amnesty-usa.org/members/afreport.html) or downloaded as a [pdf](#) file and printed.

\*\* Please return the completed report by December 15, 1997 to:

<aicasework@amnesty-usa.org> (via email)

or to:

Andrea Solomon  
National Casework Office  
Amnesty International USA  
131 Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 220  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
telephone: 404-876-5661

### Why Is This Report So Important?

Action File work is carried out through a partnership of group members, volunteer leaders, section staff, and researchers at AI's headquarters in London. Sharing information, advice, and support is the key to this partnership working well.

We've tried to make this report easy to complete. Don't be intimidated by the range of questions; not all actions are applicable to all cases. It's OK if your group made significant progress this past year in only a few areas.

Your report will be read carefully by your Country Coordinator and staff. This is an opportunity to share your ideas and suggestions, and to let us know where you may need more or different kinds of support. Country Coordinators include this information in a summary report that they send to London, and AI researchers complete the reporting cycle by reviewing the various reports and issuing annual Feed-Back bulletins to groups. These bulletins contain information on developments in the target country, on actions by groups around the world, and recommendations for future work.

## **1. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Group Number or School:

Location (City, State):

Action File Coordinator's Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Phone: (day) (eve)

E-mail address:

a. Country of Action File:

b. Individual(s) named in Action File/case:

c. Action File Reference No. (if applicable):

## **2. STRATEGY and GOALS**

a. Who did the planning for work on the case?  case team  case coordinator  entire group

b. Did you attain any of the goals you set for 1997?

Yes  No Please describe:

c. Did you try to make use of any political, economic or cultural links (sports, religion, military, trade, entertainment, etc.) between the U.S. and the target country? For example: contacting U.S. companies that operate in the target country.

Yes  No If so, please describe:

## **3. ACTION** (attach additional pages as needed)

a. What were the most successful actions your group undertook in 1997 for your Action File? How were they successful?

b. Did your group try to organize any actions which did not work well? What were the problems?

c. Did you conduct any publicity activities, such as letters-to-the-editor, news releases, press interviews, public events?

Yes  No Please describe and send copies of articles, leaflets, photos, etc.

d. Did your group attempt any outreach work (such as contacts with trade unions, religious groups, professional networks, etc.)?

Yes  No If so, please describe.

e. Did you contact U.S. Government officials?

Yes  No

If so, please describe.

#### 4. LETTERS

a. On average, how many letters on your case would you estimate your group sent each month? \_\_\_\_\_

b. For ALL of 1997, please estimate the following:

	Number of letters to:	Number of responses:
Officials of target country:		
Officials of U.S. Government:		
Subject(s) of Action File (prisoner, etc.)		
Their family or friends		
Their lawyers		
Other (specify):		

Please list any persons or organizations you contacted that were informative or helpful:

#### 5. MATERIALS

a. What were the most helpful and least helpful materials provided with your Action File?

b. Is there any information that you require that was not provided?

Yes  No If so, please specify.

## 6. SUPPORT

a. How frequent was your contact with the Country Coordination Group (Co-Group)?

monthly  every other month  quarterly  other (specify):

b. How helpful was the Co-Group?  very  somewhat  unhelpful  no help requested

Please comment on your answer:

c. Did you have any contact with AIUSA staff during your casework?

Yes  No

If so, was contact with staff helpful?  very  somewhat  unhelpful  no help requested Please comment on your answer, noting which staff were contacted:

d. Does your group have The Casework Video?  Yes  No

Have members watched it?  Yes  No

Has it been helpful to your work?  Yes  No

e. Does your group have The Casework Manual?  Yes  No

Has it been helpful?  Yes  No

## 7. FUTURE PLANS

a. What plans do you have for effective work on this case in 1998? What are your goals?

b. Is there any support you need from AI to achieve this that you are not now receiving? Please specify.

c. Would you like an experienced Amnesty trainer to conduct a casework-oriented workshop with your group?

Yes  No

## 8. GROUP STATUS

a. How many active members attend your group meetings on average? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How many members are on your mailing list, but do not attend meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

c. How would you rate the level of your group's activity overall?

low  medium  high

d. How would you rate the group's activity level on this Action File?

low  medium  high

## 9. GENERAL

Do you have any other suggestions or comments relating to this Action File? Do you have any more general comments or suggestions on how to affect the human rights situation in the target country?

**10. RELIEF INFORMATION** (not relevant to all Action Files) a. Is the victim or the victim's family in need of relief?

Yes  No  Don't know

b. During 1997, did your group send such relief (money, clothes, etc.)?

Yes  No

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you for completing this report!

## Appendix XIII

# Quotations for Flyers, Announcements, and Invitations

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This compilation includes inspirational quotations from AI prisoners, quotations on the death penalty, quotations from the news media, quotations from the U.S. government and international organizations, quotations from famous performers, quotations from well-known philosophers, and quotations from the Bible. Because this compilation is not geopolitically balanced, it is internal. However, each quotation is external and may be used by your group.

Use these quotations in advertisements for meetings or events, in speeches, as monthly inspiration in meetings, in school "calendar" announcements, and so forth.

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### Table of Content

1. [Quotations from and stories about AI prisoners](#)
2. [Quotations on the Death Penalty](#)
3. [Quotations from the news media](#)
4. [Quotations from the U.S. government](#)
5. [Quotations from international organizations](#)
6. [Quotations from famous performers and a famous producer](#)
7. [Quotations from famous philosophers, statesmen, jurists, and writers](#)
8. [Quotations from the Bible on working for human rights \(Kings James Version\)](#)

## Appendix XIV

### Three Case Records

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This appendix provides the histories of three cases adopted by AIUSA groups. In addition to letter writing, each group used a variety of techniques, such as attracting media coverage and the assistance of organizations and politicians. For an example of a strategy limited (by the case instructions) to letter writing, see Exhibit 8-2.

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## Chinese investigation/ prisoner of conscience

Prisoner: Chen Xuedong

Case assigned: December 1989 - Investigation

To: Group 326, Milwaukee, WI

Upgraded: January 1991 - Adoption

Release: July 1991

Aftercare: August 1991

### Actions

#### December 1989

The group received the prisoner dossier and reviewed it.

#### January 1990

The group contacted the China country coordination group (co-group) for more information and direction.

#### February 1990

The case sheet was distributed to the membership.

#### March 1990

The group began making plans for a Human Rights Walk on the Tiananmen Square anniversary.

## **April 1990**

The group set up an AI table with case materials and sample letters at the "Seeds of Peace, Waters of Justice" Interfaith Conference.

## **May 1990**

Sample letters were sent to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for a write-a-thon.

## **May/June 1990**

Petitions were distributed via the SMU mailing and the Monthly Mailing. Petitions were also sent to various other groups.

## **June 1990**

The group held a Human Rights Walk on June 3, to publicize the plight of Chen Xuedong and others who have suffered human rights abuses. Group members wore and sold "Where is Chen Xuedong" T-shirts. The event was covered by Channel 12 and Channel 6 TV news. An article appeared in The Milwaukee Sentinel.

An editorial regarding Chen's case appeared in the Madison (WI) Capital Times.

During the Annual General Meeting in Boston, the group collected signatures on petitions and displayed their Human Rights Walk banner.

Between January and June, the group had sent 250 letters.

## **July 1990**

The group sent petitions with 1,500 signatures to Wang Fang Buzhang (the public security minister). Copies were sent to the Chinese ambassador in Washington, DC.

Letters from area colleges were sent to officials in China.

The group sent "Where is Chen Xuedong" T-shirts to Chinese local authorities and to Wisconsin Senators and Representatives.

Pictures of the Human Rights Walk and copies of the newspaper articles on Chen Xuedong were given to group members to send with their letters.

## **August 1990**

Group members visited the Chinese consulate on August 16 and delivered copies of the signed petitions, a "Where is Chen Xuedong" T-shirt, and an orchid. These were left with the receptionist, as the consul was "unavailable."

"Where is Chen Xuedong" mailing labels were given to group members to put on letters, gifts, cards, and so forth.

## **September 1990**

A picture and an excellent article about the work on Chen's case appeared on the front page of the Waukesha Journal, September 8.

Two letters were translated into Chinese, and copies were given to group members to sign and send. New case sheets were given to group members with the correct local province. Group members also participated in an action connecting Chen's case with Asian games.

### **October 1990**

Information packets were sent to college and high school groups with sample letters and order forms for the purchase of "Where is Chen Xuedong" T-shirts.

### **November 1990**

Group members attended a lecture by a Chinese diplomat at the University of Wisconsin. They presented a letter asking for information about Chen and requested that the letter be delivered to Chinese ambassador. They also met a student who had heard Chen speak in Nanjing. He showed the group members pictures of Chen and demonstrations. The group obtained contacts of people who knew Chen well: Li Lu and D.N. This was a turning point for the case.

### **December 1990**

The group sent orchids on Human Right Day, December 10, to the Chinese ambassador and to the Chinese consulate in Chicago.

The action for the month was to mention Chen's case in letters noting Human Rights Day.

The group contacted Li Lu, one of Chen's best friends, on December 28 and received significant information on Chen's history and current status.

### **January 1991**

On January 9, the group sent a letter to the Chinese Research Department at the International Secretariat, relaying information from Li Lu (and including another source from Li Lu).

A University of Wisconsin student contact was the guest speaker at a meeting. The student shared experiences of Nanjing. The group wrote letters mentioning Chen's case in connection with the upcoming Chinese New Year.

Chen Xuedong's case was upgraded from investigation to adoption.

### **January/February 1991**

Two thousand postcards were printed and distributed.

### **March 1991**

A new case sheet was produced that called for Chen Xuedong's unconditional and immediate release.

The group worked on plans to have an "empty seat" left for Chen at area college graduation ceremonies.

The group sent a letter to the Human Rights Tribune asking for information about Chen. No response was ever received.

### **April 1991**

The group talked to D.N. in London on April 28 and obtained information about Chen's medical status and probable

sentence.

## **May 1991**

At the Beloit College graduation on May 11, an "empty seat" was designated in honor of Chen Xuedong. An article appeared in Beloit Daily News on May 14.

The group received long letter from D.N. with a picture of Chen Xuedong and other information.

The group received an invitation to participate in a Wisconsin Public Radio talk show. The show, on May 27, covered both Amnesty and Chen's case and went very well.

The International Secretariat sent out a Medical Alert on May 15. The Alert asked members to write letters concerning Chen's medical treatment in prison.

## **June 1991**

The group wrote and distributed a new petition that called for Chen's unconditional release.

During the Annual General Meeting in Washington, DC, group members met with Senators and Representatives regarding the case. Group members also attended a vigil in front of Chinese embassy and attempted to present petitions at front door.

Group members attended a Tibetan exhibit at Mitchell Airport and met with the Chinese consulate general. Group members presented a letter asking for information about Chen's current status while being filmed by Channel 18 news. The film appeared on a newscast later that night.

## **July 1991**

The group received a call on July 16 from a Marquette University professor, recently arrived from China, who reported Chen's release.

On July 17, the group received a call from the co-group with official news of Chen's release.

## **August 1991**

An article appeared in a community newspaper on August 3 that featured the group's work on Chen's case and the news of his release.

## **High-impact letters**

### **February 1990**

The group wrote to Senator Kohl, asking him to contact the State Department to obtain information on Chen.

### **April 1990**

Senator Kohl contacted the State Department on behalf of Chen and sent the group a copy of his letter.

### **June 1990**

The group contacted Senator Kasten on Chen's case.

### **July 1990**

Senator Kohl received a reply from the State Department's Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

Senator Kasten contacted the State Department on behalf of Chen.

### **October 1990**

Representative Kleczka wrote to the Chinese ambassador on behalf of Chen.

### **November 1990**

Senator Kasten received a response from the State Department: no news of Chen.

### **February 1991**

The group wrote to Senator Kasten and Representative Kleczka inquiring whether they could find out if Chen had received a trial or if he had been released.

### **April 1991**

The State Department replied to Senator Kasten: no news.

The group wrote to Jimmy Carter asking for his assistance with Chen's case.

### **May 1991**

Representative Kleczka wrote to the Chinese ambassador on Chen's behalf.

### **July 1991**

After the group's meeting with the consul general in Milwaukee in June, the group sent a follow-up letter to the Chinese consulate in Chicago.

The group received a letter from the Chinese consulate in Chicago that said that Chen had been released.

## **Filipino investigation case**

Prisoner: Herminia Ibarra

Arrested: July 22, 1984

Case assigned: December 1984

To: Group 191, Brockport, NY

Closed: December 1985

### **Background**

The prisoner was a Filipino wife, mother, and labor union organizer. She was arrested in Manila on July 22, 1984 along with four male colleagues. They were known as the "Antipolo Five." In March 1985 the "Five" were charged with subversion and faced a possible 12-year sentence.

During the case period, Group 191 had 10 to 12 active members, including housewives, professors, and teachers, all of whom wrote for each prisoner assigned to the group.

## Methods

The group used the following techniques and strategies:

- designation of a case coordinator.
- regular contact with the co-group.
- letter writing.
- a postcard campaign.
- a "second-tier" writing group.
- a package to prisoner.
- petitions on behalf of prisoner.
- correspondence with the prisoner's lawyer.
- a letter on behalf of the prisoner from a Representative in Congress.
- close association with the Task Force on Detainees in the Philippines.
- union activity both abroad and in the U.S.A.
- an exchange of information at the Boston Annual General Meeting with International Secretariat research staff.
- a Christmas card "shower" to the prisoner.
- publicity -- mostly local.
- work with the co-adopting group in Belgium.
- an exchange of correspondence with a Dutch adoption group about one of the prisoner's colleagues assigned to them.
- consultation with the regional office.

## Actions

All group members wrote monthly letters, always with 4 to 5 copies to different officials. In all, 225 letters were sent, including 15 to the prisoner. There were a good number of replies from officials.

The group printed 750 postcards, which incorporated a picture and a message. Of these, 650 were distributed in the Monthly Mailing, and the remainder were sent to group members' friends and relatives for mailing from across the country.

A "second-tier" letter-writing group was formed of past members and others who could write letters but not attend meetings. They were sent --

- a cover letter.
- a prisoner fact sheet.
- a sample letter.

A package with reading material was sent to the prisoner.

Early letters to the prisoner's lawyer helped with the investigation aspect of the case.

Prior to a congressional visit, the group sent material on the case to a congressional aide. The aide was then able to discuss the case knowledgeably. A long discussion on site with the aide was followed by the receipt of a copy of the Representative's letter to President Marcos. The group also sent a copy of a letter from another Representative to Marcos. The group's Representative was immediately thanked and was also apprised of the prisoner's release as soon as the group heard of it.

The Task Force on Detainees in the Philippines, a church-related human rights organization, proved very helpful in --

- correspondence with the prisoner.
- developing a more complete prisoner profile.
- obtaining Filipino magazine articles about the family.
- obtaining pictures.

## Ethiopian investigation/ prisoner of conscience

Prisoner: Mulugetta Mosissa

Case assigned: June 1984 -- Investigation

To: Group 169, Brunswick, ME

Upgraded: March 1991 -- Adoption

Release: May 1991

Aftercare: June 1991

### **June, 1984**

Group 169, then five years old, was assigned the investigation case of an Ethiopian prisoner about whom almost nothing was known -- one of many persons imprisoned, "disappeared" or killed in that country under a government that had taken power in a military revolution in 1974. The prisoner had been arrested in February 1980, along with several hundred other members of the Oromo ethnic group -- some for ties to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), some

on suspicion of OLF collaboration, some as a deterrent to OLF sympathy, and some simply because they were Oromos.

The group knew only that the prisoner was being detained without charge or trial, probably was being tortured, and that his wife, a former civil servant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was detained in a different prison. Even his correct full name was not known.

At the time, it was extremely difficult to get accurate information from Ethiopia. Until 1984, individual prisoners were not mentioned by name in AI appeals for fear of reprisals, in part because of the government's great hostility to the outside and cruelty to its citizens. AI work on Ethiopia had for several years been limited to general expressions of concern about human rights violations using the Country Action Dossier technique of that time.

In 1984, it was deemed that the risk had diminished sufficiently that specific cases should be taken up, but the group received detailed cautionary instructions about writing to officials. The group was extremely careful to explain AI, to describe the group's other work, and to make clear that the group was not pro-OLF and had no connection with the prisoner.

Years later, Mulugetta told the group that, although at the time he had no idea why, **1984 had been a turning point** in prison conditions and attitude.

Looking back, in March 1992, he wrote --

"I would like to assure you once again that your questions to the government on my behalf had a great effect in improving our living conditions in prison and alleviating probable death.

"If I correctly remember, in 1984 I was once summoned to the chief administrator's office and asked if I had a foreign friend [a Maine letter writer was referred to by name] . . . Since having a contact with a foreigner, especially with an American, was one of the biggest crimes punishable, in some cases, by death, I denied having any friend abroad. As a matter of fact I did not have any information as to your work on my behalf . . .

"The writing of the letter was timely because it was at a time when the government, at least theoretically, promised to respect human rights and a certain democratization. Even though we did not know why, the attitude of the administrator was changed positively towards us. The way we were treated started improving from time to time. It was only two years before my 1991 release, however, that I have realized why this change took place. It was definitely the effect of your work! I owe you the courage and the morale I have now. When I write this I feel something inside. I do not know what to say. I just don't have words to express my feelings!"

### **July 1984**

The group was informed that the prisoner's wife, Namat Issa, had been adopted by two AI groups in Europe. The group got in touch with them promptly and began a long and fruitful relationship.

### **October 1984**

The group was given a different name (still not correct) for the prisoner and confirmation that he was being held in the "Third Police Station" (Central Investigation Center). Several people being held with him were better known. The group learned later that Mulugetta had been only 29, a year into his career, when he was arrested.

### **1985**

Many Oromos were reported to be Lutherans, although the group learned much later that Mulugetta Mosissa was not. The group continued regular letter-writing and tried to interest Lutheran churches in the case.

## 1986

Early in the year, two Ethiopian prisoners assigned to AIUSA groups had "disappeared" from detention, along with 58 others who may have been executed secretly. Group 169 was requested to join in appeals for these people for one month.

From the International Secretariat and the Dutch group that had adopted Namat Issa, the group learned that she had been pregnant when arrested and had given birth to a son, Amonsissa, in prison. The son was in poor health.

For "outreach" purposes, the case coordinator prepared a six-page packet of background information and letter-writing instructions. The group also tried unsuccessfully to discover any other clues, such as religious affiliation or possible previous professional contacts with relief organizations, that might be used in outreach.

The group considered producing a postcard, but the staff co-group coordinator and the International Secretariat advised against it, because individually written high-quality letters were considered safer for the prisoners. Also, U.S.-Ethiopian relations were deteriorating, so an unusual amount of mail from the U.S.A. was not desirable.

During 1986, the group participated in a four-month Group Level Action on a range of human rights violations in Ethiopia.

### Spring 1986

The group had worked its way through even the most obscure government officials, while writing regularly to the most important ones as well. As a result, the group received the only reply to an AIUSA group from Ethiopia -- a couple of guarded lines from the chair of the Ethiopian Red Cross. Normally all contacts with the Red Cross are to be done at the International Secretariat level, by long-standing agreement between the International Secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross. However, this man's role was partly governmental, and his name had appeared on the group's very long list of officials. Because of the Red Cross constraint, and because there were rumors at the time that any noticeable dissent within the government was being dealt with violently, the group was asked to follow careful instructions from the International Secretariat in following up on the reply.

That Red Cross response was the only word the group heard from the Ethiopian government in the group's seven years of letter writing, although the Ethiopian foreign minister, who defected in 1986, acknowledged having received many AI letters, filing them, and taking them seriously.

### June 1986

At the AIUSA Annual General Meeting, the area coordinator for Maine had an opportunity to meet with the International Secretariat researcher for Ethiopia.

### Late 1986

The group learned that Mulugetta's second name is Mosissa, that he was a graduate of the National University in Addis Ababa, that he had been an official of the Grain Board, and that he had been alive in 1985. He had not seen his wife since 1980. There still were great fears for him.

## 1987

Conflicting information came to AI from various former prisoners and other exiles concerning the group's prisoner, but detailed accounts of prison conditions were similar to what the group already knew by then. The case coordinator brought the basic information packet up to date for new members and other letter writers.

Toward the end of the year, an International Secretariat circular brought the group up to date on constitutional changes in Ethiopia, establishing a "republic" and a renamed ruling party. It had been hoped that the accompanying celebrations of the 13th anniversary of the revolution would include a large-scale amnesty for political prisoners (and the group had written many letters urging that), but only a small number of Oromos and others were released.

Special letter-writing instructions about these matters -- and about still-unresolved "disappearances" -- were provided to the group by the Research Department throughout the year.

## 1988

The group's routine continued. After receiving a copy of a group member's appeal, a Maine Representative in Congress made standard U.S. Government inquiries concerning Mulugetta Mosissa, but the State Department had little news of Ethiopia.

In conjunction with the Children's Campaign, which featured Amonsissa, the group's Ethiopia case coordinator placed notices or letters to the editor in state and national publications of several organizations of physical and occupational therapists. As a result, the group sent information to several inquirers around the country who promised to write appeals.

## 1989

An extraordinary year. In February the International Secretariat issued a warning bulletin, directed particularly to groups that had managed to initiate correspondence with their prisoners: those prisoners, and prisoners who had heard from International PEN members, were being threatened. All contact should stop. The group had not been in touch with Mulugetta Mosissa, having understood that attempted contact would not be advisable.

By mid-summer, the situation in Ethiopia and between Ethiopia and the United States had worsened so drastically that the group was advised to slow letter writing for a while. Later, in the aftermath of a coup attempt, the group was instructed to suspend writing temporarily.

In September 1989, **most of the Ethiopian political prisoners known to Amnesty International -- including Namat Issa and Amonsissa -- were released.** It was, however, still not considered safe for the group to be in touch with Mulugetta Mosissa's family.

## 1990

In March, Mulugetta Mosissa's status was changed to "prisoner of conscience," because the government had had "plenty of opportunity to charge him with a criminal offense." A fresh dossier was issued. The group received a photo and knew what Mulugetta Mosissa looked like before his arrest. The case was also assigned to a group in Denmark, with which Group 169 established immediate contact.

At the end of 1990, the case was featured for general membership action in the International Secretariat newsletter and in Amnesty Action. Masses of new instructions were issued by the International Secretariat at the end of the year.

## 1991

In February a worldwide Medical Letter-writing Action went to sections and health professionals about Mulugetta Mosissa and five other Ethiopian prisoners. He apparently had been tortured severely and was not receiving medical attention for kidney problems. He was reported to be in some pain and to have lost a lot of weight. To the group's relief, however, it had been found that Amonsissa's health problems were not so drastic as previously feared (no brain damage), although he suffers from epilepsy and asthma.

The case was one of those featured in the 30th Anniversary Campaign for Freedom. All Maine groups were assigned it

as an anniversary project and conferred about it. A postcard campaign (now approved) was launched. The state's Members of Congress were contacted, and a project for getting State Legislators to write to Ethiopian officials was planned. The Governor of Maine issued a proclamation recognizing the May 28 AI anniversary and mentioning Mulugetta Mosissa (see Exhibit 10-16). That week, the Ethiopian government fell to rebel forces, and **Mulugetta Mosissa was set free.**

The case was changed to "Aftercare" status. Mulugetta Mosissa and his family were brought by AI to England for medical treatment. On their way back to Ethiopia in the fall, they visited the Dutch AI group that had adopted Namat Issa. Group 169 was excited to receive from the Dutch group an account of the visit, with photos.

Group 169 began an enriching correspondence with Mulugetta, whose thanks were nearly overwhelming. Mulugetta wrote --

"Thank you very much for having me in your thoughts for so many years and for your heartfelt concern about my future. These thoughts of yours and your encouragement have helped me to recover from the pain and psychological sufferings I underwent in prison."

AI researchers soon visited Ethiopia. At the end of May 1991 a paper, "Ethiopia: End of an Era of Brutal Repression -- a New Chance for Human Rights," was issued, and the group was asked to write to the new governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea about Amnesty's work, urging them to adopt an eight-point human rights agenda.

Pledging to work for human rights protection, Mulugetta Mosissa joined the Council of Representatives of the Transitional Government, until new pressures on Oromos forced him to leave the country in the summer of 1992.

## 1992

Mulugetta wrote to the group from the Sudan and then later from Washington, DC, where he went to try to speak to the U.S. government about the plight of Oromos. The group immediately invited him to Maine.

The group may never get over the astonishment of his visit. Newspaper accounts conveyed some of the emotional impact of the visit, which scarcely can be described. A very dignified and articulate man, Mulugetta also turned out to be very demonstrative. Pledges of eternal friendship were made.

Mulugetta had hoped it would be safe for his wife and child to maintain a home base in Ethiopia, but they had to leave also.

## 1993

The family lives in Holland, where Amonsissa is in school and his parents are studying Dutch before seeking employment. They intend to continue to work for Oromo rights.

# Appendix XV

## Children for Children/ Students for Students

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This appendix explains how to set up Children for Children/Students for Students in your community, to --

- empower children.
  - increase group membership (including multi-cultural membership).
  - generate publicity.
  - raise funds.
- 

## Overview

This appendix provides a description of the Children for Children/Students for Students program. Following the program description are sample presentations for --

- Boards of Education.
- teachers.
- classrooms.
- school assemblies.

## Program description

### Objectives

Children for Children/Students for Students enables students to help save children at risk throughout the world. Group 122 has found that this program can --

- empower children.
- increase group membership.
- generate publicity.
- raises funds.

### Empower children

This program introduces Amnesty in grades 1 to 12 and develops students' potential for future leadership in human rights organizations. The letter-writing effort, backed by lessons from the Educators Network bulletin The Fourth R, gives children a sense of their ability to effect positive change.

### **Increase membership**

Group 122's program began with one group member working with eight teachers in six schools. In less than a year, this grew to ten group members working with 200 teachers in 23 schools.

As a result of the program, group membership increased from 3 to 60, including --

- about 20 active members.
- ten network members who help with such activities as membership drives.
- 15 whose dues provide financial support.
- ten major donors (\$100-\$300 per year).
- five community businesses who have given the group grants, receipts from "five percent days," and so forth.

In the future, the group hopes to increase its multi-cultural membership also. The 19 Pueblos in New Mexico have expressed interest in having the program taught in their schools.

The group's next step is to offer it to the Apache, Hopi, Navajo, Ute, and Zuni reservations. By involving Native American children in Amnesty work, the group hopes that their parents will consider joining AI.

### **Generate publicity**

In a ten-month period, the program was featured numerous times on the radio and in Santa Fe and Albuquerque newspapers' editorial pages, local news pages, features pages, columns, and the Sunday arts magazine.

### **Raise funds**

People and businesses give generously when their own children are involved. In January 1991, Group 122 had no funds in its treasury. As a result of this program, the group raised \$7,281 from February 1991 to February 1992 and helped build a house for the five surviving children of a couple who had "disappeared" in Argentina (see p. 271).

### **Getting permission**

To begin the program, call the superintendent of the local public schools and the heads of the private and parochial schools. Explain the program. If the superintendent lacks the authority to give you permission, ask to make a presentation to the school board. Many times the heads of the private and parochial schools will agree to the next step over the phone. Be confident and assured. You are offering them an award-winning program operating well in New Mexico. A sample Board of Education presentation begins on p. 380.

### **Calling the principals**

Group 122 has found it works best to have members adopt individual schools.

About three weeks after school starts, call each principal. Explain the program and say that, with the principal's approval, you have a go-ahead from the administration to present the program to teachers. Ask for 5 to 10 minutes at a staff meeting to tell the teachers about the program. Schedule the date and time as soon as possible.

A sample presentation for teachers begins on p. 382.

Some schools will want a speaker for an assembly. This will be easier than you might expect. Students become quiet

and listen attentively to stories about children elsewhere in the world. Santa Fe Prep teachers said that the only time in six years the students had been as enthralled was when someone spoke on AIDS.

A school assembly presentation begins on p. 384.

## **Helping teachers present the program in their classrooms**

Some teachers will read The Fourth R and other materials you provide and run their own programs. Other teachers will benefit from your holding a classroom demonstration to show their students how to write these letters.

## **Following up with teachers**

Follow up on your presentation to the teachers by calling the teachers who signed up for the program. Ask if their students had written their letters yet for the current campaign.

If so, ask what had worked well and what had not. If not, ask if they would like you to put on a classroom demonstration for their students.

A sample classroom presentation begins on p. 383.

Ask teachers of grades 7 to 12 if they would be willing to sponsor a student group.

Try to recruit a teacher to make the presentation to the staff in the fall for the coming year's program. Say you will provide a script and a sign-up sheet. Volunteer to bring the teachers' packets to school. The more you can involve the teachers, the stronger the program will be in your area.

## **Public event**

To garner publicity in the first year of the program, Group 122 asked the fanciest hotel in town to put on a presentation ceremony. The Eldorado Hotel agreed and supplied gratis the room, a podium, a microphone, refreshments, and a professional singer for entertainment. Governor King's wife, Alice King, Toney Anaya, the former Governor, and Stephanie Gonzales, the New Mexico Secretary of State, all agreed to speak. Magdaleno Rose-Avila, AIUSA's Western Regional Director, spoke as well. The participants who stole the show, though, were eight children, ranging from grades 1 to 8, who read their letters aloud.

You could hold a similar ceremony featuring not only the students' letters but also other work students have done on a campaign: posters, plays, or lessons. Or consider holding an event to kick off your next country or issue campaign.

## **Press coverage**

Children for Children/Students for Students has received excellent press coverage. An editorial that included the children's letters (see box) appeared in Santa Fe's main paper. The paper also ran a story about the presentation ceremony and a photograph of Alice King and a first grader reading his letter to the audience.

Consider sending press releases to newspapers about your program. If any non-program event attracts media coverage, tell the reporter covering the event about your group's Children for Children/Students for Students activities. The aim is to collect many press clippings to show potential donors and schools considering the program.

## **Fundraising**

Fundraising becomes easier if you can tell members of your business community that your group is active locally as well as internationally.

Tell them about the human rights education program you are running in the schools. Show them your press clippings. Be confident and assertive. Your group is running a program that will strengthen the town by helping children become more responsive adults.

Go after everything:

- grants from your local newspapers, radio and TV stations, banks, major businesses, and "five percent days" at shopping malls.
- advertising in your group's newsletter.
- contributions for your newsletter.
- arts and crafts shows.
- benefits.

Try to develop a network of community support. If you can show that the local newspaper or bank is supporting your group financially, the administration of a local shopping mall is more likely to say yes to a "five percent day." In a "five percent day," participating merchants contribute two to five percent of their daily profits. Your group can also set up a table at the mall with outreach materials, which are available from your regional office.

Develop a short presentation to give to the mall's merchants at one of their monthly meetings. Sign up as many as you can on the spot. Speak to those who say maybe individually. Let them know that part of the money will go to the program in the schools and the rest to your campaigns to help people in countries such as Peru, Tibet/China, Guatemala, and Brazil. Also, some will support your group's prisoner.

Many people are unaware of what is happening in the rest of the world; once they hear what you have to say, they may very well want to help.

Be persistent. Some people say yes the first time, while others may need to be approached repeatedly before they contribute. But eventually most people who have shown some initial interest will come through.

## **Thank you letters**

When a newspaper covers your group's activities, write a thank you letter to the paper's publisher, citing the article and/or photograph. Send a copy to the reporter and/or photographer with a personal note of appreciation.

Write a thank you note to --

- every person who gives you even the smallest donation.
- every business that gives you a grant or free services.
- everyone who does anything else for you.

## **Membership**

The publicity generated by the program will have prospective members calling you.

## **Newspaper advertising**

Make the acquaintance of the heads of the advertising departments of your local newspapers. Some of them already support Amnesty. Ask them to run free advertisements for your group. One advertising manager runs small free ads for Group 122 about every three weeks.

## **Cultural diversification**

You are more likely to involve parents of other cultures in Amnesty if their children are taking part. You might work

with the PTAs of various schools, asking them to let children read their letters aloud at a meeting. Pass out literature and encourage parents to attend your group's meeting.

Hold your group's meeting in a church, recreational center, or school -- someplace in their neighborhoods where the parents already feel comfortable. Try joining a service group outside your own culture to learn first hand what it feels like to come into an established group as a new minority member.

Another way Group 122 increased participation at its meetings was by changing from formal Monday night meetings to Sunday morning coffees in group members' homes. The group keeps the business part of the meeting short.

## Feedback

Children for Children/Students for Students is a new program, not one hammered in stone. Group 122 would appreciate your feedback on the program, including ways that you have improved it. Call or write:

- Lee Purcell
- AIUSA Group 122
- 324 McKenzie Street
- Santa Fe, NM 87501
- 505-988-2523

aaaaa

## Board of Education Presentation

### AI highlights

Give Amnesty International highlights --

- founded in 1961.
- based on the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.
- 1.1 million members working world-wide.

### The mandate

Present the AI mandate. Amnesty International pressures governments to --

- release all prisoners of conscience -- people confined because of their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, color, or language, who have not used or called for violence.
- give all prisoners whose cases have a political aspect a fair trial within a reasonable time.
- abolish the death penalty, torture, and other cruel treatment of all prisoners.
- end all extrajudicial executions and "disappearances."

### AI's methods

Describe how AI works. AI focuses world attention on human rights abuses, such as the treatment of Guatemalan and Brazilian street children. People just like you write letters on behalf of people at risk, including children, who are being unfairly imprisoned, tortured, "disappeared," or killed. Between 1961 and 1992, these letters helped free 33,000 men, women, and children imprisoned around the world.

## A case history

Read aloud the following letter from Julio de Pena Valdez, a former prisoner of conscience from the Dominican Republic.

- "When the first two hundred letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next two hundred letters came, and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: three thousand of them. The President was informed. The letters still kept arriving, and the President called the prison and told them to let me go."

Tell your audience that the letters matter. They are helping to change the world.

## Children for Children

Describe the Children for Children/Students for Students program. Children in grades 1 to 4 will be given a low-key understanding of human rights. Children in grades 5 to 12 will receive a more sophisticated look at what is happening to children at risk around the world. Amnesty International will provide bulletins developed by professional educators on subjects such as indigenous peoples of the Americas and refugees. Students will be given the opportunity to write on behalf of children who need their help. And in December, they may make and send holiday cards to prisoners of conscience.

## A student's letter

Read aloud the following letter by an eighth-grade student in Santa Fe to the president of Guatemala.

- "Your Excellency, Please protect the children of the Guatemala streets. They don't deserve to be tortured, beaten, or killed. I know they can very often be a bother, but they probably don't have anywhere to go. They are young and need love, not pain. I am 13, and I have a home to go to everyday after school. I have parents that greet me and ask how my day was. Those children in the streets don't have a home with parents who greet them, and they don't have a place where they are loved. They don't know what it's like. So, instead of killing and torturing them, please help them find out what life is really all about."

## Get permission to talk to teachers

Request permission to present the program, with the approval of the principal and on a voluntary basis, to teachers at staff meetings at each school.

# PRESENTATION for teachers

Give teachers the same presentation you gave to the Board of Education. At a public school, you may wish to use the following quotation, in place of the quotation by Julio de Pena Valdez:

- "Without a doubt many Chileans are still alive and able to enjoy freedom thanks to the attitude assumed by Amnesty International in the unconditional defense of human rights . . . I believe that what you did for me was a real victory on your behalf. In my name, and in the name of my family, I ask you to accept my deepest gratitude. Please give all those in Amnesty International a brotherly hug and urge them to continue forward in their noble mission."

- -- Claudio Hector Alemany Gonzalez, Leader of the Teachers' Union in Chile

Then tell the teachers precisely what the program will include. For instance, for the 1992-93 school year, Group 122 planned to use The Fourth R's bulletin on the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Hold up The Fourth R. Say the students will be learning about, for example, the indigenous peoples of Americas. Tell the teachers that they may read material aloud to their students or use lesson plans from the bulletin in their classrooms.

Tell teachers for grades 1 to 4 that they will be using a low-key lesson from the publication Human Rights for Children, which is available from your regional office.

Students in grades 5 to 12 will have the opportunity to write on behalf of children at risk. Hold up case summary flyers for 2 or 3 cases (see p. 76 for information on case summary flyers). Contact the Urgent Action office or the Campaign office (see Appendix I) for current cases involving children.

Students in grades 1 to 12 may send holiday cards to prisoners. Provide teachers information on how to obtain the Holiday Card Action (that is, instruct them to call or write Children's Urgent Action; Attention: Holiday Cards; P.O. Box 1270; Nederland, CO 80466-1270, 303-440-0913).

Ask the teachers to sign up. Request their home phone numbers (if they prefer not to give them out, that's fine) and addresses for contacting them later. Be sure to ask what grade they teach so that you can give them the proper packet.

Stay until the end of the meeting if necessary to pick up the list. Then go to the school office, and distribute the packets.

A packet for grades 1 to 4 should include --

- a lesson from Human Rights for Children.
- The Fourth R.
- holiday card information.
- an AIUSA brochure, which is available from your regional office.
- your group's brochure, which should include information about attending your meetings.
- a note with your name and phone number.

A packet for grades 5 to 12 should include --

- The Fourth R.
- case summary flyers for cases of children at risk.
- a classroom presentation sheet adapted from the write-up on the following pages.
- holiday card information.
- an AIUSA brochure.
- your group's brochure, which should include information about attending your meetings.
- a note with your name and phone number.
- for grades 7-12, information about how to start up a student group, which is available from your regional office.

You may wish to package the materials in manila envelope or folders. Write the teachers' names on their packets and ask the school secretary to put them in the teachers' boxes.

## CLASSROOM PRESENTATION

The following is a sample 30-minute presentation -- including letter-writing -- based on the 1991-92 campaign for the "disappeared." You will want to develop another presentation for a current campaign.

## AI overview

Amnesty International is a world-wide organization of 1.1 million people who work for human rights. The organization was founded in 1961 and was based on the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1977 Amnesty was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts.

Amnesty's work centers around letters written by people just like you on behalf of men, women, and children imprisoned solely for their beliefs, ethnic origin, sex, color, or language. Amnesty supporters also work to end "Disappearances," torture, and executions. Between 1961 and 1992, these letters helped free 33,000 men, women, and children from prison.

Here is what Julio de Pena Valdez, a former prisoner of conscience from the Dominican Republic, wrote to Amnesty upon his release:

- "When the first two hundred letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next two hundred letters came, and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: three thousand of them. The President was informed. The letters still kept arriving, and the President called the prison and told them to let me go."

## "Disappearances"

The letters you will write today will concern the situation of "disappeared" children.

## The Nazi origins

"Disappearances" were first used by the Nazis in 1941 to crush the French resistance. In a program the Nazis called *nacht und nebel* (night and fog), people were arrested secretly at night to intimidate their relatives and the general population. No one knew the victims' fates. The German High Command decreed that prisoners were to be transported to Germany secretly. These measures were believed to have a deterrent effect because --

- the prisoners would vanish without leaving a trace.
- no information would be given as to their whereabouts or fate.

## Modern-day disappearances

Years later, "Disappearances" were used on a massive scale in Central and South America. The victims came to be known in Spanish as "*los desaparecidos*" (the "disappeared").

## Argentina's "dirty war"

Here's what happened to one family during Argentina's "dirty war" from 1974 to 1986. At four o'clock in the morning on May 18, 1977, security forces kicked in the door and arrested Maria Ines Carreri de Velazquez, her husband Miguel, and their five children. They carted the father away to prison in one car and the rest of the family in another. A few days later, the police released the children -- Sergio, Evangelina, Rosana, Andrea, and Gastor -- to the care of their maternal grandmother.

Maria Ines and Miguel have never been seen again. Their children have suffered psychological scars -- some people never recover from the "disappearance" of their loved ones and spend the rest of their lives seeking them. Still, these children have at least had the love and care of their grandmother.

Other children were even less fortunate. They were never returned to their grandmothers. Instead, they were given out for adoptions -- sometimes illegal adoptions to the very security officers who had arrested, tortured, and killed their parents.

They have found some of them; others are still missing. President Menem of Argentina replaced the generals responsible for the "dirty war." He wants to help the grandmothers, but often he gets too busy with other matters to remember that the grandmothers need his support.

### **Letter-writing instructions**

Please write a courteous letter to --

- Exmo. Sr. Presidente Carlos Menem
- Casa Rosada
- Buenos Aires
- ARGENTINA

Start your letter "Your Excellency."

In the first paragraph, tell him who you are, that you are a student, and where you are from. If you would prefer not to use your full name, that's fine. Use your first name only.

In the second paragraph, ask him to please help the grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo to find their grandchildren.

In the last paragraph, tell him how much you love your own grandmother, how important she is in your life, and how much she would miss you.

Close your letter with "Yours respectfully," and sign your name.

Thank you for your help. When you write a letter and send it along with your classmates' letters, you have the power to change the world.

### **Mail the letters**

Ask the students to prepare envelopes, marking them AIR MAIL. Also, ask students to bring two first class letter stamps to school.

Alternatively, volunteer to mail letters for the students. If teachers give you their students' letters to mail, package them together in a manila envelope and address the envelope to the leader of your target country. Then send it to your target ambassador in Washington, DC. This routing saves considerable postage over mailing the package internationally.

## **School Assembly presentation**

The following presentation for grades 7 to 12 takes about 30 minutes to deliver, including a short question and answer period.

Talk in your own words -- it doesn't matter if you forget a few points. You may only wish to read the letter by the former prisoner of conscience from the Dominican Republic, the stories of the juveniles who are on death row, and the excerpts from W. C. Gutman's article on Guatemalan street children. You can shorten the talk by cutting back on Gutman's article.

### **Amnesty overview**

## AI highlights

Give Amnesty International highlights:

- founded in 1961.
- based on the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.
- 1.1 million members working world-wide.

## The mandate

Present the AI mandate. Amnesty International pressures governments to --

- release all prisoners of conscience -- people confined because of their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, color, or language, who have not used or called for violence.
- give all prisoners whose cases have a political aspect a fair trial within a reasonable time.
- abolish the death penalty, torture, and other cruel treatment of all prisoners.
- end all extrajudicial executions and "disappearances."

## AI's methods

Describe how AI works. AI focuses world attention on human rights abuses, such as the treatment of Guatemalan and Brazilian street children. People just like you write letters on behalf of people at risk, including children, who are being unfairly imprisoned, tortured, "disappeared," or killed. Between 1961 and 1992, these letters helped free 33,000 men, women, and children imprisoned around the world.

## A case history

Read aloud the following letter from Julio de Pena Valdez, a former prisoner of conscience from the Dominican Republic.

- "When the first two hundred letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next two hundred letters came, and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: three thousand of them. The President was informed. The letters still kept arriving, and the President called the prison and told them to let me go."

Tell your audience that the letters matter. They are helping to change the world.

## Imprisonment

Children suffer from unjust imprisonment. In the emergency zones of Peru, children are used as pawns to force their parents to surrender or confess. Some of the children are jailed, beaten, and even executed.

In many parts of the world, when women are arrested to force their fathers, brothers, sons, and husbands to surrender, the women's children are locked up with them. The children receive no medical care and no schooling. The food is poor. They may be beaten and the girls raped. Sometimes pregnant women are executed.

In the United States, the Immigration and Naturalization Service jails children whose parents await possible deportation. The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court has said that the jailing of minors is "unprecedented," because the children are charged with no crime and pose no danger to the community or risk of flight. Some of these children are in jail for a year, in state jails along with hardened criminals. The Court has ordered them released, but it has jurisdiction for only the western states and not the rest of the U.S.A., where children are still jailed.

## Disappearances

### The Nazi origins

"Disappearances" were first used by the Nazis in 1941 to crush the French resistance. In a program the Nazis called *nacht und nebel* (night and fog), people were arrested secretly at night to intimidate their relatives and the general population. No one knew the victims' fates. The German High Command decreed that prisoners were to be transported to Germany secretly. These measures were believed to have a deterrent effect because --

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- no information would be given as to their whereabouts or fate.

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### Argentina's "dirty war"

Here's what happened to one family during Argentina's "dirty war" from 1974 to 1986. At four o'clock in the morning on May 18, 1977, security forces kicked in the door and arrested Maria Ines Carreri de Velazquez, her husband Miguel, and their five children. They carted the father away to prison in one car and the rest of the family in another. A few days later, the police released the children -- Sergio, Evangelina, Rosana, Andrea, and Gastor -- to the care of their maternal grandmother.

Maria Ines and Miguel have never been seen again. Their children have suffered psychological scars -- some people never recover from the "disappearance" of their loved ones and spend the rest of their lives seeking them. Still, these children have at least had the love and care of their grandmother.

Other children were even less fortunate. They were never returned to their grandmothers. Instead, they were given out for adoptions -- sometimes illegal adoptions to the very security officers who had arrested, tortured, and killed their parents.

### "Disappearances" in Peru

Since 1987, 5,000 Peruvians have been "disappeared" by their government. Now the Shining Path, a violent opposition group, has also started using "disappearances" to intimidate the population. Most people who have "disappeared" are men, between the ages of 15 to 35, who lived in remote Incas and Aymara villages in the Andes. When their wives, mothers, and sisters inquired about them, the women often "disappeared" as well. In one case, a lieutenant stopped a bus driving by a military camp. He ordered a man, woman, and three teenagers off the bus and marched them into the camp. The man and the woman have never been seen again. The teenagers were released after several weeks with threats to tell no one, or they would be killed. The 15-year-old girl had been raped repeatedly.

### Torture

In Mexico, torture is routine for anyone picked up by the police. Sometimes the victims die. In some Mexican states, anyone arrested has a 99% chance of being tortured. The most frequently reported methods are brutal beating and kicking, near-asphyxiation in water or with plastic bags, forcing mineral water mixed with chili powder into the nostrils, and electric shock torture. Death threats and mock executions of detainees are also commonly reported.

Thirteen-year-old Joaquin Capetillo Santana was picked up on May 10, 1986, in Villahermosa, Tabasco State, on suspicion of robbery. He was put in a local prison for adults, beaten, nearly asphyxiated in water, and had electric

shocks administered to several parts of his body.

Rape is torture. In many countries rape is a common way for the police officers and security officials to subdue and intimidate girls and women, in and out of jail. This occurs every day in India, El Salvador, Peru, and Myanmar (also called Burma), to name a few.

In Myanmar, or Burma, government soldiers saw a 22-year-old woman and her 11-year-old niece trying to return to their homes after the curfew set by the government. Six soldiers raped the aunt. The unit commander raped the 11-year-old girl twice. Seven of his soldiers then took turns raping the girl.

The fallout from torture and "disappearances" is long term. These children wake screaming from nightmares. They cannot concentrate during the day on schoolwork because they relive their experiences in their minds.

## **Extrajudicial executions**

Children are frequently killed in countries where soldiers open fire on families in an indiscriminate, retaliatory way. This occurs in the Philippines, in Iraq, and in Peru.

## **Judicial executions**

The United States is one of six countries -- the others are Iraq, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Bangladesh -- where people are executed for crimes committed before they were 18. Executing juvenile offenders runs counter to international consensus and basic notions of decency. While Amnesty International recognizes the grave problem of violent crime in the U.S.A., sympathizes with the victims and their families, and agrees that severe penalties may be appropriate, the organization is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty, especially for juveniles.

Young people on death row in the USA --

- come overwhelmingly from acutely deprived backgrounds.
- have been physically and/or sexually abused.
- suffer from mental illness or brain damage.

Yet in a disturbingly large number of cases, these potentially mitigating factors were never considered by the courts that imposed their death sentences.

In 1988, an Alabama jury convicted 15-year-old Clayton Flowers of capital murder and recommended a sentence of life in prison without parole. The judge rejected the recommendation and sentenced Flowers to the electric chair. In July 1991, his conviction and sentence were overturned.

James Terry Roach, electrocuted in South Carolina in 1985, had been sentenced to death for a crime committed when he was 17 years old. Roach had no previous record of violence and was mentally retarded.

Sean Sellers, a 16-year-old offender, was sentenced to death in Oklahoma in 1986. At the sentencing phase of the trial, the jury was not instructed that Sellers's age at the time of the crime was a mitigating factor. Psychiatrists believe Sellers suffers from severe emotional disturbances.

In 1986, Paula Cooper was convicted of a murder committed when she was 15 years old. She was sentenced to die in Indiana's electric chair. After three years on death row, her death sentence was set aside by the Indiana Supreme Court, which ruled that because of her age at the time of the crime, the death sentence was a disproportionate punishment.

Jay Kelly Pinkerton was sentenced to death in Texas for a murder committed when he was 17 years old. In 1985, the Supreme Court granted a stay of execution 20 minutes before the execution was due to be carried out; a second reprieve came four months later. In May 1986, the Supreme Court rejected his final appeals, and Pinkerton was executed by legal injection.

In 1990, the state of Louisiana electrocuted Dalton Prejean, despite a recommendation by the Pardons and Parole Board that his sentence be commuted to life imprisonment. He had spent nearly 13 years on death row. Prejean, who had once been diagnosed as brain damaged and mentally retarded, said shortly before his execution: "I don't ask to get out of prison, I just ask to live with my mistake . . . I've changed. There's a whole difference between being 17 and 30."

Troy Dugar, a 15-year-old offender, was sentenced to death in Louisiana in 1987. Dugar has a long history of psychiatric problems and is borderline mentally retarded -- facts that were not presented to the jury during the sentencing phase of his trial. Since the trial he has suffered violent fits and hallucinations. In 1988, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled that Dugar was "incompetent" to appeal his case, and he was returned to death row to await further proceedings.

## Street children in Guatemala

There are somewhere between 5,000 to 10,000 boys and girls aged 5 to 18 on Guatemala's streets. Law enforcement agents, plainclothes policemen, and private security firms licensed by the National Police and the Ministry of the Interior torture and kill these children.

To finish, I want to read excerpts to you from an article by W.E. Gutman of OMNI magazine about the street children of Guatemala.

"Promised anonymity and baited by a \$20 bribe, a Guatemala City cop has told OMNI that 'the crime rate has been spiraling out of control. There are more and more gangs of street children. They've been giving us a lot of trouble. It's bad for business, bad for tourism, bad for our national image,' explained the officer. We cope as we can. We obey orders . . . '

"Some children do commit petty crimes. They also sniff glue. Most are severely malnourished, and the sensations induced by the glue, a compound manufactured by the H. B. Fuller Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota, help overcome hunger pangs and numb them against the chill of night. Over time, the fumes destroy brain cells and in some cases cause death. 'Hallucinations are far easier to cope with than the human predators which populate their reality,' points out Eugenia de Monteroso, Casa Alianza's national director . . . .

"Dawn rises triumphal on Guatemala City's 16th century cathedral, flushing the Romanesque nave with shafts of spectral light, and suffusing the marble altar and colonnades . . . with a celebration of divine light over the forces of darkness.

"For Jorge, sunrise merely heralds the start of another perilous journey. He has just spent the night in a fetid culvert girding the cathedral's northern flank, drowsing into a thin, turbulent sleep, one eye trained against the creeping shadows, a keen ear attentive to any sound louder than his own heartbeat.

"Normally, Jorge beds down with his friends Pedro and Felipe under a pile of filthy rags, sharing scraps of food pilfered at an outdoor stall or recovered from the garbage pit. Normally, they huddle like newborn pups, seeking warmth, sharing a bag of cobbler's glue until the noxious fumes yank them from the grips of hunger, cold, and fear. But these are not normal times. Beatings, torture, sexual abuse, rape, and extrajudicial executions are on the rise in Guatemala, and Jorge, Pedro, and Felipe have decided to split for a while, to disperse, to find safety not in numbers but in solitude and stealth.

"Jorge's eyes are red, the pupils dilated, the eyelids puffy and moist. A yellowed cigarette butt dangles from a blistered lower lip. He reeks of sweat and urine and rubber cement. '*Un quetzal, Señor, dame un quetzal por favor,*' he ventures, conspicuously embarrassed, as if ready to retreat from the irreverence of a vacant stare, the humiliation of a snub, seeming equally vulnerable to indifference and irascibility, visibly accustomed -- if not immune -- to avarice and scorn.

"I stop, dig into my pockets, averting my eyes. He doesn't fit the part, but he has that look that mendicants and

tramps have which is best unheeded, unacknowledged, a liquid gaze in which float the cadavers of hope, will, and purpose, a lifeless glare oozing with despair, disillusionment, and resignation. It's an expression I have seen and learned to shun, a universal manifestation of anguish and insensibility, of apathy and pain and stupefaction shared and telegraphed silently by all those it contaminates.

"I surrender all my change. It isn't much. I mumble an apology in broken Spanish and walk away. Jorge follows me, ambling along sideways like a crab, tugging gently at my sleeve. He wants to shake my hand. He needs to touch and be touched, with love not lechery, with reassurance not rancor. I pat a grimy cheek, urging a nit-infested head toward my chest . . . .

"A flood of words gushes forth. I don't understand them all, but the tears speak volumes of pain, the hopelessness, the cruel absurdity of life.

"Jorge is 11. Pedro and Felipe are 12 and 9, respectively. They all look half their age. Life is cheap. They may never grow up. Or old.

"At the foot of the majestic Agua volcano rests a small cemetery with whitewashed mausoleums and tired wooden crosses bent by age and neglect . . . where the broken vestiges of youth and innocence are laid to rest, a simple marble tombstone for Nahaman Carmona Lopez says infinitely more about his death than about his brief existence, laconically recording his last words: 'I only wanted to be a child; they wouldn't let me.'

"The 13-year-old Nahaman -- he barely looked 10 -- died last March after four policemen found him and nine other street children, aged 6 to 14, sniffing glue. The officers, witnesses said, seized the glue and began pouring it over the children's heads. Nahaman resisted. The commanding officer yanked him to his feet by his ears, threw him back to the ground, and kicked him viciously in the stomach, rupturing his liver and breaking six ribs. A friend of Nahaman's who had narrowly escaped the onslaught said that his screams of pain could be heard three blocks away . . . . Nahaman died 10 days later . . . .

"In its brutal yet eloquent simplicity, Nahaman's last words serve as epitaph for the 400 or more Guatemalan children who share his fate, all killed this year in the unrelenting underground police-led campaign of extermination . . . . [Many] bore messages carved in the unmistakable language of torture: their ears had been sliced off, their eyes burned out. And in a traditional warning to witnesses not to sing, their tongues had been carved out . . . . 'Hopefully they were killed first,' said Bruce Harris, who brought charges against Nahaman's executioners. 'But that's not the way it's usually done around here . . . .'"

This is the world many children live in. You can help change it.

## If you want to help other young people

To save other kids from being imprisoned, "disappeared," tortured, and murdered, here is what you can do:

- start up an Amnesty International group at your junior or senior high school. Your group can work on such campaigns as Guatemalan or Brazilian street children; Peru, "disappearances" and killings; indigenous peoples of the Americas; Tibet/China, imprisonment and torture; and the juvenile death penalty in the U.S.A.
- join Amnesty International yourself, and join the Freedom Writers Network. Write three letters each month. Send \$15 to AIUSA; 322 Eighth Avenue; New York, NY 10001.
- attend the monthly meeting of (YOUR GROUP). The next meeting is (DATE, TIME, LOCATION). For more information, call (PHONE NUMBER). Urge your parents to attend as well.

## Appendix XVI

### What Does an Action File Look Like?

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The new format used for an action file dossier differs little from the old format used for a case dossier. However, no one action file can be "typical," as an action file may deal with any part of the entire range of AI concerns.

This appendix provides an annotated outline of a nine-page extrajudicial execution (EJE) action file.

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#### AI International Secretariat letterhead

A C T I O N F I L E

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

ORIGINATOR: [name]

APPROVED BY: [illegible signature]

DATE:

GROUP(S):

AF REF NO: [Action file number to be used in correspondence with the International Secretariat]

#### COUNTRY:

**STATUS:** This Action File will be allocated to [#] groups. [Or, watch for code AF1, AF2, etc.]

**FOCUS OF ACTION FILE:** Killing of allegedly unarmed, peaceful demonstrator by security forces.

**a. NAME: [name of person killed]**

**b. AGE / DATE OF BIRTH: [day, month, year]**

**c. OCCUPATION:**

**d. DATE OF EJE [or other human rights violation]: [day, month, year]**

**e. FAMILY: [some information, if considered useful for the action, or none]**

**f. PHOTO: [if available]**

**AI CONCERN: Extrajudicial execution [or other concern] -- [descriptive paragraph(s)]**

**BACKGROUND:** Groups should adapt the information contained in this section for use in publicity and other external work. [Several paragraphs about the context of the EJE and perhaps also about various activities of the person executed]

## **GOALS OF ACTION FILE**

- to pressure the [name of country] authorities to investigate fully and impartially the circumstances surrounding the shooting of [name of person], to make their findings public, and to bring to justice those responsible for his/her death;**
- to make the [name of country] government aware of international concern about the actions of the security forces and to persuade it to ensure that law enforcement officials are aware of, and conform to, international standards regarding the use of force;**
- to indicate that the actions of the security forces are being monitored, and so deter future incidents.**

**[For other kinds of files this section may be divided into "short term" and "long-term" goals.]**

**DURATION:** This Action File will be issued for an initial period of one year, when it will be reviewed to assess the success of and continuing need for the action. The research team will keep groups updated, should any significant developments occur during the year.

**REPORTING MECHANISM:** A first report will be due after six months, that is [month, year], and at six-monthly intervals thereafter. A report form is attached.

**LANGUAGES TO BE USED:** English or [other]

**RELIEF:** [either a note that none is required, or suggestions for relief]

## **OPTIONS FOR ACTIONS**

### **1. GENERAL**

[the "core task," defined and explained]

### **2. PARTICULAR**

[specific choices, with reference to a list of government authorities that is included with packet]

### **3. POINTS TO COVER IN LETTERS TO THE AUTHORITIES**

[a list of points for the first and subsequent letters and sometimes also for petitions; other targets for letters (embassies, consulates, and so forth)]

## **4. COPIES OF YOUR LETTERS TO THESE AUTHORITIES**

[instructions, if it is appropriate to send copies to other organizations, to human rights groups, to newspapers in that country, and so forth]

## **5. LETTER-WRITING TO YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT**

[instructions, if this is appropriate, usually with a reminder to consult with your country coordination group (co-group)]

## **6. PUBLICITY AND TARGET SECTOR WORK**

[assorted suggestions, including specific targets deemed appropriate]

## **7. [any other notes useful for work on the Action File]**

## **8. QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions or problems regarding this Action File, please consult your coordinator, co-group, or section before contacting the International Secretariat, as they will probably be able to help you. Of course the Research Department [team, region] is always available if further advice is needed.

## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

[list of relevant international documents enclosed]

[list of related AI publications available from offices]

\*\*\*\*\*

The action file outlined above was relatively short. Included in the dossier, as before: "A Guide to Working on an Action File" (see Appendix XVII), the old "General Instructions" booklet, the "Casework Strategy Plan" (see Exhibit 5-5), guidelines for multiple assignments (see p. 91), "Relief

**Policies and Procedures for AIUSA Local Groups" (see Chapter 12), an Ivan Morris fund application form (see Exhibit 12-2), an information sheet about co-groups, and the name of the co-group contact for the particular action file.**

**As always, the full International Secretariat document, with timetables and names of researchers, should not be photocopied for the group -- the action file coordinator instead should prepare a special summary or packet for members (see p. 36) and, if appropriate, a case summary (see p. 74) for non-members who may be invited to work on the case. Instructions for safeguarding any confidential information (for example, about a prisoner, family, source of information, or relief arrangement) should of course be followed carefully.**

# Appendix XVII

## A Guide to Working on an Action File

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The following "how-to" is intended to cover the basics of coordinating work on an action file (also known simply as a "case"). While it is especially useful for those new to the task, it contains information worth reviewing for even experienced hands, especially the Casework Strategy Plan (Step 6). Good luck with the case!

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### casework steps

#### Step 1: Review your dossier

Review the case material, especially the suggested actions. See if anything needs to be done immediately. If so, arrange to have it done.

#### Step 2: Copy your dossier

Make a **copy** of everything and keep it in a secure place. All case material should be kept safely and handled only by members of your group.

#### Step 3: Contact your co-group

Contact your **country coordination group** (co-group) within one month of receiving your action file. Your co-group will be your primary and best source of country information and casework ideas. You want to establish a good working relationship with your co-group to ensure the best possible work on your case. The address and phone number of a member of the relevant co-group may be found in the dossier.

#### Step 4: Gather information

Gather as much **information** on the target country as you can handle. Study this and the case material.

#### Step 5: Plan a strategy

Short of executing the plan, coming up with an effective **strategy** for your case is the single most important element in good casework. You should have a strategy set within two months of receiving the action file. In planning a strategy, there are several important points to keep in mind:

- What are the goals of the case? What do you want as a result of your work?

- Which people or organizations (in the U.S.A. or the target country) can help you obtain those results? Who or what can influence the target government? What can you do to enlist these people or organizations in your work? What can influence them?
- What skills or social or business contacts of group members might prove useful in your work? Have you canvassed the group for such information?
- Who in AI can help? Other members, groups, networks, staff?
- What time or energy resources does the group have? What are the competing demands?
- With all of the above in mind, what are some attainable goals, short-term and long-term? How will you achieve them? Who will do what?

The setting for planning a strategy can be a group meeting or a smaller gathering, such as the action file committee. Considering the points above (which are but a small sample of the points that can and should be considered), allow time for members to "brainstorm" on the issue, coming up with as many ideas as possible. Then evaluate the list. Which are short-term actions and which long-term? Are some prerequisites to others? Which are likely to be most effective? Which are the most "doable"?

After selecting a course of action, match up people and resources with tasks. Decide how and when things will be done. Deliberate, timed escalation can be very effective: going from an initial barrage of letters from the group itself, to letters from community leaders, then to Congressional and other target sector involvement, to publicity and press clips, to meetings with consular and embassy officials, to demonstrations, and so forth. Keep this concept in mind when trying to enlist others in your work. For example, your state's Governor might be much more inclined to help if he or she sees that your town's Mayor and City Council has already joined the effort.

### **Step 6: Send your co-group your plan**

After planning a strategy, complete the **Casework Strategy Plan** form (Exhibit 5-5) and mail it to your co-group. They will review the plan and offer helpful comments as appropriate. In six months, you should review the plan with your co-group to see which goals have been attained and how best to achieve those that have not.

### **Step 7: Get to work!**

If you have any questions concerning the case, contact your co-group. Please remember that co-group members are volunteers like yourself. It is usually best to call them after working hours. If you cannot reach your co-group, contact your regional office.

## **Important Notes**

### **Copies**

Keep copies of your letters. In the event you receive a reply to one of them, you'll want to know what might have elicited it. Keep a record of how many letters are sent and to whom, as well as a record of other contacts made in the course of your work. **Copies of replies from government authorities or from a prisoner** should be sent to your co-group, the International Secretariat in London, and to AIUSA's Casework office (see Appendix I).

## **Relief**

If your prisoner or his or her family is in need of relief in the way of money or goods, consult the relief guidelines in your dossier and your co-group.

## **Co-adopting groups**

If there are other Amnesty groups in the U.S.A. or abroad also working on this case, be sure to stay in touch with them and coordinate your efforts.

## **Reach out**

Casework gives your group an opportunity to expand its contact with different segments of the community. A group working on a case from Peru might want to connect with Hispanic groups in the area to see if they can help and to possibly interest them in becoming involved with Amnesty International in an ongoing way. It is natural to be most affected by things that strike a personal chord, whether that personal connection be a shared profession, ethnicity or religion. AI's task is to get people involved in human rights work, and one technique for doing so is by highlighting certain cases that might be especially relevant to someone's own background. Of course, few people are entirely restrictive in their concern for human rights. For example, owing to the African-American experience in the United States, many African-American organizations, especially civil rights and religious groups, are keenly sensitized to injustice, not just against African-Americans, but against all peoples. The job of the AI group is to tap into that concern for human rights and provide an opportunity to express it through working with Amnesty International.

## **Translations**

If you have difficulty translating letters into or out of French, Spanish or Arabic, you should take advantage of the AIUSA Translation Network. The network can provide you with a translation of a two-page document within three weeks. Contact: AIUSA Translation Network, 304 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

## **Stay in touch**

Always notify your co-group if you change your address or telephone number or if a new action file coordinator takes over.

## **Be creative**

To be effective, our words and deeds must be noticed by the target government. Keep in mind that "pressure" is the name of the game and there are endless ways of applying it to achieve the goals of your action file.

## Appendix XVIII

# Questions for Strategy Development

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**The following questions may assist you in developing a strategy. There are a lot of questions here, many of which can be answered by your country coordination group (co-group) or by non-AI individual experts. Before spending the time to track down an answer to any particular question, ask yourself whether the answer could help you --**

- ⟨ identify which individuals have the ability to resolve the human rights violation represented by your action file.
  - ⟨ determine who or what those individuals care about.
  - ⟨ design an action your group could implement that could help meet the goals of your action file.
- 

## About your target government

**How much is known about the officials most directly responsible for the imprisonment and treatment of prisoners?**

**Did any of the officials live, travel, study, train, or serve in the U.S.A. at any time?** When, where, and in whose company? Are there professors, business executives, foreign service officers past or present, journalists, or others who could offer a first-hand view of the officials, what motivates them, who they think is important? Former classmates, colleagues, associates, or friends?

**What are the key times on the calendar when your target government is likely to be most susceptible or vulnerable to pressure?** What occasions have been used in the past for amnesties? Is the deadline coming up for promulgating a new five-year plan? A big anniversary of the chief of state's accession to power? A national hero's day? Elections? A major international conference in your target country? Visit of a foreign president? Aid consortium to meet?

**How many and which officials actually have discretion over the fate of prisoners?** Given that this often excludes the entire technocratic branch, who among the technocrats is ascendant, individually well-connected to those officials with real discretion, and what actions or statements have they made to illuminate their disposition towards human rights issues?

**Is the judiciary at all independent?** Any acquittals, prosecution of torturers, refusal to admit evidence or confessions

that might have been extracted under torture? Outspoken judges?

**To what international agencies or alliances do the military and police security agencies belong, if any? How do these associations function? Is the U.S.A. party to them?**

**What has been your target government's reaction to past AI reports, missions, allegations and interventions?**

**Does your target government routinely send trade delegations, delegates to professional and cultural conferences and events, and other semi- or unofficial emissaries to the U.S.A.?**

**Has your target government hired public relations agents in the U.S.A.? Who are they? Are they open to a meeting to discuss AI concerns?**

## **About the society**

**What are the powerful economic, social, and cultural influences on your target government from within the country's society?**

**Is religion a powerful force in your target country?** Is it a monolithic or pluralistic influence? Which government officials are most concerned? Is there a connection between the religion(s) and churches here? Are there upcoming events, convocations, visits, or exchanges that might be exploited?

**Who are the most important business and industrial leaders in your target country?** Which of them has lived, studied, or worked here? Who are their colleagues or associates here? Which of them represents joint venture holdings with U.S.A.-based companies? Has any of them ever made public concern for human rights or been detained by prior government? Are there "brotherhoods" (such as the Rotary)?

**Are trade unions powerful in your target country?** What are their internationally affiliated unions and umbrella groups? Are they members of international unions or federations recognized by the AFL-CIO? Are they officially represented in government? Is your target government in the International Labor Organization? Are the unions progressive, outspoken, independent?

**Does the press ever publish reports of violations?** Is it self-censored, government controlled, or free? Is there an active foreign press corps? An English-language press? Are radios common? Do they receive international transmissions, such as BBC or Australian Broadcasting Company programming? Voice of America?

**Is there an independent and active bar association? Other professional associations with clout?** How are academicians and internationally known writers, scholars, doctors, specialists, and laureates regarded? Are there institutions about which your target government seems to take a "hands-off" policy?

**What are the issues that provoke public protest in your target country?** Are there forms of protest that do not lead to arrest, abduction, or other violations? **How do people apply pressure to your target government?** What sectors lead the protests, and is there any difference in the way one sector is treated versus others? For example, do student demonstrations provoke the same repression as strikes? Do opposition leaders work together? Do prominent dissidents have large public followings or support? Is there dissent within the armed services? If so, on what issues?

**How well do public services function?** In particular, is mail delivered, is it monitored, or otherwise interfered with? Is it necessary for people to pay bribes for mail delivery and other basic services? Is metered mail preferable to stamped? [In some countries letters are stolen by postal carriers and others for the resale value of the foreign stamps on the illegal market.] Is it likely registered mail is delivered more reliably than regular mail? Is the telephone system functioning throughout your target country? Are international calls monitored? Do operators speak English? Is it possible to obtain phone numbers through directory information?

**Is your target country at war?** What is the relationship of your target country with its neighbors? **Is pressure likely to be more effective if channeled through friendly contacts in neighboring or otherwise highly regarded countries?** What are these countries, and what institutions within them have close ties to institutions or individuals in your target country?

**Is the society internally divided on ethnic, racial, or tribal lines?** Is your target government representative of a powerful minority? Are minorities represented by an organized leadership or lobby, or in the government? Does repression follow these internal divisions, and if so, are repressive measures popular among privileged groups, large or small? Which are these, and is there dissent within them? Do these divisions coincide with class and social strata, opportunity and privilege? What are the public posture and policy of your target government on these issues, if any?

**Does the public (or powerful private institutions, where they exist) relate to a strong central government or to local or regional authorities?** How is the power of these regional bodies addressed by the public and the lobbies? Is it autonomous? Do local commanders or officials tend to respond more or less than the central government to domestic (and international) pressure?

**Do human rights assemblies, legal aid institutes, and other domestic human rights groups exist legally?** Are their leaders free to travel? Are there ways (this needs to be cleared with the International Secretariat, which is in touch with all such bodies) to strengthen the hand of the domestic human rights lobby?

## About the security forces

**Who is responsible for the majority of human rights violations?**

**How high in the chain of command are the officials directly implicated in human rights violations?** How long have they been in power, and how stable is their authority?

**What is the relationship of the security forces to the U.S. military and intelligence community?**

**What kind of equipment (made in what countries) is used by security forces in repressing dissent?**

**Are the police, the military, or paramilitary groups, or some or all of the above guilty of violations?**

**Is there a central detention facility(ies) where torture is practiced?** Do photographs of the facility exist (for use as a poster or brochure graphic, for example)?

**What is the relationship of the security forces to the civilian government, if any?** Who's in charge, for how long, and with what degree of accountability to the public?

**How much and what kind of military, police, and security aid does your target government receive, and from which donor government(s)?**

**What is the avowed self-perception of the security command?** Are they involved in overt civil or international conflict? Are they experienced in armed struggle? Are they professional and trained, or are they made up of conscripts? Are they corrupt at all levels?

**Is there close, systematic cooperation across borders between security forces of your target country and those of its neighbors?** Is there refoulement? Is there torture or abductions by the military outside its national boundaries?

## About the U.S.A.

**What is popular perception of your target country in the U.S.A.?**

**What military, economic, and cultural relations exist between the U.S.A. and your target country?**

**What is the role of the U.S. State Department in relation to your target country? Apologist? Adversary? Mixed?**

**Who in the U.S.A. (government and private institutions) has a knowledge of or special interest in your target country?**

**What is the routine level of media interest in your target country here?**

**When was the most recent occasion when media and public interest in your target country was high here? What caused this?**

**Has your target country been the subject of Congressional hearings in the past few years? In what connection and with what results? Who testified, and what linkage if any exists between the testimony and AI's concerns?**

**Does the U.S.A. belong to an alliance or aid consortium with or for your target country?**

**What corporations here have operations or joint ventures in your target country? Which of these employs large numbers of people? Are there cases where employees of the companies have been subjected to human rights violations, and if so, what if anything has been the response of the company?**

**Are there U.S. media outlets seen, heard, or read in your target country (TIME, CNN, and so forth)?**

**Which U.S. media outlets have correspondents, stringers, and/or bureaus regularly covering your target country? Which file human rights stories?**

**What is the disposition of the U.S. embassy in your target country toward requests for human rights information and interventions? Where has the ambassador been posted previously? What is the ambassador's past record or stated position on human rights issues, if any?**

**What issues that provoke dissent and lead to arrests in your target country are issues of concern to organizations or groups here? Union-busting? Tribal, ethnic, class, race, or gender discrimination? Poverty, hunger, corruption, illiteracy, and so forth?**

## **About your prisoner**

**Why was your prisoner arrested? Has your prisoner been charged with a criminal offense? Is the "crime" specific to your target country or state of siege, or is it a crime that is regarded as such everywhere? If so, what leads AI to believe in your prisoner's innocence? Is the charge inherently and obviously political (such as anti-state agitation and propaganda)?**

**To what degree, and with what reasoning, is your prisoner regarded as an enemy of the regime? Is your prisoner well-known, a cause célèbre in your target country or region? Do solidarity and émigré organizations work on his or her behalf? Has your prisoner become an element in opposition efforts to discredit your target government?**

**Has your prisoner been brought to trial and sentenced? If so, to what term? In what (or how strict a) regime of imprisonment? What is the record of your target government as to releasing prisoners before the end of their sentences? Have early releases ever taken place? Under what circumstances (general or selective amnesties, change of administration, action of the judiciary, or response to high-level influence within or from outside your target government)? Has ill-health or other humanitarian grounds ever been cited as the reason for an early release?**

**Is your prisoner being held without charge or trial? If so, what is the record of your target government in this area? Is it common for prisoners to be held for years without trial? Is there a common law tradition, an independent judiciary, or other grounds for expecting an eventual trial? What conditions are likely to promote or inhibit a trial? Will a trial be likely to benefit your prisoner? What is your target government's attitude toward due process issues? Is there a legal aid bureau or other general assistance group in your target country? What have been the outcomes of**

recent trials on similar or other political cases? Are show trials common? Are acquittals common?

**Are your prisoner's whereabouts know to you?** Has your target government taken responsibility for the arrest? What do you know, and what can you find out about the prison or detention center? What does the location of incarceration tell you about the status of your action file (is it normally an interrogation or temporary detention site, infamous as a torture center, or a permanent penal colony or work camp)? Is your prisoner imprisoned in a special camp for political prisoners or housed with common law criminals?

**What are the conditions in the prison?** Does the International Secretariat have current contact with former prisoners who have been detained at the same facility? Can your group correspond with these contacts, to develop a clearer picture of the detention?

**What is the background or profession of your prisoner?** Does your prisoner represent a profession, trade union, or group that is also represented in the U.S.A.? Is the relevant group influential in the U.S.A.? Is there a relevant international association or umbrella group to which appeals can be lodged?

**Is your prisoner one of many victims of an international recognized human rights abuse or pattern of repression** (such as refuseniks and religious dissenters, "disappeared" prisoners, and so forth), which may have an established constituency of concern to draw upon?

**How long has your prisoner been held?** Was your prisoner arrested under a previous government? Are there benchmarks coming up in your prisoner's term of imprisonment? Is the punishment grossly out of line with the alleged offense? Is your prisoner being detained after the end of his or her sentence? Has your prisoner been repeatedly rearrested?

**Is correspondence with your prisoner or family possible and advisable?**

**Is publicity advisable or dangerous?** If the latter, what avenues are known to exist for quiet appeals?

**What is the attitude of the U.S. government and the public and media here towards your target country, your target government, and victims of persecution there?** Are these attitudes subject to influence, are they ideologically based, or are they due to ignorance and/or indifference? Are there sectors that diverge from negative attitudes toward the prisoners, and on what basis (political parties, those with first-hand knowledge of your target country, journalists, lawyers, and so forth)?

**Is relief possible and warranted?** Through what channels?

**If little is known about your prisoner, how would your group gain more information and insight into your action file?** Are there people here or abroad (such as former ambassadors, journalists who have lived in your target country, missionaries, business persons, military, academics, authors, and immigrants) who could offer such insights?

## **About your strategy**

**After appeals to government authorities, what are the secondary targets of your appeals, here and abroad?**

**How much information about your action file should you cite in your appeals to government officials?**

**When is it advisable to act in AI's name and when in your private or professional capacity?**

**Who in the U.S.A. will be most likely to have sympathy with the goals of your action file?**

**Who in the U.S.A. is most likely to have influence in your target country?**

**In which language should your direct appeals be written?**

**Which are the officials with direct responsibility for your prisoner?** Which can effectuate improvements in your prisoner's circumstances or order his or her release?

**At what point in the history of your work should you request help from outside your group?** From the press, by covering your action file from a local angle? From your Representative in Congress? From influential community or target sector leaders? On what basis? Is it possible to have your action file mentioned in the Congressional Record? In church or labor publications? In relevant journals?

**When and how is it advisable to approach consular and/or ambassadorial officials?**

**What is the proper approach to U.S. ambassadors and other U.S. delegates to your target country?**

**What is possibility of getting official intervention from people traveling to your target country, even as high as the White House?**

**What are the steps to be taken after six months, nine months, a year, or several years of little or no progress?** At what point are collaborative actions involving other groups, the co-group, or AIUSA staff worth pursuing? When are demonstrations possible and advisable?

# Appendix XIX

## AIUSA Local Groups by Group Number and by State and City

This appendix provides a list of AIUSA local groups arranged by group number and by state and city. This list includes all groups believed to be open as of September 1998. To obtain the name and phone number of the coordinator of any group, call the regional office serving that group (see Appendix I for a list of AI offices).

If you are searching for a group in a particular congressional district and cannot find one on this list, consider that a group may have opened since this list was finalized. Further, groups that meet in adjacent congressional districts may have members who live in the district of interest. Check with the area coordinator whose area includes the district.

For a city with several groups, you may also wish to ask the appropriate area coordinator which group might have the resources to assist you. Again, the regional office serving that city can provide you the name and phone number of an area coordinator.

### Table of Content

- [Groups by group number](#)
- [Groups by state and city](#)

#### AIUSA groups by group number

Group Number	State	City	Region	Group Number	State	City	State
1	CT	New Haven	NE	3	NY	Manhattan (Upper)	NE
4	WA	Seattle	W	6	IL	Chicago	MW
8	CO	Boulder	W	9	NY	Manhattan (Village)	NE
10	NH	Hanover	NE	11	NY	Manhattan (Upper)	NE
12	NE	Omaha	MW	13	CT	Stamford	NE
15	MA	Concord	NE	17	NY	Great Neck	NE
18	IL	Chicago (Hyde Park)	MW	19	CA	Palo Alto	W
21	CA	Davis	W	22	CA	Pasadena	W
23	TX	Houston	S	24	MA	Cambridge	NE
26	NY	Manhattan (Upper)	NE	27	NY	Brooklyn	NE
28	VT	Burlington	NE	29	MI	Kalamazoo	MW
30	CA	San Francisco	W	33	CA	Walnut Creek	W
35	CA	San Jose	W	37	MN	Minneapolis	MW
39	PA	Pittsburgh	MA	40	IA	Ames	MW

## Appendix XIX: AIUSA Local Groups by Group Number and by State and City

41	NJ	Haddon Heights	NE	42	NY	White Plains	NE
44	AL	Birmingham	S	45	NJ	Madison	NE
48	OR	Portland	W	49	RI	Providence	NE
50	IL	Evanston	MW	53	AR	Fayetteville	S
55	IL	Glen Ellyn	MW	56	MA	Lexington	NE
60	CO	Denver	W	61	MI	Ann Arbor	MW
62	CA	Cupertino	W	67	NJ	Princeton	NE
68	KY	Lexington	MW	70	OH	Cleveland	MW
73	NY	Ithaca	NE	74	NY	Garden City	NE
75	GA	Atlanta	S	76	MA	Northampton	NE
78	MI	Detroit	MW	79	CT	Westport	NE
80	CA	San Francisco	W	81	MI	Lansing	MW
82	MD	Rockville	MA	83	DC	Washington (Dupont Circle)	MA
84	NC	Chapel Hill	S	85	PA	Bucks County	MA
86	OH	Cincinnati	MW	87	OH	Columbus	MW
88	AZ	Tucson	W	89	NY	Rochester	NE
92	CA	San Fernando Valley	W	94	WA	Seattle	W
96	CA	Santa Monica	W	98	CT	West Hartford	NE
101	NM	Albuquerque	W	105	MO	St. Louis	MW
106	WI	Milwaukee	MW	109	MD	Baltimore	MA
110	AZ	Phoenix	W	112	PA	Philadelphia	MA
113	IL	Chicago (Lincoln Park)	MW	115	MO	Kansas City	MW
120	SC	Columbia	S	122	NM	Santa Fe	W
124	IL	Urbana	MW	127	TX	San Antonio	S
128	MA	Amherst	NE	133	MA	Arlington/Somerville	NE
134	VA	Richmond	MA	135	CA	Mendocino	W
137	CA	San Diego	W	139	WI	Madison	MW
141	CA	Santa Ana	W	142	CA	San Rafael	W
143	LA	New Orleans	S	144	CA	Oakland	W
147	DE	Wilmington	MA	148	CA	South Bay	W
151	MA	Brookline	NE	156	NY	Huntington	NE
157	VA	Charlottesville	MA	159	VA	Arlington	MA
161	MN	Northfield	MW	162	IL	Chicago (Oak Park)	MW
164	WI	Green Bay	MW	165	MA	Andover	NE
167	NY	Bronx	NE	168	SC	Charleston	S
169	ME	Brunswick	NE	173	NE	Lincoln	MW
174	ME	Portland	NE	175	CA	Long Beach	W
176	MA	Salem	NE	177	IL	Chicago (Lake Forest)	MW
178	CA	Irvine	W	181	IA	Cedar Rapids	MW
182	SC	Greenville	S	186	GA	Augusta	S
189	TX	El Paso	S	196	KY	Louisville	MW

## Appendix XIX: AIUSA Local Groups by Group Number and by State and City

199	CA	Keene	W	202	IL	Bloomington	MW
205	TX	Dallas	S	211	DC	Washington (Capitol Hill)	MA
213	NC	Raleigh	S	216	PA	Philadelphia (west suburbs)	MA
217	LA	Baton Rouge	S	218	IL	Springfield	MW
219	TN	Knoxville	S	224	AK	Anchorage	W
226	GA	Athens	S	228	MD	Columbia	MA
234	VA	Norfolk	MA	235	CA	Whittier	W
238	OK	Oklahoma City	S	248	FL	Miami	S
253	NY	Westchester	NE	254	KS	Manhattan	MW
255	CA	Santa Barbara	W	259	IL	Arlington Heights	MW
264	CA	Fresno	W	266	NJ	Brick	NE
270	WA	Bellingham	W	274	CA	Santa Cruz	W
275	WI	Eau Clare	MW	277	IA	Des Moines	MW
280	NY	Manhattan	NE	283	CA	Sacramento	W
284	MD	Annapolis	MA	289	OH	Akron	MW
296	IL	Macomb	MW	297	MD	Takoma Park	MA
305	CA	Claremont	W	308	MN	St. Peter	MW
311	MN	Rochester	MW	314	IL	Lombard	MW
315	MN	Wayzata	MW	316	ND	Minot	MW
317	IN	Indianapolis	MW	323	KS	Newton	MW
325	MI	Grand Rapids	MW	328	IN	Bloomington	MW
331	KY	Berea	MW	335	MI	Rochester Hills	MW
336	OH	Dayton	MW	340	MA	Springfield	NE
342	PA	West Chester	MA	344	NH	Amherst	NE
345	PA	Pittsburgh	MA	347	PA	Allentown	MA
350	NY	Duchess County	NE	353	NY	Brooklyn (Park Slope)	NE
355	ME	Yarmouth	NE	356	CT	Woodstock	NE
357	NY	Garrison	NE	358	NY	Saratoga Springs	NE
359	NY	Nyack	NE	360	CT	Danbury	NE
361	NY	Albany	NE	363	NY	Orange County	NE
365	MA	Watertown	NE	367	CT	Hartford	NE
370	NY	Buffalo	NE	371	ME	Camden	NE
374	MA	Brockton	NE	376	NY	Cortland	NE
378	ME	Castine	NE	379	NJ	Atlantic City	NE
380	NM	Las Cruces	W	382	NV	Carson Valley	W
391	CA	Santa Rosa	W	393	CO	Colorado Springs	W
394	OR	Salem	W	396	WA	Bainbridge Island	W
403	AL	Montgomery	S	404	GA	Marietta	S
411	FL	Orlando	S	412	AR	Little Rock	S
413	TX	Dallas - Fort Worth	S	419	FL	West Palm Beach	S
422	VA	West Alexandria	MA	423	PA	Lancaster	MA

## Appendix XIX: AIUSA Local Groups by Group Number and by State and City

424	PA	Pottstown	MA	427	PA	Chestnut Hill	MA
431	PA	Swarthmore	MA	435	PA	Harrisburg	MA
438	PA	York	MA	446	AK	Homer	W
449	HI	Honolulu	W	452	CA	Ventura	W
455	MT	Helena	W	461	CA	San Diego/Scripps Ranch	W
463	NM	Montezuma	W	465	WY	Gillette	W
466	CA	San Mateo	W	467	CA	Los Angeles	W
471	CA	Vista	W	473	AS	Pago Pago	W
480	CA	Paradise	W	484	MT	Dillon	W
486	CA	San Francisco	W	487	NV	Reno	W
489	AZ	Phoenix/Tempe	W	492	WA	Marysville	W
495	WA	Vashon	W	500	TX	Austin	S
506	TN	Memphis	S	509	FL	Ft. Myers	S
510	GA	Atlanta (Café Diem)	S	523	DE	Newark	MA
524	PA	Sewickley	MA	525	PA	Palmyra	MA
529	DC	Washington (Tenleytown)	MA	532	VA	Leesburg	MA
533	PA	Galilee	MA	536	DC	Washington (Adams Morgan)	MA
542	NJ	South Jersey	NE	543	NJ	Cape May	NE
544	NY	Queens	NE	547	MA	Malden	NE
548	NY	Brooklyn	NE	549	ME	Waterville	NE
550	NH	South Hampton	NE	552	MA	Quincy	NE
553	NJ	Hoboken (cyber group)	NE	554	NY	Ronkonkoma	NE
555	NJ	Glassboro	NE	570	IL	Chicago	MW
572	IL	Peoria	MW	573	MN	St. Cloud	MW
576	IL	Tinley Park	MW	578	NE	Fremont	MW
579	KY	Bowling Green	MW	581	WI	La Crosse	MW
584	IL	St. Charles	MW	585	MI	Ann Arbor	MW
595	IL	Chicago (No. Michigan Ave.)	MW	601	WA	Tri-Cities	W
602	CA	Three Rivers	W	603	CO	Aurora	W
604	WA	Bremerton	W	605	CA	Modesto	W
607	WA	Friday Harbor	W	608	CA	Sonoma	W
609	WY	Laramie	W	610	OR	Bend	W
611	CA	Eureka/Arcata	W	612	CA	Hayward	W
613	WA	Spokane	W	614	CA	Culver City	W
615	UT	Salt Lake City	W	616	CA	Eastern Sierra	W
622	CA	Conejo Valley	W	623	WA	Eastside	W

## Exhibit 4-1

### Sample condensed case sheet information and background to an action file for AI group members

#### ACTION FILE ASSIGNED TO BATH/BRUNSWICK AI

Myanmar (Burma) - Investigation into the arrest and imprisonment of 4 possible prisoners of conscience:

Ye Myo Htut  
Ko Thein Shwe  
Khin Maung Thwin  
Ko Hla Tun

Little is known about these men except that they are members of the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) in the Ayeyarwady Division. The DPNS was legally registered as a political party in late 1988 to work peacefully for "the emergence of genuine democracy in the interests of the people". The four party members (among others) were arrested in 1989 or early 1990 during the period before the general elections held in May 1990. It is not known if they have been charged with any offense and tried; their place of detention is unknown also.

AT is concerned that these men may have been arrested for peaceful political activities against military rule and because of their party membership, in violation of their rights to freedom of opinion, expression, association, and assembly.

We are requesting government explanation of the cases (reasons for arrest, sentences, if any, etc.) and urging that each prisoner should either be charged with a recognizably criminal offense and tried according to international standards of fairness, or he released Immediately and unconditionally.

#### BACKGROUND

Large-scale public unrest in Myanmar in 1988 was led by students & Buddhist monks & others; many sectors of society participated. Thousands were killed or forced to flee, and control was reimposed in a September coup that formed the State Law & Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which proclaimed martial law and severe restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, while also legalizing political parties and promising elections. During the election "campaign", thousands of leaders & supporters of parties and student groups calling for restoration of civil liberties & multi-party democracy were arrested for breaking martial law orders. The National League for Democracy won 81% of the seats in the Assembly anyway, but the SLORC has refused to convene the Assembly or transfer power to civilian government.

Between October 1990 & early 1991 the SLORC arrested scores of civilian political activists and hundreds of Buddhist monks in large-scale suppression of opposition to its continued rule. In May 1991, 34 or 35 people, including 25 elected Assembly members, were sentenced to prison terms of 10, 20, or 25 years for "high treason" or "misprison" (knowledge of treason), in connection with plans to form a "parallel government".

More recently up to 900 students reportedly were arrested in early December 1991 on a Yangon campus, apparently during peaceful demonstrations demanding the release of previously detained students and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Political detainees are tried in civilian or military court, neither guaranteeing fair trial. Military tribunals formed in 1989 to try martial law offenders use summary procedures that fall far short of international standards. The calling of witnesses is strictly limited and there is no right of judicial appeal.

Since the March 1991 end of AI's MYANMAR CAMPAIGN, the level of human rights violations there has remained alarming, so we are endeavoring to maintain continuous pressure by directing appeals to the government and by

providing more information to other governments, organizations and the public so that they will press the SLORC to improve its human rights record. Because of severe government restriction on access to information by independent investigators and threat and punishments aimed at any citizen trying to communicate with them, it is extremely difficult to obtain corroboration of reports of torture, ill-treatment and deaths in custody, and we presumably don't hear about all the arrests for political reasons. Nevertheless, since 1989 AI has taken up the cases of more than 150 individuals for investigation or adoption as prisoners of conscience by local AI groups and has been able to document over 1500 cases of political prisoners. These cases are being divided among AI groups; by focusing on them, members will draw attention to all of the political prisoners and other victims of human rights abuse in Myanmar.

## Exhibit 4-2

### **Sample letter-writing instructions for AI group members [Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

#### Syrian Case Action

December 1990

#### Prisoner of Conscience WAHID KHADHUR

Please write a polite letter to the Syrian official named below asking for WAHID KHADHUR'S immediate and unconditional release from prison. Send a copy of your letter to the Syrian ambassador in Washington.

Mail your letter by the end of December. THANK YOU.

Send your letter to: Send a copy of your letter to:

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam Vice President Office of the President Presidential Palace Abu Rummaneh Al-Rashid Street Damascus Syrian Arab Republic	His Excellency Walid al-Moualem Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic 2215 Wyoming Avenue NW Washington DC, 20008
---	--

Salutation: Your Excellency

Closing: Yours respectfully and sincerely

Include the following in your letter:

- You are writing on behalf of WAHID KHADHUR, a prisoner of conscience who has never used or advocated violence.
- He has been held without charge or trial since July 17, 1984 for his membership in the Hizb al-'Amal al-Shuyu'i.
- He is currently being held in the Military Interrogation Center in Damascus.
- His imprisonment violates Article 38 of the Syrian Constitution which states "Every citizen has the right to freely and openly express his views in words, writing, and through all other means of expression...." and it violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Syria has ratified.
- Ask for his immediate and unconditional release from prison.
- Ask for a reply to your request for release and ask for information regarding WAHID's health.
- State that you are a member of Amnesty International.

Postage is 45 cents. Do not use fancy stamps or stamps showing American flags. Mark your letters to Syria with a bold AIR MAIL

Don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or ideas.

THANKS FOR WRITING YOUR LETTER.

Ed Laak

415-324-1895

## SUGGESTIONS ON WRITING LETTERS

### 1. General

- Letters should be brief, factual and —most important— polite.
- Statements or language which may be offensive should be avoided.
- Remember that Amnesty International is a non-partisan organization. It opposes human rights violations but not governments or political systems.
- It is better to assume that the authorities are either not informed or willing to seek a remedy to alleged violations of human rights. Do not make direct accusations.
- By their very nature, UA's are often based on a marked possibility or likelihood that torture will occur, rather than on hard facts. It is probably better not to use the word "torture".
- You may point out the government's responsibility for the welfare of all citizens and, in this context, request them to investigate complaints and/or take appropriate measures in view of the allegations made.
- If there have been recent positive developments in the country, these should be recognized and welcomed (e.g. releases, announcement of official investigation into torture allegations, etc.).
- If there have been violations of human rights by government opponents (killings, kidnappings, etc.), you may refer to them, expressing your concern about violence from any side.

### 2. Reference to Amnesty International

- AI's name can be used, except when there are specific instructions to the contrary. However, letters in a private or professional capacity may add effectiveness.
- If you do refer to Amnesty International, it may be useful to include a brief explanation of AI's aims and principles (impartiality and independence from any government, political faction, ideology, economic interest or religious creed); also indicate, where appropriate, that AI opposes torture and the imposition of the death penalty and seeks a fair and speedy trial in all cases and without reservation.

"While nothing could prevent my serving the 20-year sentence in its entirety, there is no doubt in my mind that your endeavors were a determining factor in the preservation of my life during my imprisonment."

### 3. How to address authorities

- There is no standard international code for addressing authorities. These formalities vary according to the different uses and governmental structures in each country. However, you may safely use:
  1. Your Excellency — for all heads of state, governors, ministers and ambassadors;
  2. Dear Sir — for local authorities, prison commanders, police chiefs;
  3. Your Honor — for judges;
  4. Dear Admiral, General, Captain, etc., for military officials;
- In closing, you can use "Yours sincerely and respectfully," for any authority.
- If you are in doubt, you may seek advice from embassies, consulates, consult your local library, or call the Urgent Action office.

-UA office, Amnesty International USA, PO Box 1270, Nederland, CO. 80466- 1270

## **SUGGESTIONS ON WRITING LETTERS**

### **1. General**

- Letters should be brief, factual and —most important— polite.
- Statements or language which may be offensive should be avoided.
- Remember that Amnesty International is a non-partisan organization. It opposes human rights violations but not governments or political systems.
- It is better to assume that the authorities are either not informed or willing to seek a remedy to alleged violations of human rights. Do not make direct accusations.
- By their very nature, UA's are often based on a marked possibility or likelihood that torture will occur, rather than on hard facts. It is probably better not to use the word “torture”.
- You may point out the government’s responsibility for the welfare of all citizens and, in this context, request them to investigate complaints and/or take appropriate measures in view of the allegations made.
- If there have been recent positive developments in the country, these should be recognized and welcomed (e.g. releases, announcement of official investigation into torture allegations, etc.).
- If there have been violations of human rights by government opponents (killings, kidnappings, etc.), you may refer to them, expressing your concern about violence from any side.

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**STANDARD RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Identify the prisoner or define the issue as clearly as possible. If the date of arrest, place of detention, or medical condition of the prisoner are known, state - by always writing as soon as you receive case or them. Follow the specific directions for each case campaign material from AI outlined in the Amnesty newspaper, AI group newsletter or Urgent Action bulletin. For example, do or not ask for release of a prisoner about whom we are merely seeking more information or for release - by setting aside an hour or two a week for letter-when we are urging commutation of a death sentence.

*or*

In most cases you may identify yourself as an AI member, but sometimes you may be asked not do - by starting each work day with an AI letter or two so. You may identify yourself by occupation and nationality. Indicate that your concern is or humanitarian. Do not discuss political ideology or religious creed or seem judgmental about differing - by writing a batch of AI letters on the night before or cultural norms. Stay within AI's mandate. Do not the night after each group meeting, make allegations or state opinions that go beyond the case history. To maintain impartiality, visitors or, if you're affiliated with a group whose meetings are and refugees should not write to their country of too far away to attend, by using origin about AI cases in that country.

the group's monthly meeting night as your time to write

When possible, show some knowledge of, and letters at home perhaps respect for, a country's constitution and/or judicial procedures or acknowledge any measures or already being taken to improve human rights protection. Depending on the extent of information - by encouraging your religious group to hold letter-provided to you (members attending AI group writing sessions before or after services meetings usually obtain much more than of this than do members-at-large, of course), cite relevant or articles of national law and of international standards. (If you don't have this information, make - by gathering your family or friends together general reference to the Universal Declaration of periodically to write letters. Human Rights, or skip this part and keep the letter simple.)

Develop phrases that can be recycled.

Try to assume that the recipient is reasonable and Keep AI materials and letter-writing gear easily may be unaware of the facts of the case or situation. accessible.

Be polite, no matter what you know of the government's policies & practices. Do not express Buy international stamps in bulk, to avoid wasting too anger or hostility or make sarcastic remarks. much time in post office lines. (Extremely colorful or Encourage positive response and express unusual stamps may keep letters from reaching certain appreciation for any consideration of your appeal. destinations.)

Use courteous closures and appropriate salutations

(usually provided with the case outline; if not, use the following:

"Your Excellency" for Heads of State, provincial governors, ministers, and ambassadors;

"Dear Sir/Dear Madam" for local authorities, prison, directors, police chiefs;

"Dear [General, Commander, etc.]" for military

If requests for appeals pile up, don't feel guilty or give up. Trust that others have covered for you recently, as you may now do for them; start fresh with the latest case(s) brought to your attention. If you do wish to write about a matter that has been on your desk awhile, call your Area Coordinator or local group to check on current status. But do begin -- or resume -- as you never know when your letter will be the one that makes the crucial difference, either by itself or

**HINTS FROM LETTER-WRITERS:**

Make letter-writing a habit

when we are urging commutation of a death writing sentence.

*or*

In most cases you may identify yourself as an AI member, but sometimes you may be asked not do - by starting each work day with an AI letter or two so. You may identify yourself by occupation and nationality. Indicate that your concern is or humanitarian. Do not discuss political ideology or religious creed or seem judgmental about differing - by writing a batch of AI letters on the night before or cultural norms. Stay within AI's mandate. Do not the night after each group meeting, make allegations or state opinions that go beyond the case history. To maintain impartiality, visitors or, if you're affiliated with a group whose meetings are and refugees should not write to their country of too far away to attend, by using origin about AI cases in that country.

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officers; and

"*Your Honor*" for judges).

with many others, successfully tipping the scale for improvement in a prisoner's situation, investigation of a human rights violation, or reform of a system.

## **STANDARD RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Identify the prisoner or define the issue as clearly as possible. If the date of arrest, place of detention, or medical condition of the prisoner are known, state them. Follow the specific directions for each case outlined in the Amnesty newspaper, AI group newsletter or Urgent Action bulletin. For example, do not ask for release of a prisoner about whom we are merely seeking more information or for release when we are urging commutation of a death sentence.

In most cases you may identify yourself as an AI member, but sometimes you may be asked not do so. You may identify yourself by occupation and nationality. Indicate that your concern is humanitarian. Do not discuss political ideology or religious creed or seem judgmental about differing cultural norms. Stay within AI's mandate. Do not make allegations or state opinions that go beyond the case history. To maintain impartiality, visitors and refugees should not write to their country of origin about AI cases in that country.

When possible, show some knowledge of, and perhaps respect for, a country's constitution and/or judicial procedures or acknowledge any measures already being taken to improve human rights protection. Depending on the extent of information provided to you (members attending AI group meetings usually obtain much more than of this than do members-at-large, of course), cite relevant articles of national law and of international standards. (If you don't have this information, make general reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or skip this part and keep the letter simple.)

Try to assume that the recipient is reasonable and may be unaware of the facts of the case or situation. Be polite, no matter what you know of the government's policies & practices. Do not express anger or hostility or make sarcastic remarks. Encourage positive response and express appreciation for any consideration of your appeal. Use courteous closures and appropriate salutations (usually provided with the case outline; if not, use the following:

"*Your Excellency*" for Heads of State, provincial governors, ministers, and ambassadors;  
"*Dear Sir/Dear Madam*" for local authorities, prison, directors, police chiefs;  
"*Dear [General, Commander, etc.]*" for military officers; and  
"*Your Honor*" for judges).

## **HINTS FROM LETTER-WRITERS:**

### **Make letter-writing a habit**

- by always writing as soon as you receive case or campaign material from AI
  - or*
- by setting aside an hour or two a week for letter-writing
  - or*
- by starting each work day with an AI letter or two
  - or*
- by writing a batch of AI letters on the night before or the night after each group meeting, or, if you're affiliated with a group whose meetings are too far away to attend, by using the group's monthly meeting night as your time to write letters at home
  - or*
- by encouraging your religious group to hold letter-writing sessions before or after services
  - or*
- by gathering your family or friends together periodically to write letters.

Develop phrases that can be recycled.

Keep AI materials and letter-writing gear easily accessible.

Buy international stamps in bulk, to avoid wasting too much time in post office lines. (Extremely colorful or unusual stamps may keep letters from reaching certain destinations.)

If requests for appeals pile up, don't feel guilty or give up. Trust that others have covered for you recently, as you may now do for them; start fresh with the latest case(s) brought to your attention. If you do wish to write about a matter that has been on your desk awhile, call your Area Coordinator or local group to check on current status. But do begin -- or resume -- as you never know when your letter will be the one that makes the crucial difference, either by itself or with many others, successfully tipping the scale for improvement in a prisoner's situation, investigation of a human rights violation, or reform of a system.

## Exhibit 4-5

### **Sample letters from the AIUSA Group Members' Handbook**

---

Your Excellency,

I am writing to ask for the immediate and unconditional release of \*\*, who I believe has been imprisoned for the nonviolent exercise of his right to freedom of expression in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

---

Your Excellency,

I am writing to Your Excellency about the case of \*\* who was recently sentenced to death by (name of court, date of sentence).

I understand that this case may be the subject of judicial appeals. However, I am writing to urge, respectfully, that should these appeals be exhausted and the case come before Your Excellency for review, that Your Excellency exercise clemency on humanitarian grounds.

Amnesty International, of which I am a member, opposes the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it violates the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,

---

Dear Prime Minister,

I am a teacher and a member of Amnesty International. I am concerned about the plight of \*\* who has been detained for nearly three years under the Internal Security Act. No reason has been given for her detention.

Her imprisonment violates Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile." I therefore urge you to look into this case urgently and to order the release of \*\*.

Yours sincerely,

---

Your Excellency,

I write in the spirit of friendship that exists between your country and mine to inquire about the health of \*\*. She sustained grave injuries when she was arrested in February of this year and is still in the hospital.

I am a medical student and as such I am particularly concerned about those needing medical care. But my concern about goes further. She was among hundreds reported arrested during the recent national strike. I take no position on the merits of the strike or the demands of the strikers, nor do I question the policies of your government. I am concerned about human rights.

\*\* was taken into custody while exercising her rights to freedom of assembly and expression. I urge that she, and all those against whom no criminal charges can be brought, be unconditionally released. As I believe she is in need of urgent medical attention, she should be freed immediately so that she can be treated by doctors of her own choice.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

## Exhibit 4-6

### Sample instructions for letter writing to a prisoner [Do not write to this prisoner -- he has been released]

INTERNAL - FOR AI MEMBERS ONLY

Questions: Call Rena (415) 424-1820

#### Letters to Jiri Wolf and his sister

We were originally instructed not to write to Jiri because the London office had received a report that he had been beaten because he had received "too much post (mail)". This was apparently associated with a large birthday card campaign on one of his birthdays. However, the London office of AI has now had other advice that tends to support the sending of mail to Jiri. And, in view of Jiri's very poor physical condition, London feels that it is appropriate to step up the pressure on the Czech government by writing to Jiri.

However, the history of this case clearly indicates that we must be very careful.

Jiri does not know English, but we think he knows German.

Therefore, let's try the following plan for the remainder of the school year, or until we get further information.

Each group may send one letter each month to Jiri. Use the following steps:

(1) Have a student draft a letter. The letter should not mention AI, your efforts on Jiri's behalf, the birthday party you held, Charter 77, glasnost, Reagan, Huzak, Jakes, communism, democracy, or politics of any kind. The letter should include: the name of your school, where your school is located, a request that he write back, and the fact that you are thinking about him. You may include: hope that he had a pleasant birthday, information about your school, information about school sports, and what you study in school. You could even include press clippings about sports in your school, or a copy of your student newspaper if it does not include any reference to Amnesty or politics.

(2) Have the student coordinator check the letter.

(3) Have a student translate the letter into German.

(4) Have a German teacher check the translation.

(5) Prepare the letter. Do not use a card. School stationery may be a good idea, but do not hassle the administration to obtain it. Go not type the letter, but instead print it clearly.

(6) Ask all the members of your group to sign the letter.

(7) Mail it to:

Jiri Wolf  
Valdice Prison  
N.U.V. Valdice, CSSR  
Czechoslovakia

44 cents postage or 36 cents aerogram. Do not send the letter as registered, certified, or insured mail.

Also, if you wish, you may write to Jiri's sister. There is no limit to the number of letters you can send her, but do not write to her until March 1. Again, write in German, and make no references to AI, politics, or your work on Jiri's behalf. You should write about yourself and you may ask her about Jiri's and ask if there is anything you can send for Jiri. Her name and address is:

Milada Bekeova  
Na Pikete 457 | 3 3  
Jindrichuv Hradec, CSSR  
Czechoslovakia

**Exhibit 5-1****Workshop****Basic techniques for prisoner casework**

<u>TASK</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>RESOURCES</u>	<u>PERSON</u>	<u>TIME</u>
1 Introductions	Ask participants to give their name and how long they have been working with AI. Or see "Introductory exercises."	Varies	Facilitator, resource person, and participants	2-5 min.
2 Present techniques and resources available for prisoner work	Lecturette including how we do our work and the role of various resources in AIUSA, the group and the community in helping accomplish the work.  List several examples In each category and ask participants for suggestions.	flip chart*	facilitator or resource person	10 min.
3 Present some prisoner work examples.	Present some examples of creative group work on prisoners. Participants may have examples to add.	Visual aids may be used to illustrate examples.*	Facilitator, resource person, participants	10 min.
4 Introduce sample case	Present and discuss sample case sheet  (Or use the group's case.) Answer any questions about the case.	Sample case* or the group's case	Facilitator, resource person, participants	5 min.
5 Identify goals for prisoner work.	Determine what needs to be done in the first six months on this case.  Review the list and mark those goals which require immediate work		Facilitator, resource person, participants	20 min.
6 Discuss resources needed to meet goals	Using the immediate goals, discuss as many of the following as time permits:  *How can this be accomplished? *What resources are needed? (AIUSA, group, community) *How can contacts be made? *Who should we inform or ask about this plan?	List from #5	Facilitator, resource person, participants	20 min.
7. Closing	Allow time for questions & answers.  Critique resources, summarize and provide more information as needed.  Ask participants to complete evaluation forms	Evaluation*	Facilitator, resource person, participants	5 min.

**\*To be prepared in advance.**

**Exhibit 5-2****Workshop****Prisoner of conscience planning workshop**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>PERSON</b>	<b>TIME</b>
1. Introduction of facilitator and participants.	Members give their name and a brief description of the work they have done on the case this session will address. (See "Introductory Exercise")	Varies	Facilitator and participants	5 minutes
2. Introduction to session,	Review purpose and agenda with participants and explain what they will be doing in the session.	Flip chart*	Facilitator	5 minutes
3. Review the case.	Structured brainstorming  "What is an Important piece of information on this case?"  Facilitator may prod with questions, if necessary, and note important pieces on flip chart.	Flip chart	Facilitator and participants	20 minutes
4. Establish general goals of POC work.	In doing AI prisoner work, consider the intermediate goals, short of release, on which the group should focus its work (e.g. emotional support, amelioration, prevention of mistreatment, etc.)  Ask for possible suggestions from the participants. Once list is up, ask which of these goals most suit the needs of _____  prisoner's name	Flip chart	Facilitator	10 minutes
5. Explore possible actions	Structured brainstorming on what possible actions would meet the goals identified above. Explain that these will be used following the break for planning specific projects identified above. Explain that these will be used following the break for planning specific projects.	Flip chart	Facilitator and participants	20 minutes

**Continue with action planning -- use Exhibits 11-1 and 11-2**

# Casework Manual

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## Exhibit 5-3

### Workshop

#### Prisoner casework strategy

1. The action file coordinator writes up a description of the action file. Copies of this are given to every group member.
2. The group identifies the different levels of support members can give to the action file, that is, some members may work exclusively on this action file, developing actions and strategies, while other members may work only part-time on the action file, responding to requests for letters and help at events. At a third level, individuals and organizations in the community may respond to specific requests for help on a action file.
3. Discuss the basic steps in planning a strategy, namely --

Clarify your mission -- in the case of Greek prisoners of conscience (almost all of whom are Jehovah's Witnesses who conscientiously object to military service), for example, this is twofold, to get the prisoner released and to change the law to provide for alternative civilian service.

List your goals -- what are the intermediate steps to take towards achieving the mission? These could be, for example, contact with the prisoner and/or his family or a response from a government official.

Prioritize the goals -- which are most important to you?

Decide on a goal that can be achieved in six months.

4. Consider the three basic categories of casework: QUANTITY, QUALITY, and PUBLIC OUTREACH. For each of these categories, the group should decide on a six-month plan and goal --

QUANTITY -- how many letters, cards and petitions can the group reasonably expect to produce in six months, and what are your resources to produce these numbers?

QUALITY of letters refers to both content and signature. Such letters may refer to international agreements and/or refer to the constitution of the target country. Letterhead is important for these letters -- U.S. Congressional representatives, professional individuals and groups (lawyers, academics, medics, teachers, trade unionists), and economic leaders.

PUBLIC OUTREACH is done at special events put on by the group, and for ideas on this you should just brainstorm together, using a large sheet of butcher paper to write ideas on, accepting any idea -- the rule is no idea is too stupid or expensive or outrageous for consideration. When you have a long list, go through and decide what resources you have to do each, and what you could realistically expect to do in six months.

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## **Exhibit 5-4**

### **Workshop**

#### **What to do when you're out of ideas on your case**

Purpose: To develop a system for planning short- and long-term strategies for prisoner cases.

Agenda:

1. Introductions and sense of problems
2. Expectation of the workshop
3. Optional: short lecture on what a strategy is, for example, a planned series of actions, escalating in both overtness and possible annoyance that group members can present to authorities in the target country
4. One or several studies of difficult cases
5. Break into small groups to work on the cases
6. Report out
7. Summary

Some contents of a short lecture presented at the AGM workshop —

Where can a group get answers when they are planning work on a difficult case?

1. The prisoner dossier
2. Your co-group
3. The area coordinator or regional office
4. An inventory of the group, listing members' skills, contacts and other resources
5. Assume the mentality in which the prisoner is seen as a member of your family and then start to make a plan to free him or her. If your prisoner were a member of your family, you would not worry about being a pain to anyone anywhere. You also would not put it off until next month's meeting.
6. Develop a timed strategy of escalation of pressure. Build on letters already sent. For example, write the consul general asking for a meeting. If no answer is received, call and ask for a meeting. If no answer is received, call and say you will demonstrate outside if the consul does not respond. If still no answer is received, demonstrate and invite the press.
7. Ask your co-group, regional office and/or area coordinator for feedback on your plan.

Ask the group to choose a six-month goal and then plan 3 to 5 steps to take toward that goal.

# CASEWORK STRATEGY PLAN

Al Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Prisoner Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Action File Reference #: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \*

Action File/Case Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
-----

1) What is the ultimate objective of the action file/case?

release

information

investigation of and/or accounting for human rights violation (e.g., "disappearance", torture, killing)

fair and prompt trial

other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2) How many people will work regularly on the case?

Please be as specific as possible in stating your goals and plans. For example: How many letters will be written each month? What kind of publicity will be attained? Which prominent people/organizations will you enlist to help?

3) What are your goals for the next six months for letter-writing? for publicity? for outreach? for other action? (Use extra paper if needed.)

4) How will you achieve these goals?

5) What resources does the group have access to that will facilitate attaining these goals?

6) What can the coordination group or other M volunteers/staff do to help? (Be sure to contact these individuals directly to request their assistance.)

# CASEWORK STRATEGY PLAN

Al Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Prisoner Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Action File Reference #: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \*

Action File/Case Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What is the ultimate objective of the action file/case?

release investigation of and/or accounting for human rights  
 information violation (e.g., "disappearance", torture, killing)  
 fair and prompt trial  other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2) How many people will work regularly on the case?

Please be as specific as possible in stating your goals and plans. For example: How many letters will be written each month? What kind of publicity will be attained? Which prominent people/organizations will you enlist to help?

3) What are your goals for the next six months for letter-writing? for publicity? for outreach? for other action? (Use extra paper if needed.)

(see other side)

4) How will you achieve these goals?

5) What resources does the group have access to that will facilitate attaining these goals?

6) What can the coordination group or other M volunteers/staff do to help? (Be sure to contact these individuals directly to request their assistance.)

**Exhibit 6-1: Sample petition**  
**Sample petition**  
**(Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released)**

Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Megaron Maximou  
Herodou Atticou Avenue  
10674 Athens, **GREECE**

Mr. Ioannis Vaivisiotis  
Minister of National Defence  
Ministry of National Defence  
Holargos (Pentagono)  
Athens, GREECE

Your Excellency:

We are deeply concerned about Petros Hatzis, a Jehovah's Witness and conscientious objector on religious grounds. We consider him a prisoner of conscience, jailed for his religious beliefs, and appeal to you to immediately and unconditionally end his imprisonment, which violates Article 9 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, ratified by Greece in 1974. We further urge your government to make provisions for civilian and alternative service for conscientious objectors as Hungary and Poland have recently done in their national legislatures.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit 6-2**  
**Sample bi-lingual petition**  
**(Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released)**

范友  
上海平和堂人道主义中心  
王伟  
中国和平民主同盟

我们很希望知道陈圣福被逮捕的下落，我们希望知道他所犯的了解陈圣福的情况。同时  
请将陈圣福的情况转达  
他处一下。谢谢！

GU Nianzu Yuanzhang  
Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Dear Court President:

We are concerned by reports that Chen Shengfu was arrested in Shanghai on 9 June 1989 for his involvement in the pro-democracy movement. We respectfully request information about the charges against him, the accusations on which the charges are based, details of any trial, and his current location and situation. Thank you.

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

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Please return petition to AIUSA Group 189, P.O. Box 370926, El Paso, TX 79937

**Exhibit 6-3**  
**News photograph of an oversized petition**

4 The Times Record, Brunswick, Maine — Monday, November 11, 1985

To: Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the  
Communist Party, USSR:

We ask you to release Vladimir Skirsky, geologist  
and trade unionist, sentenced in November, 1981  
in Soviet Kazakhstan to three years in a labor  
colony (strict regime) for "anti-Soviet  
slander." Skirsky has been confined since  
1979 on various charges, but we believe he is  
being punished for organizing a professional  
association ("SMOT") not approved by the  
State. This activity is internationally recognized  
as legal everywhere. Because he has not  
advocated violence, we consider him a "prisoner  
of conscience" deserving immediate release.



United States Representative  
United States Senator  
United States Senator  
Maine Governor



## Signing

**Hal Bonner of Georgetown signs a petition that is a yard wide and 50 yards long seeking the release of Vladimir Skvirsky, a Russian dissident. Bonner is part of Amnesty International's local chapter,**

**which has been assigned the task of working toward Skvirsky's release. The group is seeking 5,000 signatures on the petition. (Kathy Fairfield photo)**

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Caption: Hal Bonner of Georgetown signs a petition that is a yard wide and 50 yards long seeking the release of Vladimir Skvirsky, a Russian dissident. Bonner is part of Amnesty International's local chapter, which has been assigned the task of working toward Skvirsky's release. The group is seeking 5,000 signatures on the petition. (Kathy Fairfield photo)

**Exhibit 6-4**  
**Sample bi-lingual pre-printed postcard**  
**[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

**Front**

40 cents  
postage

Li Peng Zongli  
Guowuyan  
Beijingshi  
Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo  
People's Republic of China

**AIR MAIL**

**Back**

Your Excellency:

Zhu Jianbin, co-founder of the journal *Zhongsheng* (The Sound of the Bell), has reportedly been detained since his arrest in April, 1981, although he has never been charged with or tried for any crime. It is believed that Zhu, a young steelworker from Wuhan, Hubei Province, is being held solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. If that is so, I strongly urge that he be immediately released.

李总理：我們听说钟声杂志的創办人朱建斌  
从一九八一年四月被捕後一直被拘留他  
的罪名始终没有公佈。我們相信這個湖北  
武汉生長的鋼鐵工人唯一被监禁的原因  
是他住用言论自由的权利。我們要求把他立刻释放

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit 6-5**  
**Sample bi-lingual pre-printed postcard**  
**[Sample only -- do not write for this prisoner]**

**Front**

PAR AVION

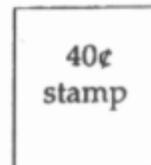
AIRMAIL

Return Address

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---

---



King Hassan II  
Palais Royal  
Rabat, Morocco

**Back**

Sire:

Si je me permets de vous écrire, c'est pour vous soumettre le cas d'Ahmed Ben Messaoud, prisonnier #59219, Prison Civile, Ghbila, Casablanca, condamné en 1986. Nous savons qu'il souffre des maladies graves. A l'heureuse occasion de votre anniversaire le 9 juillet, nous vous supplions de lui accorder sa liberté.

Veuillez agréer, Votre Majesté, l'expression de mes sentiments respectueux.

---

Signature

Your Majesty:

I write to you concerning the case of Ahmed Ben Messaoud, prisoner #59219, Prison Civile Ghbila, Casablanca, sentenced in 1986. We know that he is seriously ill. On the happy occasion of your birthday, July 9th, we beg you to grant him his freedom. Most respectfully.

## **Exhibit 6-6**

### **Tree of Hope**

In 1987, Group 77 in Falmouth, MA, decided to celebrate the season by sending holiday greetings to prisoners of conscience and by decorating a tree with a ribbon for every card sent. The group got permission to set up a table and a Christmas tree in a local shopping mall. For one dollar, shoppers at the mall could send holiday greetings to a prisoner and put a ribbon with the prisoner's name on the tree. By the end of the day, the tree was covered with ribbons, and the group had collected many cards to send to prisoners of conscience. For a Tree of Hope event, you will need--

- **A public location.** Try to choose a place where many people will be passing by, such as shopping malls, busy sidewalks, cafeterias, or church halls.
- **Something to decorate.** This can be a tree (live or cut, or cut from green construction paper), or your group might decide to ignore the Christmas theme and decorate something else, like a shop window or a wall.
- **Decorations with the prisoner's names printed on them.** Use each prisoner name as many times as you wish. The decorations can be simple or elaborate. Print the names on strips of ribbon.
- **Cards.** Do not use Amnesty International cards. Many groups used UNICEF cards; they have messages in several languages and are not likely to offend any government. You could also use plain postcards or blank cards. It is better if you address the cards beforehand, as many people might not want to take the time to make sure they copy the address properly. You could use your computer for this and print the addresses on mailing labels, or use the kind of labels that you type and then photocopy. Be sure that your cards don't weigh more than a half ounce, otherwise the postage is increased. Don't forget to bring a box for signed cards.
- **A supply of change.** How much you charge is up to you -- some groups may wish to use the event as a fundraiser, while others may only want to charge the cost of postage and materials.
- **A creative imagination!** You need to capture a person's heart and mind, as well as his or her imagination.

You may also wish to have signs to explain the event to the public, and perhaps a map showing where the letters are going. Try to have brief descriptions of each prisoner available for interested people to read, and don't forget chairs for people to use while writing their cards.

**Exhibit 6-7**  
**Sample letter from the Freedom Writers Network**  
**[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

Ramiz Alia  
President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly  
Tirana  
The People's Socialist Republic of ALBANIA

Your Excellency,

I write to you on behalf of Ramiz Kaca, age 78, who is imprisoned for writing letters to Albanian government officials denouncing the arrest and ill-treatment of peaceful demonstrators in January 1990.

The demonstrators had conducted a silent vigil in Skanderbeg Square to display their support for democratic reform in Albania. Hundreds were arrested, but most were soon released. Kaca wrote to government officials protesting police violence against the demonstrators, and was summoned to the Ministry of the Interior in March, where he was interrogated. Ramiz Kaca was tried without defense counsel and is now serving a three-year sentence in Tirana Prison. He is reported to be in poor health following a hernia operation this summer.

Amnesty International, the independent human rights organization, considers Ramiz Kaca to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful expression of his political beliefs. I respectfully urge you to ensure that Ramiz Kaca receives appropriate medical treatment, and I request that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

Most sincerely,

**Exhibit 6-8**  
**Sample case summary**  
**[The original case summary was on AIUSA group stationery]**

AI/BOULDER-GROUP  
INFORMATION SHEET  
NIKOLAY STEPANOVICH KLIMOSHENKO ADOPTION CASE

B 2530 Pine St.  
Boulder, CO 80302  
(303) 449-7009

THE PRISONER—Nikolay Klimoshenko, born February 16, 1937, is married to Vera Gavrilovna, and they have eight children. Mr. Klimoshenko is a Soviet Baptist who belongs to an unregistered Baptist congregation in Kherson, in the Western Ukraine. This is his second conviction; in 1980 he was sentenced to and served two years imprisonment for "violating the laws separating church from state." During his previous imprisonment Nikolay was repeatedly punished for mentioning God in letters to his wife.

PERSECUTION OF UNREGISTERED CONGREGATIONS—Soviet religious believers may exercise their fundamental right to freedom of religion only within stringent restrictions imposed by the state. Many Soviet Baptists reject these restrictions and refuse to register their congregations. Without official tolerance and acceptance these congregations are subject to various forms of official and unofficial harassment and are liable to a number of penalties including, but not limited to, fines, job dismissal and possibly long-term imprisonment. Currently Amnesty International knows of some 200 Soviet Baptists arrested for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of religion and conscience.

THE CHARGE--Nikolay Klimoshenko was arrested on January 25, 1985, and charged with "circulating anti-Soviet slander." This charge, which is applied specifically to circumscribe the right of Soviet citizens to express views disapproved of by their government, is commonly used with regard to believers found to be possessing or distributing unofficial religious literature. We have requested, but as of March 25, 1987 have yet to receive, specific details of the arrest or a copy of the trial transcript from the Soviet authorities.

THE SENTENCE—Mr. Klimoshenko's three year sentence is the maximum for his "crime." He is due for release on January 25, 1988. Because this is his second conviction, he was ordered to serve his sentence in a "corrective labor colony with strict regime." These hard labor camps are noted for their violations of the regulations ratified in the United Nation's "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners." Strict regime is very severe. The hard labor, grossly inadequate diet and brutal conditions make even a short term in strict regime very debilitating.

THE CAMPAIGN—Nikolay has been adopted as a Prisoner of Conscience by Amnesty International because of his imprisonment for the non-violent exercise of his right to freedoms of religion and expression as guaranteed by Articles 50 and 52 in the Soviet Constitution and Articles 18 and 19 of the United Nation's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by the Soviets in 1973). Our efforts include publicizing widely the details of the case, recruiting local, state and national figures to work on our prisoner's behalf, writing to Soviet authorities communicating our concerns for Nikolay's health, requesting a reinvestigation into the charges against him, and citing provisions in Soviet law which would allow for Nikolay's early release from prison.

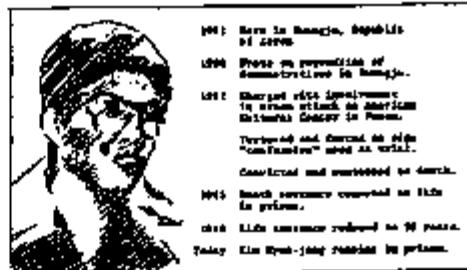
To loosely quote the protagonist in Tom Stoppard's "Every Good Boy Deserves Favor"—" . . . they don't want us to die unless we can die anonymously. Through our efforts we want as many Soviet officials as possible to know that we know and that we care."

### Exhibit 6-9

#### Sample case summary flyer [Sample only -- do not write for this prisoner]

Political Prisoner  
in South Korea

## KIM HYON-JANG NEEDS YOUR HELP



KIM HYON-JANG is a freelance journalist and human rights activist imprisoned in South Korea for a crime he did not commit. When the American Cultural Center in Pusan was attacked by arsonists in March 1982, the South Korean government rounded up more than 5,000 people. Kim Hyon-jang and 14 others were charged. Mr. Kim was accused of acting as a communist and "masterminding" the attack. He denied any involvement and testified that the "confession" used to convict him was extracted by means of torture. In August 1982 he was sentenced to death, which was later commuted. His scheduled release date is April 1, 2002.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has thoroughly investigated this case, and has determined that Kim Hyon-jang is a prisoner of conscience, incarcerated for the peaceful expression of political opinion. Kim had written pamphlets critical of martial law restrictions and abuses by security forces.

The imprisonment of a citizen for the peaceful exercise of free speech violates the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights and the South Korean Constitution. Both documents prohibit the use of torture, but torture of political prisoners continues in South Korea today.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write a letter to the President of South Korea asking that Kim Hyon-jang be granted immediate and unconditional release.

President Roh Tae-woo  
The Blue House  
1 Sejong-ro, Cheonggyo-dong  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

The Honorable Chung Hae-yeong  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice, 1, Chunggyo-dong  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

**"When they asked  
my ideology I answered  
democracy."**



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
GROUP 307  
2 WEST 64TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10023

# A CONSPIRACY of HOPE

## Amnesty International Write-a-Thon Pledge Sheet

**Participant Name:**

**Address:**

	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Pledge per letter</b>	<b>x # of letters = Total pledge</b>	<b>Signature</b>
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					

**Exhibit 8-1  
Sample form  
Stamp bank letterwriter's report**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL  
USA

---

**Bath-Brunswick Amnesty International U.S. Group 169  
P.O. Box 203, Bath Maine 04530**

**AIUSA GROUP 189 STAMP BANK LETTERWRITER'S REPORT**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PRISONER OR ISSUE</b>	<b>OFFICIAL(S) also list copies</b>
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
7)			
8)			
9)			
10)			
11)			
12)			
13)			
14)			
15)			

More stamps desired

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Stamp donors may be shown this name:  
 yes  no)

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from members and supporters throughout the world.



**Exhibit 8-2 (A)**  
**Case strategy limited to letter writing**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LOCAL 87, COLUMBUS, OHIO:

HOW WE HANDLE OUR INDONESIAN CASE

STRATEGY: ONE OFFICIAL FOR EACH MEMBER, ONE LETTER EVERY TWO MONTHS. We wanted to come up with a strategy that would be low-key (per case instructions) and yet would involve the whole group. So, we decided to assign one government official to each member who volunteered to write. We ask each volunteer to write once every two months.

GET VOLUNTEERS. At each meeting (the first Tuesday of the month) I remind our members that our prisoner belongs to the whole group, no matter what other committees they are on, and I pass around a sheet asking for more volunteers. To reinforce that the prisoner belongs to the group, we reserve an empty chair for him at each meeting.

WAIT TILL NEXT MEETING. I don't make the assignments the same night, since you can never tell if a new member will come back. Instead, I take home the volunteer list, prepare assignment letters, and pass them out at the next meeting.

MAKE ASSIGNMENT LETTERS. The assignment letter is on computer, so I only have to fill in the blanks. I copy the letters onto card stock, since they will have to last for years. To make it harder to lose the sheet among other papers, I use colored card stock. As you can see on the following page, the assignment letter includes a simple calendar, to keep track of when letters were sent.

DOSSIER. Each volunteer also receives a dossier, which is the basic case with a cover sheet I improvised by copying the front of the official-looking "PRISONER DOSSIER" folder I received with the case. I printed this cover on red card stock, and on the back of the front cover I photocopied a map of Indonesia, with an arrow pointing our where our prisoner is being held.

FOLLOW UP. At each meeting I follow up by asking if anyone has lost his or her assignment letter. Also, I periodically reassign government officials who belong to members who no longer show up regularly at our monthly meetings. Finally, several times a year we write letters at our meetings. From the computer list I can easily generate a list of who is assigned to whom, so no one needs to bring assignment letters to the meeting.

**Exhibit 8-2 (B)**  
**Sample assignment sheet**  
**[Sample only -- do not write for this prisoner]**

TO: Anna N. Koldys

FROM: Dave Daulton

DATE: 8 July 88

Please write to the Supreme Court Chief Justice:

Ali Said  
Mahkaman Agun  
J1 Lapangan Banteng  
Timur No. 1  
Jakarta Pusat  
INDONESIA

You are the only member of our group who is writing to this person.

See the prisoner dossier for writing guidance. Remember, since this is an investigation case, we are not requesting immediate release. Instead, we fear Parto Salur may have been imprisoned for the nonviolent expressions of his religious beliefs and we are asking for more information, for a review, etc.

(Here is something new--not in the dossier--which you may want to mention. On 4 January 1988, another of the Usroh prisoners, Yulianto, alias Sugiman, was released by the Supreme Court. This indicates a need to review the cases of the other Usroh prisoners. Apparently one factor in the release was that when Yulianto was arrested, the list of proscribed religious groups drawn up by the Attorney General did NOT include Usroh. Parto Salur was arrested at about the same time, and this factor may apply to him.)

Write every second month. Mark this calendar to keep track.

							Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1988	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1989	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1991	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1992	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1993	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1994	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul•	Aug•	Sep•	Oct•	Nov•	Dec•

- Note: Term ends July 1991. Continue writing—asking for confirmation of release--until case is closed, which should happen a few months later.

**Exhibit 8-3**  
**Sample videotaped appeal**

- Speaker #1      Greetings to you and your country from California, Ms. Kanafani. We are members of Group 19 of Amnesty International USA, who meet in Palo Alto, California. We are speaking to you about our concern in the case of Mr. Wahid Khadhur, a citizen of your country, who was arrested in the summer of 1984 along with many of his fellow members of the Party for Communist Action. My name is Tom Magness and I am the coordinator for our group.
- Speaker #2      We realize that the Party for Communist Action is not a legal political party in Syria. This ban, however, violates the right to free speech as guaranteed by Article 38 of the Syrian Constitution, which states that citizens may express their views in any form, whether written or oral.
- All                We do not necessarily support the views of the Party for Communist Action.
- Speaker #3      We have little knowledge of the domestic politics of Syria. We do know, however, that the Party for Communist Action, and Mr. Wahid Khadhur in particular, has not used or advocated violence. In view of this, we feel that members of that party have a right to express their views in accordance with their consciences.
- All                For this reason, we consider Wahid Khadhur a prisoner of conscience.
- Speaker #4      Wahid Khadhur has been held in detention incommunicado for over four and a half years. To the best of our knowledge he has not been allowed to see his family or to discuss his case with a lawyer. He has not been charged with a crime or told if he will be brought to trial. This is in violation of Article 28 of the Syrian Constitution.
- Speaker #5      Some members of banned political parties who have been held incommunicado have reportedly been tortured. You are doubtless aware of the case of Mr. Riad al-Turk, who was severely injured while in detention. Since we have no direct news from Mr. Wahid Khadhur, we are very much concerned about his safety and well-being.
- All                We ask the following of the Syrian government:
- Speaker #6      We ask that Mr. Wahid Khadhur be immediately allowed to communicate with his family, his lawyer, and with us.
- Speaker #7      We ask that he be able to receive any and all letters and postcards that we write to him
- Speaker #8      We ask that Mr. Wahid Khadhur receive medical attention.
- Speaker #9      We ask that Mr. Wahid Khadhur, a prisoner of conscience, be unconditionally released.
- Speaker #10     Thank you for your kind attention to our appeal. We hope that this year will bring peace and prosperity to you and your country.
- Speaker #11     Please let us have your response to our appeal, plus any information that you may have about Mr. Wahid Khadhur, as soon as possible. We are very concerned for the well-being of our adopted prisoner of conscience, Mr. Wahid Khadhur.
- All                Thank you very much, Ms. Kanafani.

**Exhibit 9-1**

**Sample request for a high-impact letter  
[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Mr. XXXXXXXXXX

Liasison for the Middle East

XXXXXXXXXXXXChurch of the USA

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Mr. XXXXXXXXXX

I noticed that your signature appeared on a public letter published in the Washington Post on the subject of XXXXXXXX and I would like to take the liberty of bringing to you attention another matter involving the Middle East in which your influence may be decisive.

I am a member of Amnesty International - the independent and impartial human rights organization - and my local AI group is now concerned with the case of prisoners in Syria and XXXXXXXXXX.

The Syrian case involves Ali Zahra, a member of a non-violent leftist opposition party. He has been imprisoned without charge at an unknown location since his arrest in February 1982. He was born in the city of Latakia and was employed as a construction worker at the time of his arrest. Nothing is known of the treatment he has received while in custody or the present state of his health. After a careful study, Amnesty has concluded that Ali Zahra is a peaceful person who has been imprisoned because of his non-violent opposition to the Syrian government. Unfortunately, our many letters to Syrian officials regarding Ali Zahra have not been answered.

Over the years, AI has found that government officials are much more likely to respond to inquiries from prominent persons. We would be grateful, therefore, if you would generously consider using your influence to express concern for the situation of Ali Zahra. If you are not personally acquainted with a Syrian official, perhaps you might contact the Syrian charge d'affaires at the Syrian Embassy in Washington. Her address is: Ms. Boushra Kanafani, Embassy of Syria, 2215 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my letter, and please be assured that your assistance in this matter would be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Exhibit 9-2**

**Sample high-impact letter  
[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

H.E. Dr. Rafic Jouejati  
Ambassador of Syrian  
2215 Wyoming Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Jouejati:

I met you and your wife at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX  
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Nevertheless, I write you now at the behest of XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX of Amnesty International. As one deeply concerned about improving U.S.-Arab relations, I can assure you I would much prefer to be complaining to the Israeli Embassy about the treatment of Palestinian prisoners there. I am informed, however, that it might be useful if I join XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX in a humanitarian gesture to express the hope that Mr. Ali Zahra, a Syrian opposition leader I am informed has been detained without charges since February, 1982, will be treated humanely. The request I received from Amnesty International is dated XXXXXXXXX. I pray, therefore, that Mr. Zahra is no longer being detained. If he is, however, I don't have to tell you how discouraging this is to those of us in Washington who work full-time and at no pay to alert the American public to the many areas in which U.S. and Arab interests are identical, not opposed. As a human being and as a friend of the Arabs, I hope your government may soon either release Mr. Zahra or give him a fair trial and thus remove this cause of concern to well-informed Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please accept my sincere best wishes for your own efforts in Washington to improve Syrian-U.S. relations.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Executive Director

**Exhibit 9-3**  
**Response to a high-impact letter**

EMBASSY OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
2215 WYOMING AVENUE, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

July 25, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

In the absence of the Ambassador, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 5th of July, [REDACTED] and would like to bring to your kind attention that we transmitted the request to the appropriate authorities of Syria for any available information about the concerned person. If we receive any information, we shall be in contact with you.



**Exhibit 9-4**  
**Sample flyer publicizing a religious action**

[[image](#)]

[text: under construction]

---



IRIDE DEL CARMEN MARASCO BELTRAN DE BURGOS, 31  
& her son, RAMIRO IGNACIO BURGOS MARASCO, 2  
abducted by Guatemalan security forces  
and **disappeared**.

APRIL 25, 1981

**APRIL 25, 1982**

**SUNDAY**

11:30 AM



dedicated to the thousands of people -- in countries of  
Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East and  
Asia -- who have involuntarily "DISAPPEARED" after arrest  
or officially condoned abduction,  
according to Amnesty International



BRUNSWICK AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL  
U. S. GROUP 169  
P. O. BOX 116  
BRUNSWICK, ME 04011-0116

**ST**

**JOHN'S**

**PLEASANT STREET, BRUNSWICK**

**Exhibit 9-5**  
**Sample resolution by a trade union**

**ST. LOUIS JOINT BOARD - T**

**Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union**



Affiliate of the AFL-CIO CLC

1601 SOUTH BROADWAY  
ST. LOUIS MISSOURI 63104  
PHONE 314 621 5035

WHEREAS, Suleyman Celebi, a leading official of the Turkish Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK) and former President of the Turkish Textile Workers Union was arrested December 27, 1980 and

WHEREAS, Suleyman Cetebi has been imprisoned and faces a possible death penalty only because of legitimate trade union activity and

WHEREAS, trade union activities are protected by Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights to which Turkey is a party and

WHEREAS, the further imprisonment of Suleyman Celebi raises the question of basic human rights, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Louis Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union appeals to the Government of Turkey for the release of Suleyman Celebi and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Louis Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union calls upon our government to intervene in this matter.

ADOPTED: March 13, 1984

# **Unions Endorse AI Work**

## **AFL-CIO calls on unionists to support the work of AIUSA**

The centennial convention of the AFL-CIO, held November 16-19, 1981, in New York City, passed the following resolution endorsing Amnesty International. Delegates to the convention represented 15 million members of 102 affiliated unions. Submitted by the Newspaper Guild and the United Food and Commercial Workers the resolution was approved by the Food and Beverage Trades Department and the Maritime Department prior to the convention

### **AFL-CIO resolution**

**Whereas**, Amnesty International, a prisoner-oriented organization in the human rights field, has worked diligently and impartially to protect trade unionists and others from political imprisonment, torture and execution

**Whereas**, this international organization with affiliates in 41 countries, including the United States, has received many accolades especially the Nobel Prize for Peace and the United Nations Human Rights Award

**Whereas**, the United States affiliate, Amnesty International USA, has worked closely with AFL-CIO affiliated organizations, through its prisoner adoption program, Urgent Action Network and campaigns, to free unjustly imprisoned trade unionists throughout the world and protect them from torture by governments seeking to undermine the right of free association:

**Resolved**, that this Convention endorse the high purpose and outstanding work of Amnesty International:

**Resolved**, that this Convention encourage AFL-CIO affiliated unions to explore ways to work with Amnesty International by increasing pressure on governments to end specific human rights violations against trade unionists, and by urging support of Amnesty International by AFL-CIO affiliated organizations.

**Exhibit 9-7 (A)**  
**Sample letter-writing appeal to educators, page one**  
**[Do not write for these prisoners -- they have been released]**

To: U.S. educators

FROM: Amnesty International's Southeast Asia Coordination Group and the Human Rights Education National Steering Committee

FOCUS: Letter-writing action on behalf of Malaysian "prisoners of conscience" educated at U.S. universities

We would like to bring to your attention the plight of four Malaysian academics detained without charge or trial under Malaysia's Internal Security Act. These four "prisoners of conscience", arrested with over thirty others by the Malaysian government last fall, received all or part of their higher education in the United States. They are:

Chee Heng Leng, lecturer in human development,  
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia  
(B.A., Wellesley College; M.A., Harvard University)

Cecelia Ng, lecturer and coordinator of the Women's Studies Unit,  
Dept. of Extension Studies, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia  
(B.A., Swarthmore College, M.A., Harvard University)

Tan Ka Kheng, lecturer in environmental engineering,  
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia  
(M.S., University of California, Berkeley)

Dr. Mohamed Nasir Hashim, associate professor  
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia  
(B.A., Monmouth College (Illinois); Ph.D., Cornell University)

As educators, we have a special responsibility to speak out on behalf of these four detainees. Malaysians educated in this country learn to cherish democratic values and to speak our freely about social and political matters. Thousands come here to study or to teach. The New York Times, in fact, has recently reported that over 21,000 Malaysians are enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities, making them the second largest group of foreign students in this country. Now, many fear to return to their country because of these arrests.

Please help by writing a letter to the officials listed on the next page. If you belong to academic organizations concerned with human rights or academic freedom issues, please encourage them to write letters also. Some strategies to consider:

--Identify yourself as an educator. Use letterhead stationery with your school or department affiliation, if possible.

--Indicate your awareness of disturbing changes in the Malaysian political situation. Malaysia has been a functioning parliamentary democracy with a number of opposition parties and a pluralist press. Now the Prime Minister is using the ISA to silence a broad range of critical voices. He has also closed newspapers, introduced press restrictions and curtailed the right to public assembly. Express your sadness about this sudden shift of direction.

--Link your concern to your personal sense of the value of debate in the educational process. Mention the stifling effects the arrests are likely to have on academic freedom and the intellectual life of the country.

(The attached briefing describes the arrests in more detail.)

**Exhibit 9-7 (B)**  
**Sample letter-writing appeal to educators, page two**  
**[Do not write for these prisoners -- they have been released]**

**Amnesty International calls for the Release of Malaysian  
Prisoners of Conscience**

In late October 1987, the Malaysian government initiated a wave of arrests under the Internal Security Act, resulting in the detention of over 106 persons by the end of the year. The ISA gives the government broad powers to detain persons suspected of acting "in any manner prejudicial" to the security of Malaysia and to imprison them without charge or trial. It allows for a 60-day "investigation" period, which may be followed by the serving of a two-year detention order. These detention orders, which are not formal charges, may be renewed indefinitely by the Minister of Home Affairs.

By mid-January 1988, over half of these people were released, while the rest were served with two-year detention orders. The detainees represent a wide spectrum of Malaysia's multi-ethnic society, and include opposition members of Parliament, lawyers, academics, trade unionists, religious leaders, environmentalists and other members of public interest groups. Amnesty International has identified 38 of the detainees, and believes them all to be "prisoners of conscience," that is, persons imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of their beliefs. AI urges the government to release these people immediately or to bring charges against them and uphold their right to a fair trial. In addition, AI calls upon the government to make public the names of all those served with detention orders under the ISA.

Please send appeal to the officials listed below:

YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin  
Mohamad  
Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
Jalan Dao' Onn  
50502 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Salutation:  
"Your Excellency"

Ambassador Albert S. Tallala  
Embassy of Malaysia  
2401 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Salutation:  
"Dear Mr. Ambassador"

Copies to:

Bar Council  
Lot 5.55, 5th floor  
Wisma Central  
Jalan Ampang  
Kuala Lumpur 04-07, Malaysia

Aliran  
P.O. Box 1049  
10830 Pulau Pinang  
Malaysia

(Please do not list the Bar Council or Aliran on your letters to the Prime Minister or Ambassador.)

Contact your regional AI office for a copy of AI's January 1988 report on Malaysia. For More information, contact Deborah Willis, Malaysia Coordinator AIUSA, 1531 Grant St., Berkeley, CA 94703; phone: (415) 843-8607. For further (non-AI) reading, you may want to consult James Fallows' "Asian Journal" in the March 1988 Atlantic Monthly.

**Exhibit 9-8**  
**Sample letter from a target section organization president**  
**Sample letter from a target section organization president**  
**[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**



ALBERT SHANKER  
President

August 27, 1985

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Devlet Baskanligi  
Ankara, Turkey

Dear Mr. Ozal:

On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, I am writing to request information on the status of Professor Sadun Aren, a Yemeni teacher presently being tried for his position in the Turkish Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK).

I have been informed that as a signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Turkish state agreed that all its citizens have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to peaceful association with others, including the "right to form and to join trade unions." (Article II) I am writing you today to request clarification of the apparent contradiction between this pledge and Mr. Aren's prosecution.

I understand that Mr. Aren's trial in Istanbul requires a 400 mile commute from Ankara twice each week. He has been prohibited by the government from working in his profession. In addition, Mr. Aren is known to have had three stomach operations in past years, and to suffer from coronary disease and hypertension. The extreme length and burden of Dr. Aren's trial in itself, appears to be an infringement on his civil rights. I urge that everything possible be done to judiciously expedite his trial.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter. I look forward to receiving the clarification requested above.

Respectfully yours,

ALBERT SHANKAR  
President

AS/mck  
opeiu2  
aflcio

**Exhibit 9-9**  
**Sample target section organization appeal**  
**[Sample only -- do not write for these prisoners]**

[text: under construction]

**Exhibit 9-10**  
**Sample list of U.S. companies doing business in a target country**

U.S. Companies Doing Business's Thailand

**X = Company headquartered in the Bay Area**

**M = Company on list of manufacturing companies operating in Thailand**

	3M CO	CROWN CORK & SEAL CO INC		MANUFACTURERS HANOVER TRUST
	ABBOTT LABORATORIES	D'ARCY MASIUS BENTON & BOWLES INC		MARY KAY COSMETICS INC
	ABERCROMBIE & KENT INTL INC	DATA GENERAL CORP	M	MASCO CORP
X	ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES INC	DOB NEEDHAM WORLDWIDE INC		MAY DEPARTMENT STORES CO
	AERONAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS & RA	DE LEUW CATHER & CO		MILCHEM INC
	ARIA	DEKALB PLANT GENETICS		MOBIL CORP
	AIR EXPRESS INTL CORP	DEKALB-PFIZER GENETICS	M	MOLEX INC
	AIRWAYS ENGINEERING CORP	DOLE		MONSANTO CO
	ALLIED AFTERMARKET DIV	DOW CHEMICAL CO		MTS SYSTEMS CORP
X	AMDAHL CORP	DRESSER INDUSTRIES INC	X	MULLER & PHIPPS INTL CORP
	AMERICAN AIRLINES INC	DREW CHEMICAL CORP		MUNFORD INC
	AMERICAN APPRAISAL ASSOC'S INC	E I DU PONT DE NEMOURS & CO		MYERS TIRE SUPPLY INTL.
	AMERICAN CYANAMID CO	EASTMAN KODAK CO		McCANN-ERICKSON WORLDWIDE
	AMERICAN INT'L UNDERWRITERS COR	EATON CORP	X M	NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR GROUP
	AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE	ECOLAB INC		OGILVY & MATHER INC
X	AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES LTD	M EXXON CORP		ONAN CORP
	AMERICAN STANDARD INC	FELTON INTERNATIONAL		OTIS ELEVATOR CO
	AMERICAN TRADING CO INC	FLYING TIGER LINE INC	X	PACIFIC TELESIS GROUP
	AMWAY CORP.	FMC CORP		J C PENNEY CO
	ARBOR ACRES FARM INC	FOOTE CONE & BELDING COMM.		PEPSICO INC
	AT&T INTERNATIONAL	FOXBORO CO	M	PFIZER INC
	AVIS INC	THE FRANKLIN MINT	M	PHELPS DODGE CORP
	AVON PRODUCTS INC	M HB FULLER CO		PIONEER HI-BRED INTL. INC
	BAKER OIL TOOLS	X GAMLEN CHEMICAL CO		PREMARK INTL INC
X	THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA	X GETZ CORP		RICHARDSON-VICKS
X	BANKAMERICA CORP	M GILLETTE CO		ROCHESTER MIDLAND CORP
	BANKERS TRUST CO	M GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER CO		ROHM & HAAS CO
	BARDAHL MFG CORP	GRIFFITH LABORATORIES INC	M	SCI SYSTEMS INC
	LOUIS BERGER INTL INC	GROLIER INC	M	SCOTT WORLDWIDE INC
	BLACK & VEATCH INTL	GTE CORP	X M	SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY

BOYDEN ASSOCIATES INC		FRANK B HALL & CO INC		SEA-LAND SERVICE INC
BRISTOL-MYERS	M	HARLYN PRODUCTS INC		SECURITY PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK
BROWN & ROOT INC	X	THE HARPER GROUP INC		SGS CONTROL SERVICES INC
LEO BURNETT CO INC	M	H J HEINZ CO	X	SIGNETICS CORP
BURSON-MARSTELLER		HILLERICH & BRADSBY CO IN		SMITHKLINE BEECHAM
CAL TEX PETROLEUM CORP		HOLIDAY INNS INC		SQUARE D CO
CANADA DRY INTL. CORP		HUGHES AIRCRAFT CO		A E STALEY MFG CO
CARGILL		INA CORP		STANDARD COMMERCIAL CORP
CARNATION INTL. CO		INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES (IBM)	M	STRIDE RITE CORP
CHASE MANHATTAN BANK		ITT CORP	X	SUN MICROSYSTEMS
CHEMICAL BANK		ITT SHERATON CORP		TED BATES WORLDWIDE INC
CIGNA CORP		JETWAY SYSTEMS	M	TOWN & COUNTRY CORP
CITIBANK NA	M	JOHNSON & JOHNSON		TRANS WORLD AIRLINES INC
THE COCA-COLA CO		KEPNER-TREGNOE INC		US SUMMIT CORP
COLGATE PALMOLIVE CO		KIMBERLY-CLARK CORP	M	UNION CAMP CORP
COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES INC		KOLMAR LABORATORIES INC	M	UNION CARBIDE CORP
X CONNELL BROTHER CO LT		LEMCO ENGINEERS INTL INC		UNION OIL INTL DIV
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES		LEVER BROTHERS		UNITED AIRLINES INC
CONTROL DATA CORP		ELI LILLY & CO		UNITED CALIFORNIA BANK
CORROON & BLACK INTL		LINTAS: WORLDWIDE	M	UNITED TECHNOLOGIES CORP
CPC INTERNATIONAL INC		LTV CORP		UNOCAL CORP
CROCKER BANK INTERNATIONAL		MAGNETEK UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC		UPJOHN CO
				WARNER BROS INC
			M	WARNER-LAMBERT CO
				WEATHERFORD INTL. INC

**Exhibit 10-1**  
**Sample letter from a Representative on an investigation case**  
**[Do not write for these prisoners -- they have been released]**

[[Image](#)]

Congress of the United States  
House of Representative  
Washington DC 20515

[under construction]

---

VIC FAZIO  
4TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE  
  
COMMITTEE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET  
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER



2422 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 224-8718  
  
OFFICE PHONE FOR THE  
ALARMIC PREPARED  
TTY: 202-225-1962

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington DC 20515**

RECEIVED - 7-22-87

Mr. P.W. Botha  
State President  
State President's Office  
Private Bag x213  
Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Dear President Botha:

I am writing to express my concern about reports of the arrest of Mr. Mahomed Valli Moosa and Mr. Mathphy Morobe in the Indian Township of Melabar outside of Port Elizabeth on July 22, 1987. Reports indicate that Messrs. Moosa and Morobe are being held in Diepkloof Prison without charge.

Mr. Moosa is an officer of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and has been active in the human rights movement for years. Mr. Morobe has been acting National Publicity Director of the UDF for 3 years and has also been active in the human rights movement for years.

As a member of the United States Congress, I appeal to you to conduct an investigation into the detention of Messrs. Moosa and Morobe. I would also like information regarding the legal basis for their detention. I, along with many other Americans, will continue to follow this case.

Thank you for your efforts and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

VIC FAZIO  
Member of Congress

VF/jr

**Exhibit 10-2**  
**Sample letter from a Representative on a prisoner of conscience case**  
**[Do not write for this prisoner -- he have been released]**

[\[Image\]](#)

VIC FAZIO  
4th District, California  
MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET  
DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY  
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER

1421 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington , DC 20515  
(202) 225-5716

SPECIAL PHONE FOR THE  
HEARING IMPAIRED

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 1985

General Kenan Evren  
Office of the President  
Devlet Baskanligi  
Ankara, Republic of Turkey

Dear General Evren:

I am writing to express my concern for Yusef Yurekli, an official with the Turkish Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK), who was arrested in 1980. He and many other DISK officials were charged with having intended to change the order of the state by force.

Despite the charge, the 817 page indictment read in court contains neither allegation nor evidence of the use or advocacy of force. Thus, Mr. Yurekli and the other DISK defendants appear to be being prosecuted solely for their union activities, clearly in violation of Article II of the European Convention on Human Rights to which Turkey is a State Party.

As a member of the United States Congress, I am particularly concerned with upholding conventions such as the European Convention on Human Rights, because I believe that they serve to bring more justice to the world. Therefore, I respectfully request that you intercede on Mr. Yurekli's behalf to ensure that he is granted an unconditional release and that all charges against him are dropped.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

VIC FAZIO  
Member of Congress

VF/sg

VFC-12473  
KING DAY, INC., LAMBERTVILLE,  
NEW JERSEY 08838-1246  
  
PRESIDENTIAL  
APPOINTMENT DATA  
BUDGET  
DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND POLICY  
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT  
INTERCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN

VFC-12473  
KING DAY, INC., LAMBERTVILLE,  
NEW JERSEY 08838-1246  
  
PRESIDENTIAL  
APPOINTMENT DATA  
BUDGET  
DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND POLICY  
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT  
INTERCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 1989

General Kenan Evren  
Office of the President  
Deylet Basxanligi  
Ankara, Republic of Turkey

Dear General Evren:

I am writing to express my concern for Yusef Turekli, a citizen of the Turkish Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK), who was arrested in 1980. He and many other DISK officials were charged with having intended to change the order of the state by force.

Despite the charge, the 317 page indictment read in court contains neither allegation nor evidence of the use or advocacy of force. Thus, Mr. Turekli and the other DISK defendants appear to be being prosecuted solely for their union activities, clearly in violation of Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights to which Turkey is a State Party.

As a member of the United States Congress, I am particularly concerned with upholding conventions such as the European Convention on Human Rights, because I believe that they serve to bring more justice to the world. Therefore, I respectfully request that you intercede on Mr. Turekli's behalf to ensure that he is granted an unconditional release and that all charges against him are dropped.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

VFC-4710  
Member of Congress

VF/sg

**Exhibit 10-3**  
**Sample "Dear Colleague" letter**  
**[Do not write for these prisoners -- they have been released]**

[\[image\]](#)

BILL GREEN  
18th District, New York

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington , DC 20515  
(202) 225-2436

NEW YORK OFFICE :  
Grand Central Post Office Building  
110 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 826-4466

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20513  
December 16, 1987

His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre  
President of the Somali Democratic Republic  
The People's Palace  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Your Excellency:

We most respectfully appeal to you to release from prison the following prominent Somali citizens who have been incarcerated since 1982:

- . Omar Haji Mohamed, former member of the Somali National Assembly, who also served as Minister of Health, acting Minister of Defense and Chief of Staff of the Somali armed forces;
- . Abdi Ismail Yunis, a former official of the Somali Department of Education and Dean of Education at the Somali National university; and
- . Suleiman Nuh Ali, a well-known architect and civil engineer.

It is our understanding that M. Mohamed has been charged with "endangering the independence, unity, and security of the State" and "conspiracy against the State" and is being held in solitary confinement. The others have been imprisoned for more than five years without charge. Concerns have been raised about the state of their health as a result of their confinement.

Amnesty International has meticulously investigated these men's cases and has declared them "prisoners of conscience." The organization defines a prisoner of conscience as someone who is imprisoned for his or her beliefs, color, ethnic origin, language, religion or sex who has not used or advocated violence.

Given our understanding that these individuals are imprisoned because of their non-violent opposition to your government, we are particularly distressed to learn that they are to be tried on February 1 on political charges carrying the death penalty.

It is our sincere hope that, in accordance with fundamental principles of human rights, your government will deem release--and not trial--to be the appropriate course for these individuals. In the unhappy event a trial ultimately is held, we call on you to personally ensure that internationally-recognized judicial standards--such as access to legal counsel

and the right of appeal to a higher court--are scrupulously applied.

Sincerely,

BILL GREEN  
Member of Congress

cc: Vice President Samater  
Attorney General Abdirahman  
Minister of Justice and Religious Affairs Farah  
Mr. Dale Dean

bcc: Ambassador T. Frank Crigler  
Ambassador Richard Schifter  
Dr. Chester A. Crocker  
Ambassador Addou  
Mr. John S. Davison

---

BILL GREEN  
15TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

DEMOCRATIC  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3336

NEW YORK OFFICE  
GEORGE EASTMAN POST OFFICE BOX 300  
110 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 526-4448

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
December 16, 1987

His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre  
President of the Somali Democratic Republic  
The People's Palace  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Your Excellency:

We most respectfully appeal to you to release from prison the following prominent Somali citizens who have been incarcerated since 1982:

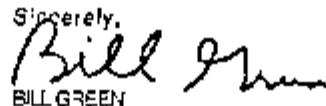
- Omar Haji Mohamed, former member of the Somali National Assembly, who also served as Minister of Health, acting Minister of Defense and Chief of Staff of the Somali Armed Forces;
- Abdi Ismail Yunis, a former official of the Somalia Department of Education and Dean of Education at the Somali National University; and
- Suleiman Nuh Ali, a well-known architect and civil engineer.

It is our understanding that Mr. Mohamed has been charged with "endangering the independence, unity, and security of the State" and "conspiracy against the State" and is being held in solitary confinement. The others have been imprisoned for more than five years without charge. Concerns have been raised about the state of their health as a result of their confinement.

Amnesty International has meticulously investigated those men's cases and has declared them "prisoners of conscience." The organization defines a prisoner of conscience as someone who is imprisoned for his or her beliefs, color, ethnic origin, language, religion or sex who has not used or advocated violence.

Given our understanding that these individuals are imprisoned because of their non-violent opposition to your government, we are particularly distressed to learn that they are to be tried on February 1 on political charges carrying the death penalty.

It is our sincere hope that, in accordance with fundamental principles of human rights, your government will deem release — and not trial — to be the appropriate course for these individuals. In the unhappy event a trial ultimately is held, we call on you to personally ensure that internationally-recognized judicial standards — such as access to legal counsel and the right of appeal to a higher court — are scrupulously applied.

Sincerely,  
  
BILL GREEN  
Member of Congress

cc: Vice President Samatar  
Attorney General Abdizahman  
Minister of Justice and Religious Affairs Farah  
Ambassador Addou  
bcc: Ambassador T. Frank Crigler  
Ambassador Richard Schifter  
Dr. Chester A. Crocker  
Mr. John S. Davison  
Mr. Dale Dean

*Bill Lowry*  
BILL LOWRY, M.C.  
*Tom Petri*  
THOMAS E. PETRI, M.C.  
*Bill Richardson*  
BILL RICHARDSON, M.C.  
*Mark A. Levin*  
MARK A. LEVIN, M.C.  
*Herb A. Poston*  
HERBERT A. POSTON, M.D.  
*John J. Quinn*  
JOHN J. QUINN, M.D.  
*Jim Ratios*  
JIM RATIOS, D.O.  
*Gus Yaffo*  
GUS YAFFO, M.C.  
*Don Nichols*  
DON NICHOLS, M.C.  
*Ray Stere*  
RAY STERE, M.C.  
*Gerry E. Stiles*  
GERALD E. STILES, D.O.  
*John Connor Shuter*  
JOHN CONNOR SHUTER, D.C.  
*Patrick Leahy*  
PATRICK LEAHY, M.S.  
*Carl Levin*  
CARL LEVIN, U.S.S.

*Tom Sizemore*  
TOM SIZEMORE, M.D.  
*George E. Brown Jr.*  
GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., M.C.  
*Paul B. Hyatt*  
PAUL B. HYATT, M.C.  
*Barry Frank*  
BARRY FRANK, M.D.  
*James Ladd*  
JAMES LADD, M.D.  
*Timothy E. North*  
TIMOTHY E. NORTH, D.O.B.  
*Frank Kresser*  
FRANK KRASSER, D.O.B.  
*Silvio Conte*  
SILVIO C. CONTE, M.C.  
*Frank McCloskey*  
FRANK MCCLOSKEY, M.C.  
*Ethelene F. Feingold*  
ETHELENE F. FEINGOLD, M.D.  
*Edward T. Morris*  
EDWARD T. MORRIS, M.C.  
*Tom Hickey*  
TOM HICKEY, M.C.  
*Frank Aulus*  
FRANK AULUS, D.O.B.

**Exhibit 10-4**  
**Sample supplementary "Dear Colleague" letter**

[image]

Congress of the United States

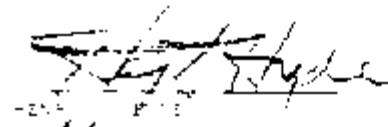
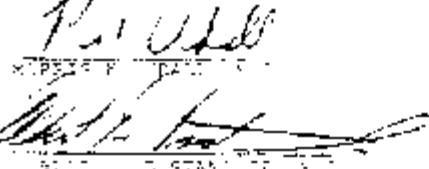
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**  
January 6, 1988

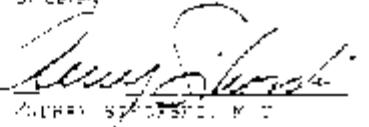
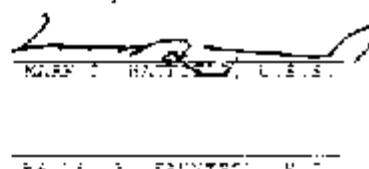
H.E. Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre  
President of the Somali Democratic Republic  
The People's Palace  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Your Excellency:

We would like to associate ourselves with the December 15, 1987 letter sent to you by Congresswoman Barbara Boxer and 31 other members of the House of Representatives and Senate expressing concern about the imprisonment and scheduled February 1 trial of three Somali citizens, Haji Mohamed Abd Ismail Huna and Suleiman Nur Ali. A copy of this letter is attached.

Sincerely,

  
John Gutfreund  
Member of Congress  
  
John Gutfreund  
Member of Congress

  
George E. Pataki  
Member of Congress  
  
George E. Pataki  
Member of Congress

Enclosure: One (1) copy

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.  
Telephone: (202) 225-2211  
Telex: 820-600  
Fax: (202) 225-2211  
E-mail: [hrd@mail.house.gov](mailto:hrd@mail.house.gov)

**Exhibit 10-5**  
**Sample insertion in the Congressional Record**  
**[Do not write for this prisoner -- he have ben released]**

**UKRAINIAN DISSIDENT FYODOR PARASENKOV**

\* Mr. WILSON Mr. President, just a little over a month ago, President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev met in Washington to discuss a wide range of issues affecting United States-Soviet relations.

Of particular importance was the issue of human rights. Despite public declarations of glasnost from the current Soviet leadership, very little progress has been made in improving the treatment of those who publicly speak out against the Soviet Government.

Mr. Fyodor Parasenkov is a long suffering victim of this lack of progress. Mr. Parasenkov has been detained in a “special psychiatric hospital” of over 12 years for publicly advocating economic reforms. His continuing mistreatment clearly demonstrates the Soviet Union’s lack of respect for human rights. Accordingly, I wish to take this opportunity to read a letter I sent in August of last year to the Soviet Ambassador on behalf of Mr. Parasenkov in the hope that it will lead to his release.

Mr. President, I ask that my letter to the Soviet Ambassador on behalf of Mr. Parasenkov be printed in the RECORD as if read.

The letter follows:

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC, August 19, 1987

His Excellency MIKHAIL SERGEYEVICH GORBACHEV.  
General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, The Kremlin, Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. General Secretary: I am writing in search of information on the status of Ukrainian dissident: Fyodor Parasenkov.

Twelve years ago, Mr. Parasenkov was incarcerated in a “special psychiatric hospital” apparently for writing letters to government officials that advocated economic reforms. At the time of his imprisonment, he faced the charge of “anti- Soviet agitation and propaganda.” Yet in light of the new industrial incentives which you recently announced, many of Mr. Parasenkov’s ideas may now have become official policy.

Every since 1975, Soviet authorities have rejected appeals from Amnesty International as well as thousands of American and Western European citizens for an official statement on Mr. Parasenkov’s health and whereabouts. But in this age of “glasnost,” Mr. General Secretary, I appeal to you to break your government’s silence on Mr. Parasenkov’s condition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

## UKRAINIAN DISSIDENT FYODOR PARASENKOY

• Mr. WILSON Mr. President, just a little over a month ago, President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev met in Washington to discuss a wide range of issues affecting United States-Soviet relations.

Of particular importance was the issue of human rights. Despite public declarations of glasnost from the current Soviet leadership, very little progress has been made in improving the treatment of those who publicly speak out against the Soviet Government.

Mr. Fyodor Parasenkoy is a long suffering victim of this lack of progress. Mr. Parasenkoy has been detained in a "special psychiatric hospital" for over 12 years for publicly advocating economic reforms. His continuing mistreatment clearly demonstrates the Soviet Union's lack of respect for human rights. Accordingly, I wish to take this opportunity to read a letter I sent in August of last year to the Soviet Ambassador on behalf of Mr. Parasenkoy in the hope that it will lead to his release.

Mr. President, I ask that my letter to the Soviet Ambassador on behalf of Mr. Parasenkoy be printed in the Record as if read.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE

Washington, DC August 19, 1982.

His Excellency MIRRAI SENECEVITCH GORBACHEV

General Secretary of the Central Committee  
of the Communist Party of the Soviet  
Union, The Kremlin, Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. General Secretary: I am writing in search of information on the status of Ukrainian dissident Fyodor Parasenkoy.

Twelve years ago, Mr. Parasenkoy was incarcerated in a "special psychiatric hospital" apparently for writing letters to government officials that advocated economic reform. At the time of his imprisonment, he faced the charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Yet in light of the new industrial directions which you recently announced, many of Mr. Parasenkoy's ideas may now have become official policy.

Ever since 1975 Soviet authorities have received appeals from Amnesty International as well as thousands of Americans and Western European citizens for an official statement on Mr. Parasenkoy's health and whereabouts. But in this age of "glasnost" Mr. General Secretary, I appeal to you to break your government's silence on Mr. Parasenkoy's condition.

I thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

PETE WILSON •

PETE WILSON .

**Exhibit 10-6**  
**Sample flyer publicizing an event co-sponsored by a Representative**



**Exhibit 10-7a**  
**Resolution cover letter requesting co-sponsors**

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20513

**HELP THE MEIMANS: COSPONSOR H. CON. RES. 317**

Dear Colleague:

Dr. Naum Meiman and his wife, Inna--two of the most prominent refuseniks in the Soviet Union--need your help.

For twelve long years, Dr. Meiman has applied to emigrate from the Soviet Union so that he can join his daughter in Colorado--in freedom. Inna, his wife of five years, has been seeking similar permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Inna, a 30-year-old physicist, has undergone four difficult operations to remove a tumor from the back of her neck. She has undergone four difficult operations to remove a tumor from the back of her neck. Despite the surgeries, the tumor continues to grow. The only possible remedy lies outside the borders of the Soviet Union.

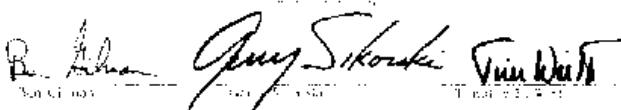
And still, Soviet authorities deny her visa application.

The Soviets claim that she cannot leave the country because she is a "classified" physicist, a privilege they say she obtained 30 years ago by performing classified calculations and these were of a purely academic nature. Her work has been openly published in Soviet journals for years.

It is time for the Soviets to put aside their excuses and grant the Meimans their long overdue exit visas. Last week we introduced H. Con. Res. 317, calling on the Soviet Union to provide for the immediate release of the Meimans. We urge you to join us in cosponsoring this important measure to send the Soviets a message that we condemn their refusal to honor the Meimans' internationally recognized right to emigrate.

You can help send that message by cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 317 today. If you wish to help this brave couple, please contact us or Jim Sayer with Rep. Wirth at 5-7161.

With best wishes,

  
Ben Gilman  
Gerry Sikorski  
Timothy E. Wirth

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20513

April 25, 1986

**HELP THE MEIMANS: COSPONSOR H. CON. RES. 317**

Dear Colleague:

Dr. Naum Meiman and his wife, Inna--two of the most prominent refuseniks in the Soviet Union--need your help.

For twelve long years, Dr. Meiman has applied to emigrate from the Soviet Union so that he can join his daughter in Colorado--in freedom. Inna, his wife of five years, has been seeking a similar permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Both are in frail health and urgently need special medical attention. Inna is in particular need of the West's advanced medical technologies. Stricken by sarcoma on the back of her neck, she has undergone four difficult and dangerous operations in the last two years. Despite the operations the tumor continues to grow. The only possible remedy for her life-threatening ailment lies outside the borders of the Soviet Union.

And still, Soviet authorities deny her visa application.

The Soviets claim that they cannot permit the Meimans to leave because Dr. Meiman, a physicist, is privy to state secrets. Yet it has been 30 years since he has performed any classified calculations and these were of a purely academic nature. His work has been openly published in Soviet journals for years.

It is time for the Soviets to put aside their excuses and grant the Meimans their long overdue exit visas. Last week, we introduced H. Con. Res. 317, calling on the Soviet Union to provide for the immediate release of the Meimans. We urge you to join us in cosponsoring this important measure to send the Soviets a message that we condemn their refusal to honor the Meimans' internationally recognized right to emigrate.

You can help send that message by cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 317 today. If you wish to help this brave couple, please contact us or Jim Sayer with Rep. Wirth at 5-7161.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ben Gilman

Gerry Sikorski

Timothy E. Wirth

**Exhibit 10-7 (B)**  
**Sample concurrent resolution**

[image]

99th Congress  
2nd session

**H.CON. RES. 317**

IN THIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

April 15, 1986

99th-2d-Sec-317  
2d Session

**H. CON. RES. 317**

Expressing the view of the Congress that the State of Israel should immediately release all persons held captive by the PLO from its prisons, and calling upon the Government of the State of Israel to do so.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 1986

Attest: Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Clerk, and the following members of the House, who signed their names to the foregoing Resolution:

— — — — —

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Soviet Union should immediately release the captives held by the PLO, including the American citizens, James K. Flanagan, William R. Higgins, and Dr. Richard L. Helms;

Whereas the Soviet Union has been responsible for the kidnapping of the American citizens, Dr. Richard L. Helms, and Dr. James K. Flanagan, and the Soviet Union should immediately release them; and

Whereas the Soviet Union has been responsible for the kidnapping of the American citizen, William R. Higgins, and the Soviet Union should immediately release him;

Whereas the Soviet Union has been responsible for the kidnapping of the American citizen, Dr. Richard L. Helms, and the Soviet Union should immediately release him; and

Whereas Dr. Richard L. Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Dr. Richard L. Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

Given in response of an urgent character, such as request submitted by persons who are in need of it;

Whereas the Concluding Document of the Madrid meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe provides for the right of persons to freedom of movement "in the spirit of application for early conclusion and to focus on such applications within perimeter";

Whereas the United States has repeatedly affirmed that "the right of individuals to freedom of movement is a basic human right";

Whereas the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantees the right of individuals to move freely, including in:

Whereas the Article I, section 1 of the Constitution of the United States provides that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States";

Whereas the Article I, section 1 of the Constitution of the United States provides that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States";

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

Whereas Doctor Helms, pending his release, has been denied his freedom of movement;

3

3

startled, with Doctor Helms and his wife, by an sudden, unexpected visit, and asked him to leave the house, and he refused to do so, and Doctor Helms

Whereas Doctor Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Doctor Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Doctor Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Doctor Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Doctor Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Doctor Helms, while his background in nuclear science and mathematics would pose no problem to the Soviet Union, he is an established leader in the field of international law, and his services are needed in the Soviet Union; and

#### Exhibit 10-7 (B) Sample concurrent resolution

what a real pleasure it was to handle and the result of his craftsmanship can be seen in Queen Victoria and his wife, Queen Alexandra.

10 proper life aspects of the Christians been  
11 Chrysostom is. But open and from 2 who the  
12 post of emperor by the end of Justinian's  
13 reign.

14 Sign 4: The change in the Byzantine church especially  
15 the resolution of the Council of Chalcedon in the fifth century  
16 and to the Chalcedonian definition of the dogma. Sign 5:  
17 the Ecumenical Synod of the Second Ecumenical Council

**Exhibit 10-8**  
**Sample profile of a Representative**

**Representative Janis Meyers**  
**Republican - 3rd Congressional District, Kansas**

Born: July 20, 1928, Lincoln, NE  
Education: William Woods College, AFA. 1948; University of Nebraska 8 A in Communications, 1951  
Spouse: "Dutch" Meyers, retired; former regional sales manager IKCTV-Ch 5 television, Shawnee Mission, Kansas  
Religion: United Methodist  
Member: Johnson County Community College Foundation; Director Johnson County Mental Health Association; past president, Kansas League of Women Voters; past chair, Mid-America Regional Council  
Career: KFAB-Radio, Advertising Department; Overland Park City Council, member 1967-72 and president 1970-1972; Kansas Senate, State Senator, 1973-85

**Offices**

Cannon House Office Bldg. Room 315 Washington, DC 20515 202-225-2865	7133W. 95th Street Suite 217 Overland Park, KS 66212 913-383-2013	Federal Building Room 204 812 N. 7th Street Kansas City, KS 66101 913-621-0832
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**Committee Assignments**

**Foreign Affairs:** Subcommittee on Europe and Mideast; Subcommittee on Human Rights & International Organizations

**Small Business:** Subcommittee on Exports, Tax Policy & Special Problems; Subcommittee on SBA, the General Economy & Minority Enterprise Development

**Select Committee on Aging:** Subcommittee on Health & Long-Term Care; Subcommittee on Human Services

**Brief Biography**

Janis Meyers was first elected to Congress in 1984 when Republican Larry Winn, Jr., retired, opening up the 3rd Congressional District seat. After two terms in the House, she received a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, where, according to Politics in America, she has been especially visible on drug issues. She has made the issue of drug abuse a central focus of her career. Representative Meyers voted in favor of the 1988 drug bill, which included the death penalty for drug-related murders.

### **Exhibit 10-9**

#### **Sample write-up describing what AI can provide a Representative [Do not use these phone numbers -- some have changed]**

Amnesty International can assist Congressman Campbell's office in the following areas.

##### **1. Persons abroad whose human rights are being violated**

Not infrequently, someone who lives in the 12th Congressional District will have a relative or friend abroad facing one of the following situations and Amnesty International can help.

**Urgent Cases.** Notify AI immediately. Call District Legislative Coordinator Rena Margulis at (415) 424-1820, 24 hours a day or the AIUSA Urgent Action office, (303) 440-0913.

- A. "Disappearance". A person, especially someone who has been politically active, is picked up by the military, security or civil police and the person's detention is subsequently denied. This person is at very high risk of death hours matter. Sometimes a politically-active person may disappear without any evidence that the police are involved, and AI should still be notified
- B. Incommunicado Detention. A person especially someone who has been politically active, is detained without access to family or attorneys. Incommunicado detention and torture are closely linked.
- C. Torture. A person is believed to be suffering torture
- D. Extrajudicial Execution. A person has been killed by the security forces, death squads, or unknown others, especially as a consequence of the person's political activities
- E. Death Threats/Death Penalty. A person has received a death threat related to his or her activism or is facing the death penalty.
- F. Medical Concern. A person incarcerated abroad is not receiving adequate medical care, especially if this lack of care is perceived to be life-threatening.

In any of the urgent cases, AI will usually immediately send a number of telegrams to the appropriate government, officially expressing concern over the situation. It can be extremely effective if Congressman Campbell's staff (a) sends telegrams expressing concern to the head of government and to the U.S. Ambassador in the appropriate country, and (b) telephones the country's Ambassador here in the U.S.A. to express concern about the case. Therefore, when AI learns of a 12th Congressional District resident whose relative is an urgent case, that person will be urged to contact the District office.

##### **Other AI cases.**

- G. **Prisoner of conscience** A person is believed to be incarcerated because of his or her beliefs, religion, color, race, sex, ethnic origin, or language and the person has never used or advocated violence. Call the San Francisco office of AI, (415) 441-3733, between 9 am, and 5 p.m. and request "Prisoner information forms. Please call Rena at (415) 424-1820 and let her know that the forms have been requested. These forms must be completed and sent to AI in London.
- H. **Detention without charge or trial/Unfair trial/Trial based on confession extracted under torture.** Call Rena at (415) 424-1820.

##### **2 Refugee/Refoulement Issues.**

AI assists persons living in the U.S.A. who would be in danger of becoming AI clients if they were forcibly returned to their countries of origin. These persons have a well-founded fear of becoming a prisoner of conscience, torture victim, or extrajudicial execution victim

The assistance can be in the form of: (a) recommending pro bono attorneys (b) providing amicus briefs, and (c) in rare

cases, initiating a world-wide letter-writing campaign on behalf of the person facing refoulement. AI can be of the most assistance when a person has good documentation of previous persecution or when a person has previously been an AI client. AI does not have the resources to assist refugees working toward family reunification. For assistance on refugee issues, call the AIUSA National Refugee Office at (415) 776-2473.

### 3. Information on Human Rights Abuse Worldwide.

Answers to Human Rights Questions. To receive answers to specific questions about human rights abuses anywhere in the world, call Rena at (415) 424-1820 or the AIUSA Washington office at (202) 544-0200.

Reports and other materials. Two copies of the AI Annual Report on human rights abuse in more than 120 countries will be sent to the 12th Congressional District office each October. Also, AI produces a large number of books, reports, documents, and videos related to human rights (see "Human Rights Library"). Any of these can be sent to either of Congressman Campbell's offices at no charge. Other reports are produced throughout the year, and these reports are frequently mentioned in the World News Briefs column in the SF Chronicle and the Foreign News Briefs column in the Mercury News. To obtain any AI reports or other materials, call Rena at (415) 424-1 820 or the AIUSA Washington office at (202) 544-0200.

**Exhibit 10-10**  
**Congressional Visits Debriefing Form**

[RTF version](#)

[PDF version](#)

INTERNAL

**Amnesty International USA  
Congressional Visits Debriefing Form**

Please complete this form after meeting with your Representative or Senators. Keep a copy for your group's records and send a copy to your regional office.

**The Basics**

Representative/Senator Visited:	Date of Meeting:
AIUSA Groups(s) Represented at the Meeting:	
Your Name and Address:	
Your Phone Numbers: Day ( )	Evening ( )
Your Group Number (if more than one group was represented at the meeting):	
If your group's Legislative Coordinator is someone other than yourself, please give us that person's name, address and phone number:	

**The Meeting**

Was the Member of Congress Present?
Names of AIUSA Delegation Members:

1) Characterize the manner in which you were received by the Member of Congress and/or aides:

Helpful      Interested      Not Helpful      Cool

Other Comments:

2) General sentiments of the Member of Congress and/or aides regarding AI:

3) What requests for action on prisoner cases or on legislation did you make of the MOO? What actions did the MOO agree to take?

Your Request	MOC's Response

4) What issues or questions did the MOO or aide raise during the meeting?

5) What materials, if any, did you leave with the MOO/aides?

6) What methods below did you use to obtain this meeting?

Written Request Phone Call Assistance or Influential Person Other

### **History of Contacts with This MOC**

Did your group meet with this MOO or aides last year? If so, when:

How did the MOO follow through on requests made then?

Please summarize your groups contacts with this MOO:

### **Follow Up**

Be sure to write, thanking the MOC for the meeting and reminding the MOC what he/she promised to do on behalf your prisoner and on legislative issues. If you promised to send the MOC any materials, this is the time to honor the request.

Please send this form (making sure you keep a copy!) to your appropriate regional office.

**Exhibit 10-11**  
**Sample list of Congressional officials who have visited a target country**

Members of Congress and Congressional Staff who have visited Thailand on official business  
(as reported in the Congressional Record before 9/1/92)

**SENATE AND SENATE STAFF TRAVEL**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HOUSE STAFF TRAVEL (See [table](#) below)**

[Index of abbreviations](#)

**SENATE AND SENATE STAFF TRAVEL**

Date in CR	Page in CR	Name	Dates of Visit*	Title	Committee	Employing MOC, C or SubC Chair, or Ranking Minority Member
11/7/91	S16300	Douglas C. Olin	7/1/91- 9/30/91	Asst. Dir.	S. C. on the Budget	Sen. Jim Sasser (TN)
3/17/92	S3795	Frances Zwenig	7/1/91- 9/30/91	Staff Dir.	S. Sel. C. on POW/MIA Affairs	Sen. John Kerry (MA)
3/17/92	S3794	John Kerry	7/1/91- 9/30/91	Sen. (MA)	S. Foreign Relations C.	
3/17/92	S3794	Mitch McConnell	7/1/91- 9/30/91	Sen. (KY)	S. Foreign Relations C.	
3/17/92	S3794	Jennifer Brick	7/1/91- 9/30/91	Legis. Asst.		Sen. Frank H. Murkowski (AK)
3/17/92	S3794	Nancy H. Stetson	7/1/91- 9/30/91	Prof. Staff Member	S. Foreign Relations C.	Sen. Claiborne Pell (RI)
3/17/92	S3791	Lamar Smith	10/1/91- 12/31/91	Rep. (sic) (TX)	S. C. on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs	
3/17/92	S3791	Carolyn Jordan	10/1/91- 12/31/91	Comm. Counsel		Sen. Don Riegle (MI)
3/17/92	S3791	John Walsh	10/1/91- 12/31/91	Republican Econ.	SubC. on Int'l Finance and Monetary Policy, C. on B,H, & UA	Sen. Connie Mack (FL)
3/17/92	S3791	Jennifer Hillman	10/1/91- 12/31/91	Legis. Dir.		Sen. Terry Sanford (NC)
3/17/92	S3791	Leslie Woolley	10/1/91- 12/31/91	Legis. Dir.		Sen. Bob Graham (FL)
6/2/92	S7380	Frances Zwenig	1/5/92- 1/16/92	Staff Dir.	S. Sel. C. on POW/MIA Affairs	Sen. John Kerry (MA)
6/2/92	S7381	Sally Walsh	1/5/92- 1/16/92	Asst. Dir.	(info missing; traveled on Sel. C. on POW/MIA affairs trip)	

\*Senate visits took place sometime in this period

For staff members, the final column identifies the MOC who directs the staff member's work, either:

- (a) the MOC who employs the staff member
- (b) for (sub)committee staff, the (sub)committee chair

(c) for minority (sub)committee staff, the ranking minority member of the (sub)committee

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HOUSE STAFF TRAVEL

Date in CR	Page in CR	Name	Dates of Visit	Title	Committee	Employing MOC, C or Sub C Chair, or Ranking Minority Member
1/30/92	H194	Michael J. Kopetski	8/28/91-8/31/91	Rep. (OR)	C. on the Judiciary	
1/30/92	H196	Philip W. Rotondi	8/28/91-8/31/91	Admin. Asst.		Rep. Michael J. Kopetski (OR)
1/30/92	H197	Kathleen Sullivan	11/12/91-11/19/91	Legis. Asst.		Rep. Richard Neal (MA)
1/30/92	H197	Matthew A. Reynolds	12/2/91-12/6/91	Legis. Dir.		Rep. Robert J. Lagomarsino (CA)
2/14/92	H411	R. W. Vandergrift, Jr.	11/3/91-11/6/91	Chief, Inv. Staff	H. C. on Appropriations	Rep. Jamie L. Whitten (MS)
2/14/92	H412	William L. Dickinson	12/1/92-12/3/92	Rep. (AL)	Committee on Armed Services	
2/14/92	H412	Solomon P. Ortiz	12/1/92-12/3/92	Rep. (TX)	Committee on Armed Services	
2/14/92	H412	Owen B. Pickett	12/1/92-12/3/92	Rep. (VA)	Committee on Armed Services	
2/14/92	H412	Ben Blaz	12/1/92-12/3/92	Del. (Guam)	Committee on Armed Services	
2/14/92	H412	Peter M. Steffes	12/1/92-12/3/92	Prof. Staff Member	Committee on Armed Services	Rep. Les Aspin (WI)
2/14/92	H412	Steven A. Thompson	12/1/92-12/3/92	Prof. Staff Member	Committee on Armed Services	Rep. Les Aspin (WI)
2/14/92	H412	Wade H. Heck	12/1/92-12/3/92	Prof. Staff Member	Committee on Armed Services	Rep. Les Aspin (WI)
2/14/92	H412	Jim Schweiter	12/1/92-12/3/92	Counsel	Committee on Armed Services	Rep. Les Aspin (WI)
2/14/92	H412	Earl Rieger	10/12/91-10/18/91	Staff Dir., Chief Counsel	SubC. on Intl Dev., Finance, Trade & Monetary Pol., C. on B, F, & UA	Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (OH)
2/14/92	H412	John Hardage	10/12/91-10/17/91	Prof. Staff Member	SubC. on Domestic Monetary Policy, C on B, F, &UA	Rep. Stephen Neal (NC)
2/14/92	H412	Timothy Aiken	10/12/91-10/18/91	Sr. Legis Asst.		Rep. James P. Moran (VA)
2/14/92	H412	Maureen Nagle	10/12/91-10/18/91	Legis. Asst.		Rep. Floyd Flake (NY)
2/14/92	H412	Kathleen Sullivan	10/12/91-10/18/91	Legis. Asst.		Rep. Richard Neal (MA)
2/14/92	H412	Ann McCormick	10/12/91-10/18/91	Legis. Asst.		Rep. John W. Cox, Jr. (IL)
2/14/92	H412	Michael Deagle	10/14/91-10/18/91	Sr. Legis. Asst.		Rep. Paul E. Gillmor (OH)
2/14/92	H412	Duncan Haggert	10/14/91-10/18/91	Legis. Asst.		Rep. Mel Hancock (MO)
2/14/92	H412	Jan Shimpock	10/16/91-10/18/91	Legis. Asst.		Rep. Larry LaRocco (ID)
2/14/92	H413	John Ridgeway	10/12/91-	Econ.	C. on the Budget	Rep. Leon Panetta (CA)

Exhibit 10-11: Sample list of Congressional officials who have visited a target country

	Multop	10/18/91			
2/14/92 H413	Joe Kennedy	10/11/91- 10/18/91	Econ., Minority Staff	C. on the Budget	Rep. Willis D. Gradison, Jr.
2/14/92 H413	Jean Kois Woodward	10/11/91- 10/18/91	Econ., Minority Staff	C. on the Budget	Rep. Willis D. Gradison, Jr.
2/14/92 H413	James McCormick	12/18/91- 12/22/91	Min. Staff Cons.	SubC. on Asian & Pacific Affairs, For. Aff. C.	Rep. Jim Leach (IA)
2/14/92 H413	Kennon Nakamura	12/18/91- 12/22/91	Staff Cons. (Min. Staff)	H. C. on Foreign Affairs	Rep. William S. Broomfield (MI)
2/14/92 H414	Patricia Ravalgi	12/2/91- 12/5/91	Staff Asst.	SubC. on Asian & Pacific Affairs, For. Aff. C.	Rep. Stephen Solarz (defeated in 92)
5/12/92 H3160	Richard Bush III	12/30/91- 1/1/92	Staff Cons.	SubC. on Asian & Pacific Affairs, For. Aff. C.	Rep. Stephen Solarz (defeated in 92)
5/12/92 H3161	Kennon H. Nakamura	2/13/92- 2/17/92	Staff Cons. (Min. Staff)	H. C. on Foreign Affairs	Rep. William S. Broomfield (MI)
5/12/92 H3161	Amit Pandy	2/13/92- 2/17/92	Staff Cons.	SubC. on Intl Operations, C. on Foreign Affairs	Rep. Howard Borman (CA)
5/12/92 H3161	Kenneth Peel	2/13/92- 2/17/92	Minority Staff	SubC. on Intl Operations, C. on Foreign Affairs	Rep. Olympia Snowe (ME)
8/4/92 H7383	James McCormick	4/25/92- 4/27/92	Min. Staff Cons.	SubC. on Asian & Pacific Affairs, For. Aff. C.	Rep. Jim Leach (IA)
8/4/92 H7383	Eric Schwartz	4/25/92- 4/27/92	Staff Cons.	SubC. on Asian & Pacific Affairs, For. Aff. C.	Rep. Stephen Solarz (defeated in 92)

\* Sources: Congressional Record and Congressional Staff Directory

**Abbreviations:**

Asst. Assistant	S. Senate
Dir. Director	C. Committee
Legis. Legislative	SubC. Subcommittee
Admin. Administrative	Sel. Select
Econ. Economist	B, H, &UA Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
Min. Minority	Pol. Policy
Inv. Investigative	H. House
Prof. Professional	For. Aff. Foreign Affairs
Sr. Senior	Dev. Development
Intl. International	CR Congressional Record

**Exhibit 10-12**  
**Sample cable from the Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists**

JANUARY 16, 1992

HIS EXCELLENCY NARASIMHA RAO  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
NEW DELHI, INDIA

DEAR PRIME MINISTER RAG: AS MEMBERS STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS, WHICH REPRESENTS 104 MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, WE ARE WRITING TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THE DECEMBER 27 MURDER OF JOURNALIST GHULAM RASOOL. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, POLICE ARRESTED GHULAM RASOOL AND HIS FRIEND VIJAY PRASADA RAO, ON DECEMBER 27, NEAR AMBERPET IN HYDERABAD. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS REPORT THAT THE TWO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TORTURED AND SHOT DEAD. THEIR BODIES WERE THEN DUMPED ON A ROAD NEAR MAJIDNAGAR, OUTSIDE HYDERABAD.

WHILE THE POLICE ORIGINALLY CLAIMED THAT THE TWO MEN WERE PART OF THE NAXALITE" INSURGENT MOVEMENT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THAT CLAIM. JOURNALISTIC COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THAT GHULAM RASOOL, WHO HAD WORKED AT THE TELUGU-LANGUAGE DAILY UDAYAM IN ANDHRA PRADESH. WAS TARGETED FOR ATTACK BECAUSE OF HIS REPORTING ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CONGRESS PARTY, RURAL LANDLORDS AND URBAN REAL ESTATE BUSINESSMEN IN ILLEGAL LAND ACQUISITIONS. HE HAD REPORTEDLY RECEIVED DEATH THREATS FROM THE CIRCLE INSPECTOR OF POLICE IN HYDERABAD, MR. RAJAIAH.

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS IS A BIPARTISAN ORGANIZATION FORMED TO SUPPORT THE FREEDOM TO WRITE, REPORT, AND PUBLISH AROUND THE WORLD. WE BELIEVE THAT GHULAM RASOOL MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED BECAUSE OF HIS LEGITIMATE JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES. THEREFORE, WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT A THOROUGH AND IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION INTO THIS CRIME. THOSE FOUND RESPONSIBLE SHOULD BE PUNISHED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.

SINCERELY,

**Exhibit 10-13**  
**Sample letter from a Senator**  
**[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

[\[image\]](#)

**Pete Wilson**

**UNITED STATES SENATE**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 19, 1987

His Excellency Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev  
General Secretary of the Central  
Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union  
The Kremlin  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. General Secretary:

I am writing in search of information on the status of Ukrainian dissident Fyodor Parasenkov.

Twelve years ago, Mr. Parasenkov was incarcerated in a "special psychiatric hospital" apparently for writing letters to government officials that advocated economic reforms. At the time of his imprisonment, he faced the charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Yet in light of the new industrial incentives which you recently announced, many of Mr. Parasenkov's ideas may now have become official policy.

Ever since 1975, Soviet authorities have rejected appeals from Amnesty International as well as thousands of American and Western European citizens for an official statement on Mr. Parasenkov's health and whereabouts. But in this age of "glasnost," Mr. General Secretary. I appeal to you to break your government's silence on Mr. Parasenkov's condition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

PETE WILSON  
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
COMMERCIAL, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRIC  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Aug. 14, 1987

His Excellency  
Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev  
General Secretary of the Central  
Committee of the Communist Party  
of the Soviet Union  
The Kremlin  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. General Secretary:

I am writing in search of information on the status of Ukrainian dissident Fyodor Parasenkov.

Twelve years ago, Mr. Parasenkov was incarcerated in a "special psychiatric hospital" apparently for writing letters to government officials that advocated economic reforms. At the time of his imprisonment, he faced the charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Yet in light of the new industrial incentives which you recently announced, many of Mr. Parasenkov's ideas may now have become official policy.

Ever since 1975, Soviet authorities have rejected appeals from Amnesty International as well as thousands of American and Western European citizens for an official statement on Mr. Parasenkov's health and whereabouts. But in this age of "glasnost," Mr. General Secretary, I appeal to you to break your government's silence on Mr. Parasenkov's condition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



PETE WILSON

PW:pm

**Exhibit 10-14**  
**Sample letter to the President of the U.S.A.**  
**[Do not write for this prisoner .. he has been released]**

August 7,1987  
433 Russell Blvd.  
Davis, CA 95616

President Ronald Wilson Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of a large number of fellow American citizens who are concerned about the continued incarceration of a political prisoner in the Soviet Union Fyodor Parasenkov may not be as well-known in human rights circles as Andrei Sakharov, but he has been suffering cruelly in confinement in a Russian "psychiatric hospital since 1975. Since we became aware of his plight in 1976, thousands of Americans have written letters to the Soviet authorities and signed petitions on Fyodors behalf, *with out a single response*. We would now like your help on his behalf.

I am enclosing for you a sheet of information that we have been able to acquire over the recent years, with the help of organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association and Amnesty International. Both of these groups are investigating Mr. Parasenkov's case.

On behalf of Fyodor Parasenkov's many supporters in the free world, I would respectfully like to ask you to use your position of power and influence to help us. Perhaps you can contact the State Department or the U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union to help investigate his case and file protests with the Russians. In addition, we would like to ask you to help bring up Fyodor Parasenkov's case in future bilateral discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union. We would appreciate anything at all that you can think of that would help this man who has been unjustly incarcerated for so long.

Mr. President, we admire the firm stand that you have taken so many times on behalf of freedom for oppressed people behind the Iron Curtain. We know that you share our support for Fyodor Parasenkov and our outrage at what has been done to him. We are counting on your support in helping him. Thank you very much [or your consideration of this matter, and God bless you.

Respectfully,

**Exhibit 10-15**  
**Sample state resolution recognizing AI**

[image]

**State of Maine**

Be it known to all that  
We, the Members of the Senate and  
House of Representatives  
join in recognizing

Amnesty International for its voluntary efforts, independent of any government,  
political faction or religious creed, to secure the effective protection of  
fundamental human rights throughout the world;

And be it ordered that this official expression of sentiment be set forthwith on behalf of the Legislature and the people of the State of Maine

Given this 25th Day of February 1983

at the State Capital  
Augusta, Maine

Signed: President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Clerk

Introduced by Rep. Nell Rolde (from York)

Cosponsored by: Rep. Polly Reeves (from Pittstan)

---



Be it known to all that  
We, the Members of the Senate and  
House of Representatives  
join in recognizing

that the United States is a voluntary  
and non-dependent government.  
An independent nation, created, to  
secure the effect of protection of fundamental human rights throughout the world.

And be it ordered that this official expression  
of sentiment be sent forthwith on behalf of the  
Legislature and the people of the State of Maine

(Signed this 12th day of February 1983)

at the State Capitol

Augusta, Maine

Frank E. Shapley  
President of the Senate

John F. Thaxter  
Speaker of the House

Edmund G. Goss  
Secretary

Ed Peet  
Clerk

Introduced by Rep. Neal Palmer  
co-sponsored by Rep. Polly Reeves

FROM: Clerk  
FROM: Director

**Exhibit 10-16**  
**Sample state proclamation mentioning a prisoner**

[image]

Under construction...



WHEREAS, the 25th day of May, 1991 is internationally recognized as the 10th anniversary of the founding of Amnesty International; and

WHEREAS, many governments in all regions of the world still violate fundamental human rights; and

WHEREAS, unjust imprisonment, denial of fair legal treatment, unjust penalty and torture of prisoners in government custody persist in at least a third of the world's nations; and

WHEREAS, Amnesty International, as part of its 10th anniversary, has assigned its Maine chapter and participants the case of Milagrosa Mossida, an Ethiopian, imprisoned with her pregnant wife since February, 1980 merely for their ethnic origin and who still has not been charged with any crime;

Now, therefore, I, JOHN R. MCKEEHAN, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 25, 1991 as

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DAY

Throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to actively support the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and call upon all governments to ratify international human rights treaties, to bring their own laws and practices into line with them, and to act to protect human rights worldwide.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-third day of May in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-One.

John R. McKeehan, Jr.  
Governor

A large, stylized signature of "G. William Diamond" in black ink.

G. William Diamond  
Secretary of State

TRUE ATTESTED COPY

**Exhibit 10-17 (A)**  
**Sample city resolution**

ORDER  
Councilor Wylie

WHEREAS, Amnesty International has for 20 years organized individuals all over the world to write to governments which are imprisoning and torturing political prisoners, and has succeeded in freeing many hundreds of prisoners and in improving the conditions of many others;

WHEREAS, Amnesty International has achieved increasing prestige, recognition and respect in free countries, receiving the Erasmus Prize in 1976 the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977, and an achievement award by the United Nations in 1978;

WHEREAS, Despite such efforts the routine use of imprisonment and torture around the world, according to many reports, continues to increase

WHEREAS, We in the United States are blessed with a form of government and a rule of law which greatly reduces the incidence of repressive and inhuman practices and therefore imposes an especial ability to work for human practices throughout the world,

WHEREAS, To the extent that we in the united States exercise our individual and collective efforts to reduce practices leading to international instability we help protect our own futures and lives because war today could mean nuclear war and

WHEREAS, It citizens speak and act through their city's voice on issues affecting the world a means will be provided for individual citizens to regain a sense of effectiveness, usefulness and worthiness.

Now, therefore, the Cambridge City Council declares its desire to communicate with other cities of the world to urge a reduction in repressive and cruel practices conducted in such cities.

The City Council requests Amnesty International to identity from time to time city governments engaging in cruel and inhuman practices and particular prisoners being held in those cities.

Finally, the City Council declares that if Amnesty International will refer cases to the City Council, the Council will authorize the Mayor to appoint a subcommittee of its members to consider the cases and make a specific recommendation on each one to the City Council.

VOTED:

That the attached Resolution be and it hereby is adopted and that it be forwarded by the City Clerk to the following persons:

RE: Altredo Boccia  
Felino Amarilla  
Jose Ignacio Ferreira  
Luis Manuel Guanes Gondra

TO: Esmo. Sr. Presidente de Ia Republica del Paraguay  
Gral. de Ejercito Alfredo Stroessner  
Palacio de Gobernio  
Asuncion, Paraguay

COPY TO: His Excellency Mario Lopez Escobar  
The Embassy of Paraguay  
2400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.  
Washington, DC 20008

**Exhibit 10-17 (B)**  
**Sample city resolution**

[image]

---



**CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL**

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01119

(617) 876-6800

*David A. Wylie*  
City Councillor

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., hereby resolves to request the appropriate officials of Paraguay to make public the reasons for the arrest of Alfredo Roccia, Felino Amarilla, Jose Ignacio Ferreira, and Luis Manuel Cuanez Gondra, and to advise whether the rights of these persons are being observed under the United National Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As elected government officials in a democratic society, the Cambridge City Councillors wish to say to Paraguayan officials that political activity should never result in the violation of a person's liberty, and further that disregard of the personal rights of members of political opposition creates a destabilizing force in the world.

**Exhibit 10-18**  
**Sample letter from a Mayor**

[image]

Office of the Mayor  
Civic Center Plaza  
333 West Ocean Boulevard

December 24, 1986

[under construction...]

---



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
323 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD

December 24, 1986

12/24/86  
WMOB  
2 3 590-680

Señor Francisco Bartolucci Johnston  
Alcalde de Valparaíso  
Municipalidad de Valparaíso  
Valparaíso, Chile

Distinguido Señor Alcalde:

We are writing to you, the distinguished mayor of our sister city, Valparaíso, Chile at the request of a group of Long Beach citizens. Their concern is two-fold:

First, they are concerned for the safety of Fanor Castillo and Luis Soto, both lawyers working with the Valparaíso branch of the National Commission on Human Rights, as they have received several threats against their physical well-being and their lives. We on the City Council join our concerned citizens in requesting that immediate measures be taken to protect them.

Second, we are concerned about the disappearance of the following

Alejandro Rodríguez Urzúa  
Carolina Wiff Sepulveda  
Jorge Müller Silva  
Carmen Blendo Cifuentes

We urge you to investigate their whereabouts and the circumstances surrounding their disappearance.

The people of Long Beach care deeply about Valparaíso and the welfare of all of the citizens of Chile. If there is anything we can do to be of assistance, please let us know.

Cordially,

Ernie Kell  
M A Y O R

PK:sp

cc: Ronald Reagan, President of the United States  
Honorable René Vidal, Consul General of Chile  
Chairman, Valparaíso Sister City Committee, Valparaíso  
Contralmirante Pablo Wunderlich Picerit, Regional Military Cmdr.  
Vicealmirante Hernán Rivera Calderon, Chief of National Defense  
of Emergency Zone  
Sra. Dinora Cameratti Ramos, President of Appeals Court  
Comisión Chilena de Derechos Humanos

**Exhibit 10-19**  
**Sample city resolution**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6074 SERIES 1989**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

WHEREAS, the Davis City Council finds that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and,

WHEREAS, this is the historic promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by governments in the United Nations forty year ago, and

WHEREAS, in country after country even the right to speak up in defense of human rights is being crushed, thousands have been jailed and tortured for demanding and exercising their rights, and many have "disappeared" or been killed; and

WHEREAS, In recent years residents of Davis, including members of Amnesty International group #21, have made personal appeals on behalf of persons who have been jailed for speaking out on behalf of human rights, such as Fyodor Parasenkov of the U.S.S.R. who was sent to and died in a 'special psychiatric hospital' for peacefully advocating economic reforms in his country, and Murphy Morobe, a leader of nonviolent resistance to apartheid in South Africa, who was recently granted temporary sanctuary in a United States' Consulate;

NOW, THEREFORE, SE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Davis that we add our names to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and demand that it be respected by all governments throughout the world, that all governments ratify the world's human rights treaties and bring their own laws and practices into line with them and that all governments act to protect human rights worldwide; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council, on behalf of the victims who have been seized and silenced, appeals to every government and to the United Nations to protect all those who raise their voices in defense of human rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council recognizes those members of the Davis community working to defend human rights, including the members and supporters of Amnesty International Group #21, and that, to honor them and the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, do proclaim that December 10, 1988 is Human Rights Day in Davis.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the city of Davis this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, by the following votes:

AYES: Adler, Corbett, Evans, Rosenberg, Skinner.  
NOES: None.  
ABSENT: None.

(Signed)  
**MICHAEL CORBEITT**  
**MAYOR**

**ROBERT A. TRAVERSO**  
**CITY MANAGER/CITY CLERK**

**Exhibit 11-1****Sample action planning sheet****ACTION PLANNING SHEET**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TASK</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>RESOURCES</u>	<u>PERSON</u>	<u>TIME</u>
List the months between now and the project you need to get done	Identify every task which needs to be done to accomplish your final outcome	List every activity included in the task listed to the left	Who and what is needed to carry out the activity	Identify someone who will ultimately be responsible	Schedule the date teh activity will be carried out and note how much time needed to do it
---	---	---	---	---	---

Example

February	Inform AI members of the film showing	Mail invitations to all on AI membership list	- 6 group members - printed invitations -envelopes, stamps, return address stamp - AI membership list labels - coffee, tea, snacks - member's home with large table -someone to take invitations to the post office	Barbara R.	Sunday, Feb. 11 3 hours
----------	---------------------------------------	---	---	------------	----------------------------

The basic action planning sheet is similar to the sheets you used in your training session and those used in each of the workshops. You would use this sheet after the purpose, activity and available time have been established and the group is prepared to plan. The activity (bake sale, benefit concert, etc.) goes in the last month's column with follow-up evaluation after it. It is usually best to begin with the event itself, set the date ('time' column) and ask the question "what do we need to do to get there and when do we need to have it done?" In an action plan, being as specific as possible will help determine whether the plan is realistic.

## **ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET**

**Exhibit 11-03**

**Sample press release**



CONTACT: Steven Souza  
(916)758-2964

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 4, 1989

**"CANDLE OF HOPE" LIGHTS INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK**

On International Human Rights Day, December 10, 1989, the Davis Chapter of Amnesty International will hold a Candlelight Vigil around a "Candle of Hope." The vigil will begin at 4:30 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. on the U.C. Davis Campus near the flagpole by the Memorial Union Patio.

Individuals can participate in the construction of the candle during the week leading up to the vigil, (December 6 - 10), by pasting the names of prisoners of conscience and the names of the countries that are violating their human rights on the "Candle of Hope." The 8-foot candle, topped with a light be "lit" during the vigil. Letter writing on behalf of prisoners of conscience will also be ongoing during the week.

Stephen Souza, Co-Director of the Davis Chapter of Amnesty International says, "The 'Candle of Hope' represents the hope for further respect of human rights in the 1990's. It illuminates the human condition and enriches life by showing us the world as it should be, a place of humanity, freedom and learning. For we must never let the light flicker or dim, but rather work diligently to make it burn brighter, never losing hope. People will only live full lives in the light of respect for their human rights."

--###--

**Exhibit 11-4**

**Sample media advisory**



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASE**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: ROGER RATHMAN  
(213)388-1237**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HOSTS SOUTH AFRICAN ANGLICAN BISHOP  
SIGISBERT NDWANDWE**

Amnesty International USA will host bishop Sigisbert Ndwandwe of South Africa today, April 20, 1990 at 4:00 P.M. The reception will be held at the offices of Amnesty International, located at 3407 West Sixth Street, Suite 704. Bishop Ndwandwe will relate the details of his detention and mistreatment at the hands of South African authorities.

While enroute from South Africa to New York City, Bishop Ndwandwe was informed that his daughter, Angela (33), and his son, Lawrence (22) were arrested and detained on Friday, April 13, 1990. Lawrence is in a very weakened condition and is being held at Grootvlei Prison in Bloemfontein. Angela is assumed to be held at Klerksdorp Prison, the same prison in which the Bishop was detained and tortured.

Bishop Ndwandwe will be available for interviews at the reception.

--30--

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA, 3407 WEST SIXTH STREET, #765, LOS ANGELES CA 90020/13-388-237

## Exhibit 11-5

## How to make your AI candle costume

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR

**A.I.<sup>®</sup>**  
CANDLE  
COSTUME!

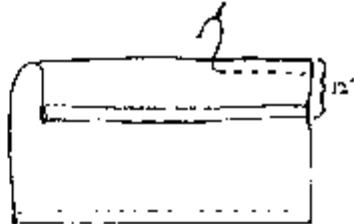


- WEAR IN PARADES & MARCHES
- CHILDREN & ADULTS
- WINTER & SUMMER
- WEAR FLAME HEADRESS ONLY FOR GROUP VISIBILITY
- HIDE FIGURE FLAWS WHILE SAYING P.O.C.'S!
- EASY, QUICK & CHEAP TO MAKE!

## YOU WILL NEED:

- WHITE DOUBLE PLAT SHEETS FROM 2nd-Hand Store (1 sheet makes 2 costumes)
- COAT HANGERS (4 PER COSTUME)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ " OR  $\frac{3}{4}$ " FOAM CARPET FIDDING
- GREY & ORANGE SPRAY PAINT
- DUCT TAPE
- STRING
- SCISSORS
- SEWING MACHINE
- TAPE MEASURE
- STAPLER
- PLIERS
- BIG SAFETY PIN

2. TURN UP BOTTOM EDGE 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " AND SEW A HEM.



3. FOLD TOP EDGE OVER 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " WITH RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER. STITCH A 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " CASING.



1. CUT IN HALF

(TOP BOTTOM HEMS ALREADY SEWN)

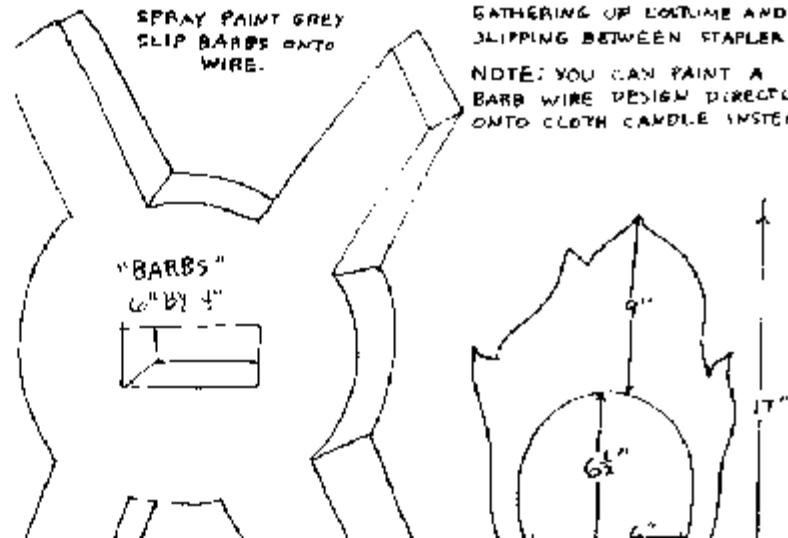
5. UNTWIST COAT HANGERS & STRAIGHTEN OUT USING PLIERS. RETWIST ENDS OF 3 HANGERS TOGETHER & WRAP JOINT WITH DUCT TAPE.

6. CLIP SLITS IN ALL 3 CASINGS. INSERT COAT HANGERS IN BOTTOM 2 CASINGS. TWIST ENDS TOGETHER WITH PLIERS AND WRAP WITH DUCT TAPE. MAKE AS BIG AS POSSIBLE SO COSTUME WILL BE TAUT.

7. TIE DRAW STRING TO BIG SAFETY PIN SO IT CAN BE PUSHED THROUGH TOP CASING. THEN REMOVE PIN AND TIE ENDS OF STRING TOGETHER. WEARER ADJUSTS TO FIT NECK.

8. CUT VERTICAL 7" SLITS FOR HANDS AT "10:00 &

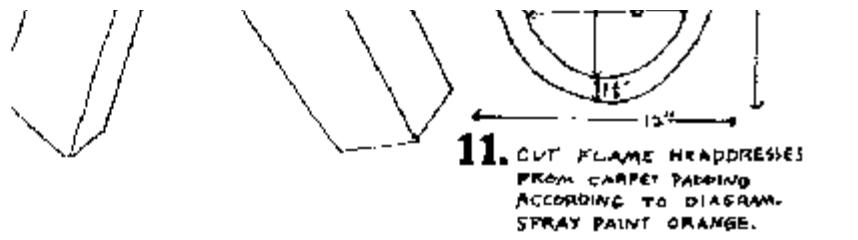
9. WITH BIG SCISSORS CUT CARPET FIDDING INTO 1" STRIPS FOR WIRE. YOU NEED ABOUT 9' OF WIRE AND 7 OR 8 BARBS FOR EACH ADULT COSTUME, AND ONLY 6 FEET WITH 5 BARBS FOR KIDS. SPRAY PAINT GREY. SLIP BARBS ONTO WIRE.



10. HANG COSTUME ON A HANGER FOR EASE IN WORKING. PIN "BARBED WIRE" ONTO "CANDLE" IN A SPIRAL, STARTING AT UPPER LEFT SHOULDER AND ENDING AT LOWER RIGHT HEM. THEN STAPLE IN PLACE EVERY 18" BY GATHERING UP COSTUME AND SLIPPING BETWEEN STAPLER JAWS. NOTE: YOU CAN PAINT A BARB WIRE DESIGN DIRECTLY ONTO CLOTH CANDLE INSTEAD!

2100" (NOT DIRECTLY AT SIDES  
STARTING AT TOP WIRE.

COSTUME CREATOR-WINTFRED WIRTH  
GROUP 87-82 E. 16th Ave-Columbus OH  
Serial No. 4 photo#3  
45201



**11.** CUT FLAME HEADRESSES  
FROM CARPET PADDING  
ACCORDING TO DIAGRAM.  
SPRAY PAINT ORANGE.

**Exhibit 11-06**

**Editorial cartoon about mock imprisonment**



Reprinted with the permission of The California Aggi

### Exhibit 11-07

#### News article announcing a prisoner adoption

## Political prisoners targeted

The Davis chapter of Amnesty International USA has a new mission -- to coordinate the national organizations efforts to free two South African opposition leaders -- and will begin planning for this mission tonight.

## Political prisoners targeted

The Davis chapter of Amnesty International USA has a new mission — to coordinate the national organizations efforts to free to South African opposition leaders — and will begin planning for the mission tonight

Mahomed Valli Moosa and Murphy Morobe, both 30, and leaders of the United Democratic Front, have been held in a Johannesburg prison since July 22, 1987. The front claims about 2 million members, but the government has banned all of its political activities, Amnesty officials say.

Amnesty International considers Moosa and Morobe prisoners of conscience "detained solely for their non violent activities against apartheid," according to a press release. "They are held incommunicado, without charge or trial, and it is feared that they may be tortured by the security police."

The Davis Amnesty International group will look at ways of campaigning for Moosa and Morobe's release tonight during the group's regular meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the CA House,

**433 RUSSELL DIVISION.**

"Because of their leadership positions in the UDF, Mahomed Valli Moosa and Murphy Morobe might well be considered two of the most politically important prisoners of conscience in the world today," said Tom Gill, coordinator of the local group.

"It's quite clear that this injustice is in South Africa," added Amnesty member John Natsoulas. "However, we Americans can make a difference and appeal for an end to the inhumane detention of these two men by simply writing a few words on their behalf."

**Exhibit 11-08**

**Sample flyer publicizing a write-a-thon**

 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

**PROTEST THE KILLING OF IDEAS IN CHINA**

**抗議中共扼殺思想**

WRITE-A-THON

EXPOSED BY THE TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE

THE CHINESE DICTATORSHIP

IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST

ABUSERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD.

TO DATE, WE HAVE

REFUGEE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

IN SIXTEEN COUNTRIES.

A ROBERT RAYA ... YUGOSLAVIA

B LEE SOON-JAE ... KOREA

C KHADJU KHADJU ... SYRIA

WHERE: Mitty Cafeteria, Mitty H. S., 5900 Mitty Way, San Jose.

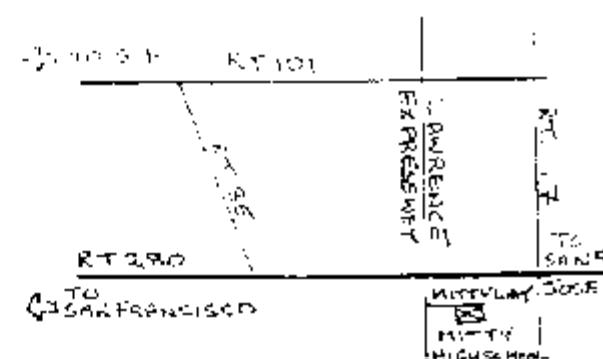
WHEN: 2:00 TO 6:00 PM, NOVEMBER 11, 1989.

WHAT: FET YEA NOTED CHINESE POET.

INTERVIEWMENTS WITH THE REFUGEE

DIRECTIONS:

TAKE RT. 85 TO LAWRENCE EXPWY.  
EXIT TO LAWRENCE EXPWY. SOUTH.  
TAKE FIRST LEFT TO MYTTE WAY.



## Exhibit 11-09

## AI column citing current news

# Children as targets

Sadam Hussein's ominous use of children for propaganda should not have surprised anyone, considering his government's record with regard to their welfare, as reported regularly by Amnesty International (AI). Over a year ago AI asked the United Nations to hold him responsible for a pattern of atrocious human rights abuses against children, and urged all nations dealing with Iraq to take into account abundant evidence that children were being targeted deliberately by security forces committing violations that have included torture, 'disappearance' and killing of victims ranging in age from five months upwards. Children have been apprehended from school, lined up, and shot in public; officials delivered the bodies of eight executed secondary school students to their families in January 1988.

Some 2,000 children have been held as hostages or family members being sought by authorities as suspected opponents of the government, others have been tortured to reveal information about their relatives or have been ill-treated in order to frighten or punish their parents or to coerce confessions. A 9-year-old boy and eleven other minors 'disappeared' after arrest in 1983 with about 120 other detainees of an exiled Shi'a Muslim opposition leader. The fate of hundreds of Kurdish children and youths seized over five years ago in retaliation for their relatives' political activism remains unknown, as is the number who died during the 1988 chemical attack on Halabja and subsequent destruction of other Kurdish towns and farms in Iraq. Whole families, including children and infants, have been killed in large-scale military attacks by Iraqi troops or civilian targets.

Human rights violations against children occur frequently in other countries of the region,

**Thesil Morlan**

Amnesty International

including Turkey, Iran, and Syria. In the Israeli-Occupied Territories children have been shot by armed forces, severely beaten in a mock military trial, and arbitrarily detained without charge or trial. Some were involved in incidents in which dozens of other children were thrown; others apparently have been involved in no violent activities when they were shot or apprehended.

Policies and practices of apartheid have blighted the lives of generations in South Africa, where many young people also bear the scars of having been among the estimated 20,000 children detained for unknown numbers of whom were tortured during the State of Emergency between 1986 and 1989.

In many other countries in Africa and elsewhere, children suffer human rights abuses just because they are born into a particular ethnic group — as in Sri Lanka, where children are among hundreds who have 'disappeared' since 1983 — or because they are born in disputed territory — as in Peru, where hundreds of children have been murdered or 'disappeared' in recent years, while thousands have been displaced when their villages are raided by government troops or by guerrilla forces (often both, simultaneously).

Throughout the world children grow up without knowing a home other than refugee camps. And in the United States each year, thousands of refugee children — who have

committed no crime — are detained upon arrival, sometimes in confinement that do not meet minimum standards of decency.

Meanwhile, the United States is one of only a few countries where juvenile offenders may be executed, in contravention of international covenants.

Sometimes children are born to political prisoners and grow up incarcerated; others born in prison are taken from their mothers and never seen again. Some are forced to watch the torture of their parents or are tortured in front of their parents in order to terrorize communities. For that purpose, Pakwa Kamiel, age 3, was shot down in his mother's arms in eastern Burkina Faso (August 1986). At his Ecuador home one morning in May 1987, while being interrogated by soldiers about the activities of a neighbor, 8-year-old Alberto Alarcón was thrown over a roll of barbed wire and beaten. His boat was held under water until he almost drowned.

Children suffer abuse primarily because the actual or supposed political or religious opinions of adults are held in official disfavor, because their parents become prisoners of conscience or "disappear" in custody, or because their communities are destroyed.

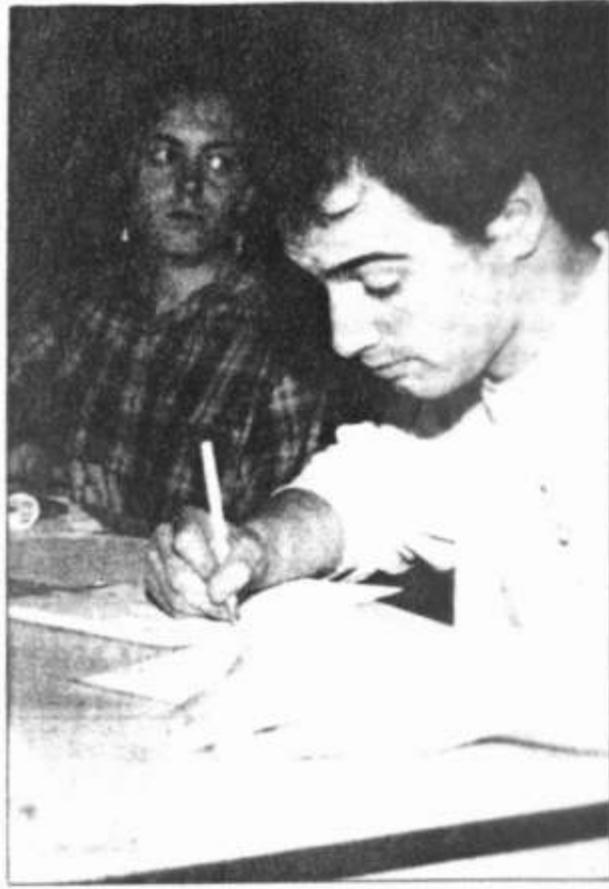
Ten years of negotiations at the United Nations have produced a Convention on the Rights of the Child, yet to be ratified by the United States. This is one of the subjects scheduled for the World Summit for Children this summer. But beyond that occasion, citizens of all nations must insist that the rights of children are real and that their lives must not be surrendered before they can make their own choices for the future.

*Thesil Morlan is secretary of the Barb/Brunswick chapter of Amnesty International.*

**Exhibit 11-10(A)**

**News photographs from a campus newspaper of a letter-writing evening**

## Singing and writing to the faceless...



At Thursday night's Amnesty International coffeehouse, Hwasing Cheng '96 strums the guitar and sings while Adam Hoverman '96 and Laurie Clark '94 write letters to free prisoners of conscience. Over 60 letters were collected by Amnesty International during the event. *Alexis Gentile photos.*

**Caption:** At Thursday night's Amnesty International coffeehouse, Hwasing Cheng '96 strums the guitar and sings while Adam Hoverman '96 and Laurie Clark '94 write letters to free prisoners of conscience. Over 60 letters were collected by Amnesty International during the event. *Alexis Gentile photos.*

**Exhibit 11-10(B)**

**Caption of a news photograph of a candlelight vigil  
[The photograph showed group members holding Amnesty International signs]**

**Men of women of letters**

Members of Amnesty International gathered downtown last Monday for a candlelight vigil commemorating Human Rights Day. Amnesty International is an organization that works for the relief of prisoners of conscience; fair and prompt trials for political prisoners; and an end to political torture and execution, according to Margaret McConaughy, coordinator of the local group. The local chapter has about 65 people and normally meets each first Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Log Cabin Church on the Park Strip. At the meetings, members write letters to try and free political prisoners. The local group's phone contact number is 345-7034.

**Exhibit 11-11**

**Photograph of a fundraising event**

*Remembering those missing in Chile*



Special to The Inquirer / NANCY WEGARD

**JOHN VOLPA** (left) of Marlton and Stephen Pappaterra of Mount Laurel post pictures of people missing in Chile at the Moores-

town Friends Meeting House. The event was Amnesty International's night of Chilean music and food July 10.

## Exhibit 11-13

### Op-ed tied to a news event [Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]

# Remembering a Czech activist

By Rena K. Margolis

**I**'ve gone for a year now without socks, the ones that some kind soul sent me are in storage. To this day I don't know who sent them, apparently somebody from far-away Richwood.

"How I'd like to wear them, especially in the winter! The person who sent them was thinking of my frozen feet in bathtube cells and during countless marching I wrap rags around my feet but they don't keep me warm . . ."

Jiri Wolf, a Czech writer, human rights activist, and Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, wrote those words in the summer 1986. He needs our help.

Today he turns 36, his fifth consecutive birthday in the darkest prison in Czechoslovakia. His crime: writing about human rights abuses in Czech jails, and attempting to get those writings out to the West.

Today he won't get a day off from what he describes as the "miserable, exhausting labor, harassment, constant conflicts among the prisoners, attempts to secure food . . ."

He won't be home with his wife and family, blowing out candles on a birthday cake.

Today, however, students in 23 schools in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties will be commemorating with parties and celebrations the birthday that Jiri Wolf cannot acknowledge. Each of the schools has an Amnesty International student chapter that has "adopted" Jiri Wolf and will write and petition the Czech government until he is released.

Who is Jiri Wolf, and why are hundreds of local people dedicating their day to solidarity with him?

On Jan. 1, 1977, Jiri Wolf and 241 Czechoslovaks put their names to a historic document known as Charter 77. This document called on individuals to defend, non-violently, their own human rights and the human rights of others.

Charter 77 mentors the right to hold and express opinions without harassment or loss of job; the right to information; the right to privacy; the right to leave the country; freedom of religion; and other freedoms and rights guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights, both of which Czechoslovakia had signed and ratified.

**I** reckon after my release I'll have to spend at least six months getting myself together under the supervision of a doctor, a neurologist and maybe even a psychiatrist. ¶

—Jiri Wolf

Czechoslovakian prisoner

The men and women who signed this document have faced detention, sometimes brutal interrogation, loss of employment, and even the persecution of their children.

In February 1979, for the mere possession of Charter 77 documents, Jiri Wolf was arrested and charged with subversion. He was sentenced to three years of strict prison regimen.

About a year later, new proceedings were initiated against him for "false accusation." His sentence was extended six months.

Jiri Wolf has more than an unbending commitment to human rights. He has a dangerous gift of eloquence. He also has the kind of courage that few will know in their lifetimes.

After his release in 1981, he wrote about his prison experiences, knowing that through his actions he might be returned to the slow and brutal torture of prison.

The Czech government re-arrested him in May 1983. Charged with "subversion in collusion with foreign agents" and "divulging official secrets," Wolf was accused of giving information on conditions in Czech jails to the Austrian Embassy in Prague, and for sending abroad articles critical of the government.

He was found guilty and sentenced to six years in prison, followed by three years "protective surveillance," during which time his

movements will be severely inhibited.

Helenka Watch reported that Wolf's sentence was the longest in 10 years to be handed down in Prague for a political crime. "a clear warning to all activists."

Last year, after his only visit during this detention, his sister said that he had a scar on his head, his hands were cut, and that both of his pairs of spectacles were broken and would take months to replace.

In his own assessment: "I reckon after my release I'll have to spend at least six months getting myself together under the supervision of a doctor, a neurologist and maybe even a psychiatrist. I went to see the 'doctor' here, the convict Ryjarek, and asked him for a check-up. He threw me out with the words, 'You're not here for recreation but for liquidation'."

Amnesty International has closely followed Wolf's case. Amnesty is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, and an end to torture and executions.

Amnesty has found that in about half the cases studied, letters and telegrams sent to officials have been followed by positive changes in a prisoner's situation: torture was stopped, conditions improved, the individual was released.

Today, on Wolf's birthday, concerned people can join the students marking this day.

Anyone can become part of the pressure for positive change by writing the Czech government. Letters should be brief, factual and polite; they should ask that Jiri Wolf be unconditionally and unconditionally released on the grounds that he was punished for the exercise of his human rights. They should be addressed to:

J.R.Dr. Milos Jakek  
Secretary General of the CSSR  
11 608 Praha 1 Hrad  
Czechoslovakia  
(44 cents postage)  
Today can and should be Wolf's last birthday  
in jail.

Rena K. Margolis of Palo Alto is the Amnesty International regional membership coordinator for San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

## Exhibit 11-14

### Op-ed in response to another op-ed

#### Viewpoint

# *Death penalty only illusion of justice*

**O**N JULY 14, 1989, Horace Dunkins was electrocuted in Alabama's electric chair. He had been sentenced to death in 1981 for murder.

He knew he was going to die. What he didn't know was that the wires which would send 2,000 volts of electric current through his body had been improperly connected.

It took nine minutes for him to die. That's not an execution -- it's torture.

In the United States we not only batch executions — the entire judicial process which sentences people to die is itself contaminated.

We execute arbitrarily and with economic and racial biases. Killers of white victims, for instance, are much more likely to be executed than killers of black victims.

We execute the mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed — James Terry Roach, executed in South Carolina in 1986, had personality disorder and the intellect of a 12-year-old child.

We execute children. Paula Cooper was sentenced to die in Indiana for a murder she committed when she was 15. After her case attracted international attention, her sentence was commuted to 60 years imprisonment.

It is time to ask ourselves some hard questions: Can we entrust a flawed legal system with dispensation of the ultimate penalty, one without recall? Does executing criminals make our country a better place in which to live? What role should this cruel, racist roulette have in America as we approach the 21st century?

Hoover Institution visiting media fel-

## Congress need not resort to poisoning, hanging, or electrocuting criminals in order to impress upon the public the importance of its legislative mission.

low William Tucker's "Viewpoint" of Sept. 29, "Whose death penalty is it, anyway?" is an exercise in illogic and omission.

His central argument — that the state must kill criminals in order to prove its authority — is ludicrous. "By assuming the awesome responsibility of taking life," Tucker writes, "the state asserts that its purposes are more important than anyone else's."

The democratic state receives its authority to rule by virtue of its having the consent of the governed. Congress need not resort to poisoning, hanging, or electrocuting criminals in order to impress upon the public the importance of its legislative mission.

Tucker also repeats the truism which holds that the death penalty "permanently incapacitates a specific criminal."

Clearly, killing a person tends to incapacitate him or her. But so does life imprisonment, a punishment devoid of malice and barbarism, and which, if applied erroneously, at least can be overturned. The death penalty is irrevocable.

A staggering number of people have been executed or sentenced to death by state courts, only to be found innocent later. Had Tucker's Cardinal Richelieu lived in a different France, he would have heard the Marquis de Lafayette declare "I shall ask for the abolition of the death penalty until I have the infallibility of human judgment demonstrated to me."

Careful readers may note that the author did not offer proof of the "deterrence" argument. Why did he fail to cite studies showing that the death penalty deters crime? Because there are none. No research has ever demonstrated the so-called "deterrent" effect of killing criminals.

To the contrary, the Bowers-Pierce study, conducted in the United States between 1907 and 1963, determined that homicide rates actually increased after an execution.

Violent crime in our country must be stopped. The death penalty is an inhuman, ineffective gesture toward doing so. It may provide some with the illusion of "justice," diverting attention from real solutions to our nation's problems, but it degrades us all as it degrades the person who receives it.

*Paul Atkine is a senior in English and Executive Director of Amnesty International USA at Stanford.*

**Exhibit 11-15**

**Letter to the editor citing an important date  
[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

Oct. 30 was Soviet Political Prisoner Day, a day when Soviet prisoners and dissidents stage vigils and hunger strikes to protest the human rights abuses of the Soviet Union, especially the practice of putting political prisoners in psychiatric hospitals.

The Davis Chapter of Amnesty International has been working on the case of Fyodor Parasenkov, a Ukrainian arrested in 1974 for writing to the government asking for economic reforms. Mr. Parasenkov was sent to a psychiatric hospital and little is known about his condition today.

It is ironic that the reforms he asked for may be the kind of reforms Gorbachev is trying to establish. It might help Mr. Parasenkov if General Secretary Gorbachev received letters asking about his health and requesting that his case be reviewed. His address is:

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev  
SSSR, RSFSR  
103132 Moscow  
Staraya Ploschad, 4.  
Nina Shiskoff  
Michael Burkhardt  
Davis

**Exhibit 11-16**

**Letter to the editor in response to general news coverage  
[Do not write for this prisoner -- he has been released]**

## **Syria's shame**

**THE TIMES TRIBUNE** continues, of course, to give extensive coverage to the problem of the American hostages in Lebanon. And one of the administration's primary solutions to the problem continues to be appeals to Syrian President Hafez Assad, asking for him to use his influence on the kidnappers.

Yet we should not forget that Assad keeps his own prisons well stocked with hundreds of political prisoners guilty of no crime other than nonviolent disagreement with Syrian policies. One of them, Wahid Khadbur, has been adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. Khadbur has been held in the Military Interrogation Center in Damascus without charge and without trial for more than two years. He is only one of tens of thousands of people imprisoned around the world for their nonviolent political, religious or economic beliefs. And the countries holding them span the full spectrum of political ideologies.

We Americans live with many privileges not found in most countries and we usually come to take them for granted. As important as it is for us to demand freedom for our hostages in Lebanon, it is equally important that we work for the most fundamental freedom for prisoners of conscience, the freedom from imprisonment. The power of public opinion is one of the most effective ways of doing this.

With this letter I am asking the Syrian government to immediately release Khadbur and all other prisoners of conscience languishing in its prisons. I strongly urge the readers of the Times Tribune to help in this effort by writing Mme. Bousara Kanafani, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Syria, 2215 Wyoming Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, and asking for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience in Syria.

**Richard Parker**

**PALO ALTO**



**Exhibit 11-17**

**Advertisement**

“Silence is deafening in a world filled with unspeakable suffering and human rights abuses. Silence, under these circumstances, is dangerously close to complicity.”



*John G. Healey, Executive Director AJUSA*



Tortured and imprisoned in Sudan, Doctor Hamoda Fathi Al-Kahman has been adopted by Amnesty International's Portland chapter as a prisoner of conscience. Writing letters is part of our campaign to gain his release. Join us October 11 at 6:45 pm for an Amnesty International 'Open House' at Woodfords Congregational Church or write to us at: AI Group 174, P.O. Box 8703, Portland, Maine 04104

America's international works immediately worldwide to free prisoners of conscience, to improve fair trials, to end political prisoners, and to abolish torture and the death penalty.

Exhibit 11-18

**Full-page advertisement including a response coupon  
[Sample only -- do not write for this prisoner]**

**In 1981, Muhammed Issa al-'Ali  
was arrested by the Syrian Government.**

**He is still in prison.  
He has not had a trial.  
He has not been charged with any crime.**

**And he is probably being tortured.**



**His only "crime" was to believe  
differently than his government.**

Muhammed Issa al-'Ali is a prisoner of conscience. Like thousands of others in Syria, he is imprisoned only because he exercised his fundamental human right to believe as he thought best. Amnesty International works especially for the release of all prisoners of conscience. The Yarmouth Chapter is working for Muhammed Issa al-'Ali.

You can help! Tell the Syrian authorities that they must release Muhammed Issa al-'Ali. Write him at:

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
436 P.O. BOX 364,  
YARMOUTH, ME 04096.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

Public pressure from the outside is often a prisoner of conscience's only chance. Let Syria know that the world is watching their human rights abuses. Please send the message today!

Amnesty International's International Working Committee for Detainees of Conscience urges you to write to your local government officials to let them know that you support the campaign to free Muhammed Issa al-'Ali.

Your coupon could aid the release of a Syrian prisoner of conscience.

**YOUR EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT  
ASSAD, PLEASE REPLY!**

You Enclosed: Amnesty International has prepared a memorial telegram from your government concerning the release of Muhammed Issa al-'Ali. We urge you to release him immediately and without reservation. Please ask your government to urge the Syrian authorities to grant him full freedom from torture, inhuman treatment, and medical care.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose: One envelope, addressed to  
SAC Syria and mail immediately to:  
Mr. Farhat - Vice Chairman  
Tyr Al-Aziz Palace  
Damascus, Syria

**Exhibit 11-19**

**Sample public service announcement**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Contact Tom Gill 758-5758  
or Carole Hinkle 756-1020

START Wednesday, April 10, 1985  
STOP Friday, April 26, 1985

30 SECONDS

Amnesty International will present a week-long series of public events on 'Torture: The Unspeakable Word, the Everyday Act' from April 22nd through 26th in the UC Davis Memorial Union. Speakers at noon and films at 7 PM will focus on the torturers and the tortured, torture as a women's issue, and the historical, psychological, political and legal aspects of torture. All events will be held at MU. 2, except for Tuesday and Thursday in the Mee Room. For more information, call 756-1020 or 758-5758.

## Exhibit 12-1

## Arts article

4 Friday, February 5, 1988

**ARTS****Amnesty International exhibit showcases local artists**

By Alex Johnson

This Sunday's "Artists for Amnesty" show at Mansion Square will feature the work of more than 100 important California artists. Over 30 of California's most prominent artists will be featured, along with 60 up-and-coming local artists.



"This is a guts show," said John Natoulias, director of the show. He is a strong spokesman for Amnesty International, and speaks of the show with characteristic intensity — he refers both to the passion of the artists involved and the courage of the prisoners the exhibit's proceeds will aid. Natoulias hopes to raise at least \$2,000

from the exhibit. Natoulias' interest in Amnesty International began in August, 1982 when he saw first-hand a military coup in Kenya, in which people were buried in a common grave ditch. "Before Kenya, I didn't give a damn," Natoulias said. The experience changed his life. "I saw people die right in front of me."

The idea for Artists for Amnesty came to John Natoulias on New Year's Eve, 1986. He couldn't stop thinking about the plight of Mohamed El-Mesrioui, a Moroccan student imprisoned for participating in a peaceful street demonstration.

While others fussed, Natoulias coined the phrase "Artists for Amnesty," passing it on to others. The new year saw the inception of the Natoulias/Novelozzo Gallery, created around the first benefit show for Amnesty International.

This year's artistic output is more than double that of last year. Natoulias said that the response to the show was incredible. "Even after we printed the flyer, we had more than 50 responses, artists who really wanted to do the show," he said.

The magnetic force of the human-rights organization attracted interest in the exhibit from as far away as New York.

Founded in 1961, Amnesty International has worked on behalf of more than 25,000 "prisoners of conscience" worldwide. It seeks effective techniques to aid individuals whose rights have been violated.

These include long-term adoption of prisoners of conscience, meetings with government officials, publicizing patterns of human rights abuse, and in extreme cases, where torture or death are possible, sending telegrams indicating international concern.

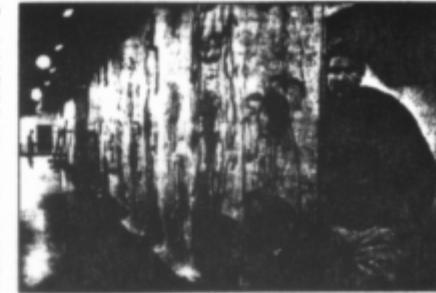
Currently, Amnesty's Davis chapter is working on behalf of El-Mesrioui and Soviet dissident Fyodor Parasenkov.

The artwork featured in the show will not concentrate exclusively on political oppression; the idea is instead to represent some of the finest pieces being produced today in California.

The connection between art and Amnesty is already clear, as Amnesty has aided thousands of artists in dozens of nations who have been imprisoned, tortured or executed because of the "politically sensitive" nature of their work.

The screening process involved finding artists who are obsessive about their craft. Response to the subject of the exhibit followed naturally. Jeff Russell, one of the artists to be featured, spoke of the correlation between the subjection of prisoners and the treatment of the artist in society.

Because of their unconventional lifestyles and their passionate devotion to craft as opposed to economic benefits, he said, "artists have always been oppressed by their society."



Tony Novakoski staff photo

Adrian Frost, visiting professor and artist (standing near students' work), is only one of the more than 100 artists displaying their work at this Sunday's "Artists for Amnesty" show.

yles. The bands will be the Bill Schoier Blues Band, Dave Webb and the Inventions, Bares Brothers and Rio Thing.

"Artists for Amnesty" happens Sunday, Feb. 7 from 3 p.m. until midnight at Mansion Square, on the corner of Second and E streets in Davis. Tickets are \$2.50, and are available at Cafe Roma, Barney's Records and the Natoulias-Novelozzo Gallery in Davis, as well as at the door.

Sep was the leader of the Jazz Section in Czechoslovakia, a culture organization that works to promote freedom of artistic expression in that country.

Sunday's show will be a multi-media event, as four bands will be

providing music in a variety of

styling.

Adrian Frost, visiting professor and artist (standing near students' work), is only one of the more than 100 artists displaying their work at this Sunday's "Artists for Amnesty" show.

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"Artists for Amnesty" is sponsored and curated by the Natoulias-Novelozzo Gallery. For more information, please contact John Natoulias at (916) 756-3839.

Application # \_\_\_\_\_

Application # \_\_\_\_\_

Date received \_\_\_\_\_

## **AIUSA IVAN MORRIS FUND APPLICATION**

**Instruction:** Before applying, please read the pamphlet AI Relief Policies and Procedures for Adoption Groups (included in the action file package) and consult with the relevant coordination group.

When applying, please type. Answer all questions as fully as possible. Append a copy of the action file cover sheet and send the entire application to: The Ivan Morris Fund, AIUSA 322 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001, Attn.: Barbara Sproul, Relief Officer. Do not enclose matching money. When your application is approved, the fund will send you a check and it is your job to send the relief on to the prisoner and/or his/her family.

Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Group Number:\_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader:\_\_\_\_\_

Address and phone of Group Leader:\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Prisoner\_\_\_\_\_

Prisoner's Country and Occupation:\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Case: Adoption:\_\_\_\_\_ Aftercare:\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Release:\_\_\_\_\_

Disappearance:\_\_\_\_\_ Extra-judicial execution:\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Request:\_\_\_\_\_ Who will be the recipient?:\_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of relief requested: Legal\_\_\_\_\_ Medical:\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Sustenance\_\_\_\_\_

Other\_\_\_\_\_

Are you already in contact with the prisoner or his or her family? How do you know the relief is needed? Why do you expect that relief you send will get through?

Are you presently sending relief in this case? If so describe your current relief program (how much, how often, by what means, in what form)? If not, describe the proposed relief program. Will you use an intermediary?

Are other AI groups in this country or abroad working on this case? If so, what arrangements have you made to coordinate your relief effort with theirs?

Application # \_\_\_\_\_

Have you the approval of your country coordination group in connection with this relief effort? What specific comments (if any) does the coordination group have in this case?

Have you raised matching funds already? If so, how? If not, how do you plan to? How much money do you have in your group treasury? Is this money committed to other projects? (If you do not have the financial resources to match this Ivan Morris grant, please explain.)

If approved, will this grant from the Ivan Morris Fund, together with other money your group is sending (plus any relief money sent by other adoption groups working on this case), be sufficient for the relief needs of your prisoner and/or his or her family? If not, please describe those needs more fully.

If/when your application is approved, to whom in your group should the check be sent? Unless otherwise specifically indicated, the check will be made out to the group. If you have relevant instructions here, please include them.

*If this is an emergency application OR if you don't receive a reply to this application within three weeks, call the Relief Officer, Barbara Sproul, at (212)535 0762 to make sure the application was received Also phone (or write) if you have any questions or need help in filling out this application.*

Quark\Ivan Morris & form

**AIUSA SPECIAL RELIEF PROGRAM APPLICATION**

**Instructions:** Please type. Answer all questions fully. Use additional paper if necessary and attach any supporting materials which seem useful. Obtain required approvals from the International Relief Committee (care of Maggie Maloney at the International Secretariat) **before** submitting this application. Mail the completed application including supporting documents to Barbara Sproul, AIUSA Relief Officer, 142 East 71st Street, New York, New York, 10021. If you need assistance or have any questions, phone Barbara directly at 212-535-0762 or call other members of the AIUSA Relief Committee: Daphne Chapin, 617-876-3442, or Ramon Hodel, 212-934-2122. If you have an **emergency** request, call immediately.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Co-Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve.) \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED RELIEF PROJECT**

'Title' of Relief Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Over-all Description of Relief Project: (In your own words, describe the nature, scope, purpose and people involved in the relief project which you propose AIUSA support):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Should the money be sent all at once or in increments? \_\_\_\_\_

If in increments, how large and when? \_\_\_\_\_

In what form will relief be sent (Check, goods, money order, etc.?) \_\_\_\_\_

To whom will relief be sent? \_\_\_\_\_

By what means will relief be sent? (Use of intermediaries, if any, should be fully described.)

---

---

Can report of the money's use be obtained from recipient (How? When?)

---

---

Is/was the beneficiary taken up formally as a case by AI? Yes or no, give details, including information on which section(s) were/are involved.

---

---

Describe your contacts with relevant AI sections (if any) with regard to this project:

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### **APPROVALS**

Applications must have the approval of the relevant International Secretariat Research Team and of AI's International Relief Committee. Obtain those approvals by writing to the relevant research department and to the International Relief Committee, care of Maggie Maloney. Both may be reached at Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, England. Append the letters of approval to this application. If, in an emergency, there is no time for written or FAX approvals, describe the details of the approvals you verbally obtained.

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**Exhibit 13-1**

**Sample press release**



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL  
USA**

Group 21

433 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616

**NEWS RELEASE**

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EMBARGO FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1985

Contact: Tom Gill 758-5758  
or Peggy Sabatier 756-4859

**LOCALS HELP FREE AFRICAN PRISONER**

AI group meets Thursday nights

The local chapter of Amnesty International (AI), has announced that a political prisoner it has been aiding, Ousmane Ismael Kindo of Burkina Faso in western Africa has been released

Peggy Sabatier, coordinator of the group's campaign to free Kindo, said "we've been able to confirm that he was released from detention after more than a year of incarceration." Kindo, the Deputy Secretary General of the National Union of African Teachers of Upper Volta (Burkina Faso) was arrested on March 9 1984 along with several other labor leaders. They were apparently imprisoned in the Koudougou military prison in retaliation for the union's criticism of President Thomas Sankara, who took power in a military coup in August, 1983. Because Kindo was apparently imprisoned for the nonviolent expression of his opinions, an action contrary to international law, AI took up his case earlier this year.

Sabatier, a former lecturer in African history at UC Davis, coordinated the local group's work on behalf of Kindo and maintained contact with groups in Spain and Sweden who had also joined the AI

--more--

(next page)

campaign for Kindo's release. First word of the prisoner's liberation came from Representative Vic Fazio (D-West Sacramento), who had repeatedly contacted the American Embassy in the Burkinabe capital Ouagadougou and made inquiries about Kindo for the AI group.

Landlocked Burkina Faso, just south of the Sahara Desert, is one of the most underdeveloped nations in the world. Independent since 1969, its government has seen several abrupt changes in leadership. The most recent occurred in 1983 when Sandara, a former paratroop captain, took power from another military government and changed the former French colony's name from Upper Volta to Burkina Faso. Labor unions such as Kindo's have often been important critics of Burkinabe regimes, often leading to the arrest of union leaders such as Kindo.

The Davis chapter of AI is also coordinating the campaign for Fyodor Parasenko, a political prisoner in the USSR, and has worked on behalf of hundreds of prisoners of conscience worldwide. AI is an apolitical, independent human rights movement which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. More information and a celebration of Kindo's release will be presented at the local group's next meeting, Thursday night at 8 at the C.A. House, 433 Russell Boulevard. Davis residents interested in joining Amnesty International are welcome to attend tomorrow's meeting: for more information,

EMBARGO FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1985

call group coordinator Tom Gill at 758-5758.

-30-

## Exhibit 13-2

### News article citing the assistance of a Representative

# Amnesty chapter helps free Turkish political prisoner

By FRANK SLEEPER  
Staff Writer

The Bath-Brunswick chapter of Amnesty International has received word that one of the political prisoners it has "adopted" has been released.

Husnu Akkus of Turkey has been reunited with his family, but is expected to have difficulty finding a job because his ID card is marked "political prisoner," the group says.

It also reports that Gov. John R. McKernan appealed in Akkus' behalf, writing directly to President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey.

The newsletter says U. S. Rep.

Joseph E. Brennan brought Akkus' plight to the attention of Secretary of State George Shultz, that U. S. Rep. Olympia Snowe notified the State Department and that U. S. Sen. William S. Cohen contacted Turkish and U. S. officials about Akkus.

Cohen told members of Amnesty International that when a member of his staff traveled to Turkey recently with a Congressional staff delegation "the matter of the human rights situation in Turkey was invariably among the subjects of discussion and debate."

Reza Jalali of Maine's Amnesty International says the group is car-

rying on a "Turkey Campaign" this month. The campaign seeks changes in the Turkish penal code to eliminate the sections allowing detention of prisoners of conscience and changes in trial procedures to assure all political prisoners receive trials meeting internationally accepted standards of fairness. It also wishes to persuade Turkey to end all torture and abolish the death penalty.

Akkus was arrested July 1, 1985, in Ankara, the Turkish capital. His charge was membership in an illegal organization, the Socialist Worker's Party.

He was tortured during his

police interrogation. Released after his trial, Akkus was re-arrested in 1987 after the failure of his appeal.

Akkus was sentenced to five years imprisonment and held in the maximum security prison in Aydin, south of Izmir.

Amnesty International said there seemed to be no evidence that Akkus ever advocated or committed violence. The organization therefore considered him a prisoner of conscience.

Amnesty International is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning human rights group. In three years, Maine chapters have increased from four to 16 groups, according to Jalali.

### Exhibit 13-3

News article citing a "disappeared" prisoner

## 2 'Amnesty' prisoners are released

Two prisoners of conscience — one in Syria and one in the Soviet Union — who had been the focus of letter-writing campaigns by Amnesty International's local Chapter 39 have been released, according to the group.

The two are:

- Sa'id Nino, 65, one of 23 attorneys arrested in Syria in 1980 for joining in a strike to protest the imposition of martial law and human rights violations in Syria.

- Sergei Belov, 50, a Soviet attorney imprisoned in a Volgograd psychiatric hospital since 1982 for attempting to publish writings critical of the Soviet Union and for offering legal services to Soviet prisoners of conscience.

Hundreds of area persons joined in writing letters of protest to officials in Syria and the Soviet Union on behalf of Nino and Belov, according to an Amnesty spokeswoman.

Local Amnesty officials told of the releases at a meeting Monday night at the Lutheran Service Center in Oakland. Amnesty workers learned of the Belov release through a story in last Sunday's *New York Times* detailing the release of 42 dissidents in the Soviet Union.

"It's always a happy occasion when one of our prisoners is released — particularly in the case of Sa'id for whom the group has worked for six years under three consecutive case coordinators," according to Neal Galpern, Group 39's coordinator. Members have been working for Belov's release for four years.

In their efforts for Sa'id, in addition to writing more than 1,000 letters to Syrian President Assad and other officials, Amnesty members visited the Syrian embassy in Washington. Members of the Allegheny County Bar

Association also wrote letters petitioning for Sa'id's release.

Amnesty members and supporters also have seen 11 other prisoners released in the group's 10-year history. Currently the chapter is focusing on a prisoner of conscience in Guatemala, Jorge Rosal Paz, who "disappeared" in 1983. This case recently was the topic for a "Nightline" segment on ABC-TV.

Group 39 and the two-year-old South Hills Group 345 are among the 300 U.S. chapters and 3,600 Amnesty groups worldwide working for the release of prisoners of conscience and the abolishment of torture. The two local groups number 100 members plus some 2,000 area residents who are national members of Amnesty International.

Amnesty won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its work to free prisoners of conscience.

#### Exhibit 13-4

#### Letter to the editor in response to an article

### Human rights successes

To the editor:

On behalf of the Bath-Brunswick Amnesty International group (Group 169), I would like to thank you for your Nov. 4 article announcing the release of our "adopted" prisoner of conscience, Mukutetta Mosissa, who was tortured and held without charge or trial in an Ethiopian prison for over 10 years. Our group is presently attempting to make contact with him, and we hope to be able to contribute to the medical attention he requires as a result of his imprisonment.

Our group's other adopted prisoner, Nijazi Begic, of Yugoslavia, was also released this year after 11 years in prison for distributing leaflets. We are delighted at this double dose of good news after many years of working on behalf of our prisoners with no signs of hope at all.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform your readers of two new cases Group 169 has recently taken on. The first is a somber effort to obtain information from the Mauritanian government about the apparent death in detention of a soldier named Diou Abou Samba, probably as the result of torture. The Mauritanian government has had an appalling record in recent months of abuses against members of minority ethnic groups like the one to which Mr. Diou belonged.

Group 169's second new case involves 10 Syrian women who have been unprisoned since 1987 or 1988, either because of their own entirely peaceful political activities, or simply because of their relationship to someone else being sought by the authorities. They are being held without charge or trial, and several may have been tortured. We are advocating their immediate release.

We have been grateful for the commitment some local women's groups have made to work for the release of these women and would welcome the participation of any Brunswick organizations or individuals interested in helping these women secure their freedom. Contact Amnesty International Group 169 at P.O. Box 203, Bath 04530.

Emily F. Swan  
Co-Coordinator, AI Group 169  
Brunswick

## Exhibit 13-5

News article published the day after a release

# Times Tribune

Thursday, May 18, 1989

## Peninsula students heartened by release of Czech dissident Wolf

By Mike McDevitt  
Times Tribune staff

Peninsula students today are celebrating the release from prison of Czechoslovakian writer, prisoner, Vratislav Wolf, whose cause they have championed for the past two years.

Wolf is a writer whose eloquent appeals for human rights angered Czechoslovakian government officials.

In the past two years, students from several high schools and middle schools in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties have worked for his release, said Renzo Margolis, the Peninsula membership coordinator for Amnesty International.

With Wolf's release from prison Wednesday, the students are ready to relight the candle of hope for other human rights victims, she said.

**Students send petitions and letters to Czech**

officials and held demonstrations, mock trials and benefit concerts in Wolf's honor. Local college students also participated in the effort to free Wolf.

Wolf, a leader of the Justiste Charter 77 human rights movement, spent six years in prison.

Banned playwright Vaclav Havel, a symbol of dissent in Czechoslovakia, was also paroled for good behavior Wednesday midway through an eight-month jail sentence.

"I was surprised and also very happy that our group and other groups in the Bay Area could affect a life half way around the world," said Lucia Zivinov, 17, the Amnesty International coordinator at Los Altos High School.

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the release of all prisoners of conscience,狼 and

Please see WOLF B on A-12

## WOLF

Continued from A-1

political prisoners, torture,酷刑, prison abuse and arbitrary arrests and executions.

As the Vratislav Wolf International just concluded its three years, Renzo Margolis, 16, has helped to bring the release of 200 to 300 prisoners. Wolf was different, she said.

Of all the prisoners I've worked for, he's the one I feel closest to, she said. Another prisoner of conscience had his term extended for doing exactly what Wolf had done — write about his prison experience and smuggle the writing out to be published around the world, she said.

The Czech government did learn about student events in the Peninsula as they occurred, Margolis said.

Students here sent to Czech officials a petition of 13,000 names urging Wolf's release.

Students will never know for sure if their vigilance actually had an impact on Czech officials, but Wolf's release from prison is also a release for students who have worked without his help.

There is so much that Amnesty

International can do to continue to advocate for justice, Margolis said.

While working on another case, I tried to gather a family to tell them that Petr Cejsar had been executed, she recalled.

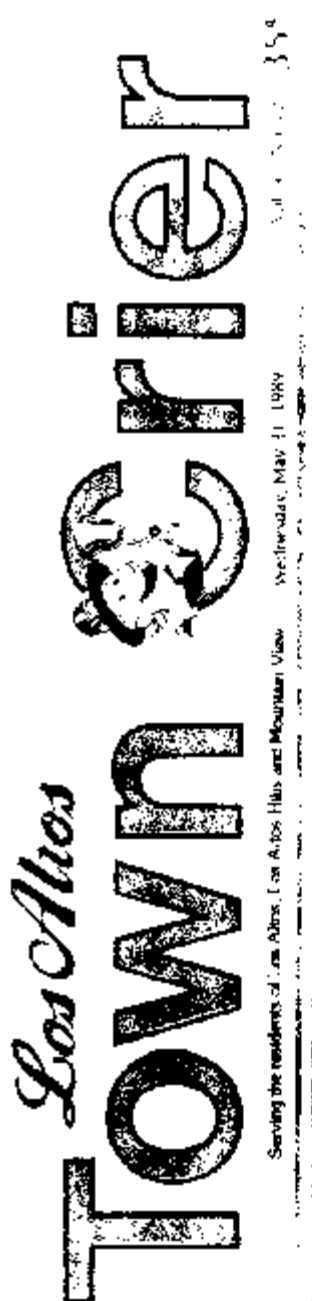
But, in response to the news of Wolf's freedom, "People are laughing and they are crying they're so happy," Margolis said.

Margolis had urged students to sing "The Day Will Come" to help fulfill even though Wolf's release was headline.

"For one day we expect him to be released," she said. Another prisoner of conscience had his term extended for doing exactly what Wolf had done — write about his prison experience and smuggle the writing out to be published around the world, she said.

Karen Reiniers, 16, a Gunn High School senior, has been working on the Wolf case for two years. There will be more uses of human rights education than she will need to follow as an Amnesty International member. But with the general news from Czechoslovakia, her next move is easy.

The next step is a party, she said. We are going to have a big party to celebrate his release.

**Exhibit 13-6****News article virtually unchanged from an AI press release**

World students celebrate  
release of Jan. Wolf

Students at Los Angeles State College and several other local schools recently celebrated the release from Czechoslovakia of a former political prisoner, Jan Wolf.

Wolf, a human rights activist who was adopted by the Amnesty International student chapters at all three schools,

Wolf is a member of the anti-Nazi Czech human rights organization Charter '77, which monitors Czechoslovakian adherence to the 1975 Helsinki accord. Radka, a member of Charter '77, was held in London prison last Wednesday with Wolf, who was in the U.S. When last Wolf was originally released with his savings of \$7,000 and stipends for his health and legal expenses, he had more than \$20,000.

During the last 10 months, that sum has risen to \$40,000, many students of Amnesty International have worked on Wolf's behalf; they have collected more than 10,000 signatures in support of his release and have sent them to the Embassy of Czechoslovakia via fax and cable.

"The students' efforts have been instrumental in my appearance before Czechoslovak government from Congressman Tom Campbell, Tom Lantos, Norm Mineta and former Congressman Henry Gonzalez.

In a statement from Washington, Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Stanford, said, "I was pleased to hear of Mr. Jan Wolf's release from prison. It is particularly encouraging that the tireless efforts of Amnesty International, particularly their writing campaign, and the urgent plea of Members of Congress, can really make a difference in the lives of oppressed people. I am so very grateful for the precious efforts we so easily take for granted."

Wolf was imprisoned from 1976 to 1981 for the possession of human rights documents. In 1983, he was sentenced to 10 years for allegedly sending to the Austrian Embassy in Prague a statement detailing the physical and psychological abuse he had suffered during his year in labor camps.

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working primarily for the release of all prisoners of conscience, for an end to torture and political prisoners and an end to war crimes and executions. It is funded by contributions from its members and supporters throughout the world.

Exhibit 13-7

Sample thank you letter



October 6, 1987

Dear Group 169:

As you know, we in Group 174 have unexpected and wonderful news to report: On September 17th we received notice that IVAN ABRAMOVICH SHABURA, our group's adopted prisoner of conscience for the past 6 years, has been confirmed released from his term of exile in the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan. We believe he was released from the remaining 4 years of his sentence under the terms of a June 1987 amnesty declared in the USSR to mark the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution.

I'd like to express Group 174's warm thanks for all your support and assistance over the past six years during the Pentecostalist bishop's imprisonment in seeking information on him and calling for his immediate and unconditional release. Your efforts were very much appreciated by our group as we tried to be a constant reminder to Soviet officials of the plight of Bishop Shabura.

On July 17, 1987, when Group 174 planted a flowering crabapple tree on the Western Prom in Portland, recognizing the 6th anniversary of the Bishop's sentencing, we had no idea that his freedom would be granted so quickly. We hope that the tree will now serve as an enduring symbol to ourselves and our communities of the many remaining prisoners of conscience around the world until that time when human rights are respected universally.

Thank you again for all you have done for IVAN ABRAMOVICH SHABURA since 1981. It is truly a good feeling to know our efforts were not in vain.

On behalf of Group 174,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "Melissa".

Melissa J. Payson  
Shabura Case Coordinator

Amnesty International is a non-governmental human rights organization which works independently for the release of prisoners of conscience and issues detailed reports for their families, agents, other organizations, or governments providing them with information and advice on how to assist. Amnesty International opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases - political, religious and ideological. It has 3 million members and supporters in over 130 countries and territories. It has comparative status with the United Nations (UNESCO, UNesco, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights) of the Organization of the American States and has consultative status with the Organization of African Unity (Organization for the Development and Solidarity of African Refugees). Amnesty International was the recipient of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Peace.

# Statute of Amnesty International

*As amended by the 23nd International Council Meeting,  
Cape Town, South Africa,  
12 -19 December 1997*

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## OBJECT AND MANDATE

**1. The object of *Amnesty International* to contribute to the observance throughout the world of human rights as set out in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).**

**In pursuance of this object, and recognizing the obligation on each person to extend to others rights and freedoms equal to his or her own, *Amnesty International* adopts as its mandate:**

To promote awareness of and adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognized human rights instruments, the values enshrined in them, and the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and freedoms;

To oppose grave violations of the rights of every person freely to hold and to express his or her convictions and to be free from discrimination and of the right of every person to physical and mental integrity, and, in particular, to oppose by all appropriate means irrespective of political considerations:

**a)** the imprisonment, detention or other physical restrictions imposed on any person by reason of his or her political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs or by reason of his or her ethnic origin, sex, colour, language, national or social origin, economic status, birth or other status, provided that he or she has not used or advocated violence (hereinafter referred to as 'prisoners of conscience') *Amnesty International* shall work towards the release of and shall provide assistance to prisoners of conscience);

**b)** the detention of any political prisoner without fair trial within a reasonable time or any trial procedures relating to such prisoners that do not conform to internationally recognized norms;

**c)** the death penalty, and the torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons, whether or not the persons affected have used or advocated violence;

**d)** the extrajudicial execution of persons whether or not imprisoned, detained or

restricted, and "Disappearances", whether or not the persons affected have used or advocated violence.

**2 In order to achieve the aforesaid object and mandate, *Amnesty International* shall:**

- a)** at all times make clear its impartiality as regards countries adhering to the different world political ideologies and groupings;
- b)** promote as appears appropriate the adoption of constitutions, conventions, treaties and other measures which guarantee the rights contained in the provisions referred to in Article 1 hereof;
- c)** support and publicize the activities of and cooperate with international organizations and agencies which work for the implementation of the aforesaid provisions;
- d)** take all necessary steps to establish an effective organization of sections, affiliated groups and individual members;
- e)** secure the adoption by groups of members or supporters of individual prisoners of conscience or entrust to such groups other tasks in support of the object and mandate set out in Article 1;
- f)** provide financial and other relief to prisoners of conscience and their dependants and to persons who have lately been prisoners of conscience or who might reasonably be expected to be prisoners of conscience or to become prisoners of conscience if convicted or if they were to return to their own countries, to the dependants of such persons and to victims of torture in need of medical care as a direct result thereof;
- g)** provide legal aid, where necessary and possible, to prisoners of conscience and to persons who might reasonably be expected to be prisoners of conscience or to become prisoners of conscience if convicted or if they were to return to their own countries, and, where desirable, send observers to attend the trials of such persons;
- h)** publicize the cases of prisoners of conscience or persons who have otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;
- i)** investigate and publicize the disappearance of persons where there is reason to believe that they may be victims of violations of the rights set out in Article 1 hereof;
- j)** oppose the sending of persons from one country to another where they can reasonably be expected to become prisoners of conscience or to face torture or the death penalty;
- k)** send investigators, where appropriate, to investigate allegations that the rights of individuals under the aforesaid provisions have been violated or threatened;
- l)** make representations to international organizations and to governments whenever it appears that an individual is a prisoner of conscience or has otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;
- m)** promote and support the granting of general amnesties of which the beneficiaries will include prisoners of conscience;
- n)** adopt any other appropriate methods for the securing of its object and mandate.

- 3 *Amnesty International* is an organization based on worldwide voluntary

# ORGANIZATION

membership and it shall consist of sections, affiliated groups and individual members.

- 4 The directive authority for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* is vested in the International Council.
- 5. Between meetings of the International Council, the International Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
- 6. The day-to-day affairs of *Amnesty International* shall be conducted by the International Secretariat headed by a Secretary General under the direction of the International Executive Committee.
- 7. The office of the International Secretariat shall be in London or such other place as the International Executive Committee shall decide and which is ratified by at least one half of the sections.
- 8. Responsibility for *Amnesty International* work on violations of human rights in any country or territory, including the collection and evaluation of information, and the sending of delegations, lies with the international governing bodies of the organization, and not with the section, groups or members in the country or territory concerned.

## Sections

- 9. A section of *Amnesty International* may be established in any country, state, territory or region with the consent of the International Executive Committee. In order to be recognized as such, a section shall (a) prior to its recognition have demonstrated its ability to organize and maintain basic *Amnesty International* activities, (b) consist of not less than two groups and 20 members, (c) submit its statute to the International Executive Committee for approval, (d) pay such annual fee as may be determined by the International Council, (e) be registered as such with the International Secretariat on the decision of the International Executive Committee.

Sections shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated object and mandate of *Amnesty International*. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of sections. Sections shall act in accordance with the working rules and guidelines that are adopted from time to time by the International Council.

- 10. Groups of not less than five members may, on payment of an annual fee determined by the International Council, become affiliated to *Amnesty International* or a section thereof. Any dispute as to whether a group should be or remain affiliated shall be decided by the International Executive Committee. An affiliated adoption group shall accept for adoption such prisoners as may from time to time be allotted to it by the International Secretariat, and shall adopt no others as long as it remains affiliated to *Amnesty International*. No group shall be allotted a prisoner of conscience detained in its own country. Each section shall maintain and make available to the International Secretariat a register of affiliated *Amnesty International* groups. Groups in a country, state, territory or region without a section shall be registered with the International Secretariat. Groups shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated object and mandate of *Amnesty International*. Groups shall act in accordance with the working rules and guidelines that are adopted from time to time by the International Council.

## Individual membership

- 11. Individuals residing in countries, states, territories or regions where there is no section may, on payment to the International Secretariat of an annual subscription fee determined by the International Executive Committee, become members of *Amnesty International* with the consent of

the International Executive Committee. In countries, states, territories or regions where a section exists, individuals may become international members of *Amnesty International* with the consent of the section and of the International Executive Committee. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of such members.

## **International Council**

- 12.The International Council shall consist of the members of the International Executive Committee and of representatives of sections and shall meet at intervals of not more than two years on a date fixed by the International Executive Committee. Only representatives of sections shall have the right to vote at the International Council.
- 13.All sections shall have the right to appoint one representative to the International Council and in addition may appoint representatives as follows:

10-49 groups:1 representative

50-99 groups:2 representatives

100-199 groups:3 representatives

200-399 groups:4 representatives

400 groups and over:5 representatives

Sections consisting primarily of individual members rather than groups may as an alternative appoint additional representatives as follows:

500 - 2,499 members: 1 representative

2,500 members and over:2 representatives

Only sections having paid in full their annual fee as assessed by the International Council for the two previous financial years shall vote at the International Council. This requirement may be waived in whole or in part by the International Council.

- 14.One representative of each group not forming part of a section may attend a meeting of the International Council as an observer and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.
- 15.A section unable to participate at an International Council may appoint a proxy or proxies to vote on its behalf and a section represented by a lesser number of persons than its entitlement under Article 13 hereof may authorize its representative or representatives to cast votes up to its maximum entitlement under Article 13 hereof.
- 16.Notice of the number of representatives proposing to attend an International Council, and of the appointment of proxies, shall be given to the International Secretariat not later than one month before the meeting of the International Council. This requirement may be waived by the International Executive Committee.
- 17.A quorum shall consist of the representatives or proxies of not less than one quarter of the sections entitled to be represented.
- 18.The Chairperson of the International Council and an alternate shall be elected by the preceding International Council. The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the alternate, shall preside at the International Council. In the absence of the Chairperson and the alternate, the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee or such other person as the International Executive Committee may appoint shall open the proceedings of the International Council which shall elect a Chairperson. Thereafter the elected Chairperson, or such other person as the Chairperson may appoint, shall

- preside at the International Council.
- 19.Except as otherwise provided in the Statute, the International Council shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast. In case of an equality of votes the Chairperson of the International Council shall have a casting vote.
  - 20.The International Council shall be convened by the International Secretariat by notice to all sections and affiliated groups not later than 90 days before the date thereof.
  - 21.The Chairperson of the International Executive Committee shall at the request of the Committee or of not less than one third of the sections call an extraordinary meeting of the International Council by giving not less than 21 days' notice in writing to all sections.
  - 22.The International Council shall elect a Treasurer, who shall be a member of the International Executive Committee.
  - 23.The agenda for the meetings of the International Council shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee.

### **International Executive Committee**

- 24.a) The International Executive Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, one representative of the staff of the International Secretariat and seven regular members, who shall be members of *Amnesty International* , or of a section, or of an affiliated group. The regular members and Treasurer shall be elected by the International Council. Not more than one member of any section or affiliated group or member of *Amnesty International* voluntarily resident in a country, state, territory or region may be elected as a regular member to the Committee, and once such member has received sufficient votes to be elected, any votes cast for other members of that section, affiliated group or country shall be disregarded.
- b) Members of the permanent staff, paid and unpaid, shall have the right to elect one representative among the staff who has completed not less than two years' service to be a voting member of the International Executive Committee. Such member shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. The method of voting shall be subject to approval by the International Executive Committee on the proposal of the staff members.
- 25.The International Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a year at a place to be decided by itself.
- 26.Members of the International Executive Committee, other than the representative of the staff, shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum tenure of three consecutive terms.
- 27.The Committee may co-opt not more than two additional members who shall hold office until the close of the next meeting of the International Council; they shall be eligible to be re-co-opted once. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote.
- 28.In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee, other than in respect of the representative of the staff, it may co-opt a further member to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the International Council, which shall elect such members as are necessary to replace retiring members and to fill the vacancy. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee in respect of the representative of the staff, the staff shall have the right to elect a successor representative to fill the unexpired term of office.
- 29.If a member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting, such member may appoint an alternate.
- 30.The Committee shall each year appoint one of its members to act as Chairperson.
- 31.The Chairperson may, and at the request of the majority of the

- Committee shall, summon meetings of the Committee.
- 32.A quorum shall consist of not fewer than five members of the Committee or their alternates.
  - 33.The agenda for meetings of the Committee shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairperson.
  - 34.The Committee may make regulations for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* and for the procedure to be followed at the International Council.

### **International Secretariat**

- 35.The International Executive Committee may appoint a Secretary General who shall be responsible under its direction for the conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
- 36.The Secretary General may appoint senior executive staff in close cooperation with the International Executive Committee, and may appoint all other staff as are necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of *Amnesty International* .
- 37.In the case of the absence or illness of the Secretary General, or of a vacancy in the post of Secretary General, the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee shall, after consultation with the members of that Committee, appoint an Acting Secretary General to act until the next meeting of the Committee.
- 38.The Secretary General or Acting Secretary General and such members of the International Secretariat as may appear to the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee to be necessary shall attend meetings of the International Council and of the International Executive Committee and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.

### **Termination of membership**

- 39.Membership of or affiliation to *Amnesty International* may be terminated at any time by resignation in writing.
- 40.The International Executive Committee may deprive a section, affiliated group (Article 10) or a member (Article 11) of membership of *Amnesty International* if in its opinion that section, affiliated group or member does not act within the spirit of the object, mandate and methods set out in Articles 1 and 2 or does not organize and maintain basic *Amnesty International* activities or does not observe any of the provisions of this Statute. Before taking such action, the section, affiliated group or member and, when the deprivation of membership of a section is considered, all other sections will be informed in writing of the grounds on which it is proposed to deprive it or such person of membership, and such section, affiliated group or member shall be provided with an opportunity of presenting its or such member's case to the International Executive Committee. Once the International Executive Committee has decided to take such action in respect of a section, affiliated group or member, the section, affiliated group or member may appeal to the Membership Appeals Committee. This committee shall consist of five members and two alternate members who shall be elected by the International Council in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as provided for in Article 24 a) for the International Executive Committee. Once deprived of membership, a section, affiliated group or member may no longer use the name of *Amnesty International*

### **Finance**

- 41.An auditor appointed by the International Council shall annually audit the accounts of *Amnesty International* which shall be prepared by the International Secretariat and presented to the International Executive Committee and the International Council.
- 42.No part of the income or property of *Amnesty International* shall directly or indirectly be paid or transferred otherwise than for valuable and sufficient consideration to any of its members by way of dividend, gift, division, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit.

### **Amendments of Statute**

- 43.The Statute may be amended by the International Council by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes cast. Amendments may be submitted by the International Executive Committee or by a section. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the International Secretariat not less than nine months before the International Council meets, and presentation to the International Council shall be supported in writing by at least five sections. Proposed amendments shall be communicated by the International Secretariat to all sections and to members of the International Executive Committee.

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AI Index: POL 20/01/95 Amnesty International Publications, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom .

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## Appendix XII

# Annual Action File Report

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**Every year, each action file coordinator is asked to complete an annual action file report. Such reports help AI learn which actions are effective and may identify ways that AIUSA may assist groups better in the future. Reviewing this report may prompt you to try new types of actions.**

**The following blank report shows you what information you will be asked to provide at the end of each year. More blank space for comments appears on the actual report form than in this appendix.**

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### **1997 ANNUAL ACTION FILE REPORT**

\*\* This report is to be completed by all AI groups that worked on an Action File during 1997. The term "Action File" refers to both Action Files and Amnesty's older "case sheet" dossiers.

\*\* Complete a separate report for each Action File worked on, and keep a copy for your records.

\*\* This form can also be completed on-line at AIUSA's website:  
[<www.amnesty-usa.org/members/afreport.html>](http://www.amnesty-usa.org/members/afreport.html)  
(username: amnesty      password: viaduct)

\*\* Please return the completed report by December 15, 1997 to:  
[<aiccasework@amnesty-usa.org>](mailto:aiccasework@amnesty-usa.org) (via email)  
or to:  
Andrea Solomon  
National Casework Office  
Amnesty International USA  
131 Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 220  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
telephone: 404-876-5661

**WHY IS THIS REPORT SO IMPORTANT?**

Action File work is carried out through a partnership of group members, volunteer leaders, section staff, and researchers at AI's headquarters in London. Sharing information, advice, and support is the key to this partnership working well.

We've tried to make this report easy to complete. Don't be intimidated by the range of questions; not all actions are applicable to all cases. It's OK if your group made significant progress this past year in only a few areas.

Your report will be read carefully by your Country Coordinator and staff. This is an opportunity to share your ideas and suggestions, and to let us know where you may need more or different kinds of support. Country Coordinators include this information in a summary report that they send to London, and AI researchers complete the reporting cycle by reviewing the various reports and issuing annual Feed-Back bulletins to groups. These bulletins contain information on developments in the target country, on actions by groups around the world, and recommendations for future work.

**1. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Group Number or School:

Location (City, State):

Action File Coordinator's Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Phone: (day) (eve)

E-mail address:

a. Country of Action File:

b. Individual(s) named in Action File/case:

c. Action File Reference No. (if applicable):

**2. STRATEGY and GOALS**

a. Who did the planning for work on the case?

case team     case coordinator     entire group

b. Did you attain any of the goals you set for 1997?

Yes     No    Please describe:

c. Did you try to make use of any political, economic or cultural links (sports, religion, military, trade, entertainment, etc.) between the U.S. and the target country? For example: contacting U.S. companies that operate in the target country.

Yes     No    If so, please describe:

**3. ACTION** (attach additional pages as needed)

a. What were the most successful actions your group undertook in 1997 for your Action File? How were they successful?

b. Did your group try to organize any actions which did not work well? What were the problems?

c. Did you conduct any publicity activities, such as letters-to-the-editor, news releases, press interviews, public events?

Yes     No    Please describe and send copies of articles, leaflets, photos, etc.

d. Did your group attempt any outreach work (such as contacts with trade unions, religious groups, professional networks, etc.)?

Yes     No    If so, please describe.

e. Did you contact U.S. Government officials?

Yes     No

If so, please describe.

**4. LETTERS**

a. On average, how many letters on your case would you estimate your group sent each month? \_\_\_\_\_

b. For ALL of 1997, please estimate the following:

Number of letters to:	Number of responses:
--------------------------	-------------------------

Officials of target country:

Officials of U.S. Government:

Subject(s) of Action File (prisoner, etc.)

    Their family or friends

    Their lawyers

    Other (specify):

Please list any persons or organizations you contacted that were informative or helpful:

**5. MATERIALS**

a. What were the most helpful and least helpful materials provided with your Action File?

b. Is there any information that you require that was not provided?

\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No       If so, please specify.

**6. SUPPORT**

a. How frequent was your contact with the Country Coordination Group (Co-Group)?

monthly     every other month     quarterly     other (specify):

b. How helpful was the Co-Group?

very     somewhat     unhelpful     no help requested

Please comment on your answer:

c. Did you have any contact with AIUSA staff during your casework?

Yes     No

If so, was contact with staff helpful?

very     somewhat     unhelpful     no help requested

Please comment on your answer, noting which staff were contacted:

d. Does your group have The Casework Video?  Yes  No

Have members watched it?  Yes  No

Has it been helpful to your work?  Yes  No

e. Does your group have The Casework Manual?  Yes  No

Has it been helpful?  Yes  No

**7. FUTURE PLANS**

a. What plans do you have for effective work on this case in 1998? What are your goals?

b. Is there any support you need from AI to achieve this that you are not now receiving? Please specify.

c. Would you like an experienced Amnesty trainer to conduct a casework-oriented workshop with your group?

Yes     No



## Appendix XIII

# Quotations for Flyers, Announcements, and Invitations

## Quotations from and stories about AI prisoners

### Argentina

"At last, I can enjoy the immense pleasure of writing to you as a free man. Yes! I'm a free man and feel so much pleasure and excitement about being able to kiss and hug my wife, my children, my parents, brothers, sisters, family and friends, not to mention the strangers who have welcomed me with open arms. You are part of this group of human beings who have been so intimate and dear to my family . . . . Perhaps you don't realize how much hope you gave us, how much you helped to bring relief from the horrible nightmare. From the beginning we realized we were not alone . . . we, the prisoners, received your help with indescribable joy.

"Thanks to you and your people we were able to get through those years in prison in dignity."

*--released prisoner of conscience from Argentina*

"There should be no double standard (concerning human rights), because this double standard is part of the strategy of fascists and communists alike. On this point, Amnesty International has surely been the organization that has maintained an independent position with the most courage and which has withstood most of the attacks."

*--Jacobo Timerman, author and released prisoner of conscience from Argentina*

### Australia

"Your correspondence of September 16, 1988 relating to the death of Edward Charles Cameron is acknowledged and your expressed concern is noted . . . . In an endeavour to prevent further deaths in custody the Western Australian Government has been supportive of any action designed to reduce the likelihood of further deaths. Several of the recommendations of the State Interim inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths have already been approved by the Government whilst the others are being further examined with a view to implementation."

*--letter to an Urgent Action participant from Ian Taylor, minister for police and emergency services, Australia regarding the death in detention of Edward Charles Cameron, subject of an Urgent Action appeal*

### Benin

"I am free. I have just been freed this evening. I assure you that I owe my freedom to you. I survived thanks to you. It is true that one must never despair in life. This victory is completely yours, you who have been untiring workers. From this moment a new page in my life has been turned."

*--released prisoner of conscience from Benin, in a letter to Amnesty International*

### Chile

"With deep gratitude and emotion we have received your message of solidarity regarding the threats against 81 of our fellow actors, directors and writers. The truth is that we lack the words to express what your support has meant to us. You have touched us profoundly, and have given us strength at a time of growing alarm. There is no doubt that you have also protected us . . . .

"We have received thousands of messages . . . . It has truly been a flood of affection and support. We wish we could thank you all personally, but we simply lack the hands to do so . . . we are in good spirits. Our trust is that 'Commando 135 - Pacifying Action Trizano' will fall short of the

sufficient viciousness to carry out its threats. But, in any case, we will not leave our country. Here we stay, with your support and that of our people."

--*Edgardo Bruna, President, SIDARTE (Association of Radio, Television, Theater, and Movie Artists, Writers, and Technical Workers), in response to letters received from members of the Urgent Action network concerning death threats in Chile*

"On behalf of the Chilean Nursing College, we would like to salute you for your support of solidarity expressed in the denunciation of violation of human rights in our country and the demand which it makes upon the authorities with respect to their responsibilities to cease these atrocities.

"Your letters and actions of solidarity invigorate our cause and they motivate us as citizens not to give up our commitment to freedom and emancipation."

--*Patricia Grau Mascayano, Secretary General, Patricia Talloni Valdes, National President, and Hortensia Arizabio Valle, International Commission, of the Chilean Nursing College in a letter to a member of the Urgent Action Network*

"With this greeting we wish to share the joy of freedom and express our gratitude for all the support and solidarity you gave us. Thank you!"

--*Dr. and Mrs. Ramiro Olivares, in a January 1988 card to Amnesty International members who had worked for his freedom. Dr. Olivares is a released prisoner of conscience from Chile*

## Cuba

"While nothing could prevent my serving the 20-year sentence in its entirety, there is no doubt in my mind that your endeavors were a determining factor in the preservation of my life during my imprisonment."

--*Huber Matos, released prisoner of conscience from Cuba*

"After the rigorous investigations it always conducts, Amnesty International adopted me as a prisoner of conscience. They named several groups in West Germany, Holland, and Sweden to work toward achieving my freedom. I learned about the activities of the members of Amnesty International through my clandestine correspondence with [my wife] Martha. Being adopted by Amnesty International constituted a kind of protection. I believe this greatly contributed to the fact that the Cuban authorities did not physically do away with me in some violent manner. The government knew that all the world now knew that I existed, and not only that but exactly what my situation was. [Amnesty International] Group 110 in Sweden worked unceasingly for me, and in great part it is due to their extraordinary efforts that I was finally released."

--*Armando Valladares, released prisoner of conscience from Cuba, in his book Against All Hope*

## Czechoslovakia

"When I say that I have read your letter from August 3 with deep feelings of emotion and gratitude, it is an understatement. In fact, I am totally at a loss what words to choose in order to express my thanks to you all . . . for what you did for me and for other political prisoners in Czechoslovakia. And it is not because I am writing in a foreign language; even in Czech I would be able to use only an old-fashioned phrase: "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

--*A former prisoner of conscience from Czechoslovakia*

"I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the people of good will who in the last years had helped me to survive. Only my wife was allowed to send letters to me in prison, but she managed to convey the astonishing solidarity and help large numbers of people were showing to my family. There were letters from Germany, from Austria, from New Zealand, from Iceland . . . When I was released I could read those letters, and I was overwhelmed by the magnitude and intensity of this mainly moral help. From Norway, for instance, my family had received woolen blankets made by school children. Approximately fifty children from one school took part, each of them had knitted one woolen square, then they put them together . . . and now under those blankets my two young daughters sleep."

"It is extremely difficult for me to speak about those things, but I am happy to have this opportunity to let the people outside know that what they did was of immense importance to me and my family. I have got the feeling that the world is not as bad after all, if it is still possible that people are able to do for themselves - and somebody they don't even know - what they did to me."

--*Ivan Jirous, poet and released prisoner of conscience from Czechoslovakia*

"For a number of months, I was totally cut off from the outside world, and the interrogators did their best to persuade me that nobody would give a damn if I were to disappear. And now this letter [written by a California member of Amnesty International, smuggled into his prison hospital room]. . . the overwhelming sensation I had been experiencing was a joyful feeling that somebody whom I didn't know at all, at least one person in the distant wide world thought that I did exist. . . It was immensely important for us to know that we were not forgotten, that people who mostly

did not even know us, cared. And again - I do not underestimate the more tangible results of such appeals: months later, some of my friends were released before the end of their prison terms. Nobody can be sure under the circumstances, but I am convinced that one of the reasons was the fact that their cases were being talked and written about abroad, that they had not simply vanished without trace."

--*Karel Kyncl, released prisoner of conscience from Czechoslovakia*

"I was amazed at the great number of letters sent to heads of states, parliaments, influential politicians, and other people who are in a position to intercede effectively on our behalf . . . I would like to express to you my sincere thanks for everything Amnesty International has done for me. Without this work I would have had to stay in prison for many months. By this action, Amnesty International saved my life and gave me the chance of a new and truly human existence."

--*Dr. Jan Mlynarik, historian and released prisoner from Czechoslovakia*

## **Dominican Republic**

"When the first 200 letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next 200 came, and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: three thousand of them. The president was informed. The letters still kept arriving, and the president called the prison and told them to let me go.

"After I was released, the president called me to his office. He said: 'How is it that a trade union leader like you has so many friends from all over the world?' He showed me an enormous box full of letters he had received and, when we parted, he gave them to me."

--*Julio de Pena Valdez, released prisoner of conscience from the Dominican Republic*

## **East Germany**

"My friend informed me that your organization took care of me. Because of this I feel the deep desire to thank you very much for everything your organization has done for me. I understand there exist groups all over the world who adopt particular cases and who take measures to get people free . . . It is my intention, after having managed to start into my new life, to actively participate in AI's work."

--*Dr. Martin Schmitt, former prisoner of conscience from East Germany, in a letter to Amnesty International*

## **El Salvador**

". . . if there's lots of pressure -- like from Amnesty International or some foreign countries -- we might pass them on to a judge. But if there's no pressure, then they're dead."

--*former torturer from El Salvador*

"My friend, what you wrote has lightened my heart, because I understand that I am not alone, as I feel, but that the solidarity of the whole world is with me, I who am just a poor, insignificant woman destroyed by a common enemy. I never imagined that anyone would cast a glance in my direction but this fills me with the will to go on."

--*teacher and released prisoner from El Salvador, in a letter to the Amnesty International group that had been working on her behalf*

## **Ethiopia**

"One remarkable thing was the smuggling of the Amnesty International document into the cell by one of the soldiers who felt sympathetic to us . . . That really was great hope. . . . A friend of mine came and told me, 'I was going to commit suicide. It was only this paper that saved my life!'"

--*released prisoner of conscience from Ethiopia*

## **Ethiopia**

"Accept my thanks for the sensitivity, attention and justice you have shown till now on the subject of conscientious objection of military service.

"I thank you all, as well as the people of Europe, who during my ten months imprisonment filled my heart with courage with their words of love and their protest against the lengthy, unjust, ignominious imprisonments in Greece.

"In particular I would like to thank Amnesty International for its decisive work and the members of the European Parliament who support me with their statements, letters and presence at my trials."

--*prisoner of conscience imprisoned in Greece*

"We received your letter of 10/12/87 and we thank you very much for the interest and concern for our son Alexandros Albanidis, who is in prison for his religious beliefs. I would like to let you know that we have another son who is also in prison. He went there six months after Alexandros; his name is Christos Albanidis and he is also in the agricultural prisons of Cassandras. You understand this is a very sad situation for parents to have two children and both of them to be in jail not because they robbed somebody, not because they stole from somebody, not because they killed somebody, or not because they committed any other crime, but because their consciences do not permit them to take a gun or a weapon and to kill their fellow human beings. . . .

"Please accept my friendly greetings and we thank you from the deepest of our hearts."

--*Sotirios Albanidis, father of a Greek prisoner of conscience in a letter to an Amnesty International member*

"This year the letters from Amnesty International and your sweet words made my heart feel joyful. You gave me courage to carry on our struggle. The world today has got the need of all of us in order to achieve true Peace and human rights and liberties. . . . From my small cell, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

--*Michelis Maragakis, prisoner of conscience from Greece, in a letter to an Amnesty International member*

## Guatemala

"I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your indispensable help in enabling me to regain my liberty and life and to bring to an end the unjust treatment which I received from the authorities of my country. I do this on my own behalf and on behalf of my family. I feel sure that my release would not have come about without your help.

"I would like to express my thanks to everyone who contributed their efforts, but I have come to realize, in these days following my release, that this would be most difficult to do. If it appears reasonable to you, perhaps you can send a copy of this letter to those persons who worked with you to help me.

"I also take this opportunity to beg your pardon for not writing sooner. The days immediately following my release were hectic. Leaving Guatemala was very difficult. I thank you again for all you have done."

--*released prisoner from Guatemala, in a letter to Amnesty International*

"I would like to take this opportunity to express the profound thanks which we owe to Amnesty International for the tenacious labor you have carried out for so many years on behalf of our people. The constant denunciations of Amnesty International have rescued from oblivion and anonymity the right to life of so many children, old people and others who have persecuted, kidnapped, tortured and murdered by the successive military dictatorships which have imposed themselves on our people through blood and fire. These murderers have tried to wipe us off the face of the earth, to wipe us out because our love of life and our unshakeable determination to defend it is inconvenient for those who only wish to preserve their profits and privileges. Your assiduous work, your 'divine madness' have been for us a reassuring confirmation that no matter how poor or ill-treated we are, that we have the right to life and to respect, that to kill a new-born baby or an old person bowed down by the persecution of the army constitutes a capital crime that deserves the most energetic condemnation."

--*leader of an Indian peasant farmers' association in Guatemala, in a letter to Amnesty International*

## Kenya

"All the political prisoners released in the past two years have been released as a direct result of pressure from international human rights organizations."

--*Gitobu Imanyara, released prisoner of conscience from Kenya, speaking at the 1992 AIUSA Annual General Meeting*

One day Maina Wa Kinyatti was given a card with the words "Stay strong - we are fighting for you" on it.

"Those were very powerful words. They literally saved my life," says Kinyatti. "Only someone in prison knows how beautiful those words can be. They gave me courage. I wanted to hold on. I didn't want to betray those people on the outside working for me."

When Kinyatti arrived in the United States he immediately contacted the Amnesty group that had worked so hard on his behalf.

"It was incredible," he says. "It was as if I had known these people personally. It proves compassion knows no politics, no color."

--*Maina Wa Kinyatti, released prisoner of conscience from Kenya*

## Liberia

"I wish to express my profound gratitude for the concern shown by you during my illegal detention from Dec. 3, 1984 to Sep. 26, 1985 in Liberia, West Africa. It was precisely because of this gesture coupled with the unwavering fighting spirit of my people that I am today a free man. Otherwise, I may still have been held behind bars. My crime was for speaking out against the wanton abuse of human rights and the oppressive policies of my government.

"Though I was subjected to very inhumane treatment such as flogging, questioning at gun point, forced and hard labor, threats of elimination, etc., I was able to pull through because of the knowledge that you were expressing concerns for my release.

"Please continue such good work for there are still scores of others languishing behind bars in my country and other parts of Africa. You certainly can make a difference. For my part, I have been steeled by these experiences and henceforth remain committed to the fostering of democracy and human decency. No amount of sacrifice will make me abandon this noble objective."

--*Ezekiel Pajibo, Liberian subject of an Urgent Action appeal, in a letter to Amnesty International Urgent Action participants*

## **Malaysia**

"Today I took all the letters and cards you sent me in the past, re-read them, looked at them again, and it is hard to describe the feelings in my heart. The number of these letters and cards is not many. I know that from 1977 on you certainly sent me a large number of letters and cards, but I received only 10; I don't know how many that you sent me were lost to me - these things that I regard as precious jewels.

"Of the 10 items there are five that I received in 1977 or before while I was in 'the camp'. In anticipation that they might very well be taken from me, I had arranged to keep them in a place outside the camp, and so they have been preserved. There are three you sent to my sister which I was only able to see five or six years later. The other two are those you sent me at the beginning of this year. I cannot describe my gratitude towards you; as I re-read these letters I cannot control my own emotions."

--*released prisoner of conscience from Malaysia*

## **Mexico**

"I received your letter of 27 January which I am now replying to with great pleasure.

"On Saturday 8 February I was called to the office of the directors of the prison so that they could give me an envelope, inside which was a message, simple but stimulating.

"I say stimulating because without knowing me and so far away, people like you are concerned about my freedom, driven only by interest in the respect for human rights.

"In your letter you say that you do and will do whatever is possible to achieve my freedom. I want to tell you that your most modest effort has incalculable value. I have commented with my companions on various occasions that the freedom of the political prisoners [of my organization] was and will be the work not only of our people and organization, but also of other forces opposed to injustice, as is the case with Amnesty International.

"I appreciate your writing to me and ask that you continue to do so, and I promise to reply. Give an affectionate greeting to all the members of your group and tell them I hope their concern for the respect for human rights will not wane."

--*prisoner of conscience in Mexico, to the Amnesty International group working for his release*

## **Morocco**

"You know, before I received your last letter, I was a little unhappy and I felt absent. But as soon as I received your letter, I smiled. Shy smile in the beginning, but little by little, it became a frank and happy smile, and my mood changed wonderfully. You did me such good! For us, a letter is the outside, the forbidden! It increases the hope to see, some day in the future, unknown strands, the world of our imperfect dreams, the world of the living. When I opened your letter, my eyes went through the lines while my thought, my imagination was with you. Don't hesitate to write every time possible. I was deeply moved by your letter. You send me nice, attentive letters, full of kindness and comprehension. I congratulate myself that you are my friends."

--*prisoner in Morocco, to the Amnesty International group working on his case*

"Whatever your religions, origins, colors, cultures and all you, men or women, young or older, and even so younger children, you wrote me softly your wishes, strengthening me to have and keep more and more hope. Even there are some people among you who had the touching idea to light up a small candle for me. And your action is just unforgettable that I'm so affected by its tenderness, that unable to express correctly my mind about it was just unexpected for me to receive all this testimony of friendship and love. I'm cheerfully pleased that I don't feel any loneliness now, and

thanks to you, even in this precary [sic] condition of prisoner I passed a wonderful time. These last days of 1987 and early 1988, and like you did, I lighted up a candle thinking of you with wishes of love, peace, and happiness. Then, once more, I'm grateful to you for the insurance you gave me, that there are people in the U.S.A. who are concerned of lot other human beings across the [ocean], and who don't forget those who struggle for freedom, justice, and peace. I hope you could agree these words as answer to all cards I received."

--*Mghagha Mohamed, prisoner of conscience in Morocco, writing in English to thank the Amnesty members who had sent him Christmas cards in December 1987*

## Nigeria

In Nigeria, the Military State Governor of Kwara State commuted the death sentence imposed on a 17-year-old boy for armed robbery. In a statement issued on February 23, 1988, the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions said the governor's decision was "in response to an appeal by Amnesty International and other voluntary philanthropic organizations." The death sentence had been imposed on November 4, 1987 by a special tribunal.

## Pakistan

Addressed to Shahid Nadeem, imprisoned in Pakistan for his union work and student political activities, the letter said: "You are not alone; don't lose heart. We pray for you. If there is anything you need, don't hesitate to ask."

In spite of the intense heat at the maximum security prison in the semi-desert, Shahid Nadeem said, "Suddenly I felt as if the sweat drops all over my body were drops from a cool, comforting shower . . . The cell was no longer dark and suffocating." Soon the whole prison knew about his letter from an Amnesty International local group member in San Antonio, Texas. "My colleagues were overjoyed and their morale was suddenly high." That evening the deputy-superintendent summoned him. "He was so friendly and respectful I was shocked . . . He explained his dilemma as a God-fearing jailer who had to obey orders and follow the rules . . ." The head warden also began to "behave himself." Taking their cue the junior staff changed as well.

As Shahid Nadeem puts it now: "A woman in San Antonio had written some kind and comforting words which proved to be a bombshell for the prison authorities and significantly changed the prisoners' conditions for the better."

"When Amnesty International adopted me as a prisoner of conscience, the newspapers started talking about me, I got better treatment in prison, and I was given a proper hearing in the courts. There had been a complete blackout on my name and case. That was blasted when Amnesty International took up my case."

--*Mukhtar Rana, teacher and released prisoner of conscience from Pakistan*

## Panama

"Faith in your efforts and concern sustained me throughout the horrible period of my imprisonment. Without hope I think I would have died."

--*released AI prisoner from Panama*

"The Panamanian Committee for Human Rights expresses its gratitude for the great interest Amnesty International has shown in the critical situation of the Panamanian prisoners of conscience.

"We are pleased to inform you that all the persons who were unjustly arrested have been released after having received cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. There is no doubt that Amnesty International's intervention and the hundreds of letters that were sent to President Eric Arturo Delvalle and to General Manuel Antonio Noriega contributed to the freedom of the Panamanian political prisoners."

--*Nov. 27, 1987 letter to Amnesty International from the Panamanian Committee for Human Rights, on the cases of 15 Panamanians who had been the subject of an Urgent Action appeal.*

## Paraguay

"For years I was held in a tiny cell. My only human contact was with my torturers. For two and a half of those years I did not experience the glance of a human face, see a green leaf. My only company was the cockroaches and mice. The only daylight that entered my cell was through a small opening at the top of one wall. For eight months I had my hands and feet tied.

"On Christmas Eve, the door to my cell opened, and the guard tossed in a crumpled piece of paper. I moved as best I could to pick up the paper. It said simply, 'Constantino, do not be discouraged; we know you are alive.' It was signed 'Monica' and had the Amnesty International candle on it.

"Those words saved my life and my sanity. Eight months later I was set free."

--Constantino Coronel, released prisoner of conscience from Paraguay

"I have been able to recover my human rights. I consider this to be an important victory in the worldwide movement for human rights. This was directly due to the enormous number of letters and protests that arrived from inside Paraguay and from many parts of the world . . . I have kept a great pile of letters and cards that I received and which the postal censorship didn't dare seize. Without doubt, Amnesty International's documents and calls for urgent action contributed to this mobilization, unprecedented in Paraguayan history . . . I would ask Amnesty International to pass on my personal and profound gratitude to all those people who responded to Amnesty International's appeals on my behalf. . . . Please accept my warm gratitude and my sincere hope that the noble cause of Amnesty International may continue to achieve success."

--Maria Margarita Baez de Britez, Paraguayan subject of an Urgent Action appeal

"Early this morning I was taken out of my cell for the first time in three months and taken to the station's commanding officer's quarters. There he handed me a sealed envelope; it contained a copy of your letter dated 27 July to President Stroessner in which you express your concerns about my case and a brief message at the bottom of it. This simple act, normal in a democratic country like yours, is extraordinary here and it also has a very special meaning for me since it is the first time in the past six and a half years that mail sent directly to me has reached my hands. It's not east to explain how I felt this morning when I was handed your letter. I can't tell you how I feel ten hours later, but of one thing I'm sure: it's good to know I'm not fighting alone and I thank the Lord, for as long as there are persons like you, this crazy world will have hope and people like me will have a chance to have justice done."

--Alejandro Mella Latorre, Chilean photographer detained in Paraguay, subject of an Urgent Action appeal

## Peru

"I am writing to thank you for Amnesty International's support during my detention earlier this year in Peru. I was at the time vaguely aware of your organization's interest in my problem and since my release have had the opportunity to see the Urgent Action memo issued on August 12th and to hear directly from friends of the assistance your offices provided.

"I am most thankful to you all for your efforts in my protection . . . I am aware of the weight which surely carries any expression of concern from an organization as widely recognized and highly regarded as is Amnesty for its seriousness of purpose and its professionalism. I feel very fortunate indeed that my case came to your attention. . . .

"With many thanks for your assistance to me and with heartfelt wishes for the continuance of your help to others."

--Cynthia McNamera, subject of an Urgent Action appeal during her 1988 detention in Peru, in a letter to Amnesty International

Carlos Taype was working for the Confederation of Peasants when he was arrested on 17 March 1984, taken to the barracks of the Civil Guard in the provincial capital, Huancayo. From prison, he wrote: "Before, we knew nothing about Amnesty International. Until we were hunted, captured, tortured, some murdered, and imprisoned, until all of our human rights were violated. We have measured with our very bodies the valuable and important role that Amnesty International plays in defense of human rights. Apart from us, how many more have there been in my country alone? How many more in the rest of the world? Now we can understand the great task you face. Being in the worst of conditions, the very fact of learning that those who defend human rights already knew of our detentions gives us great hope. It lightens the burden to know we are not alone, that there are others, like Amnesty International, who care about us. To you we owe a great deal. Because of the intervention of Amnesty International, some people have ceased to be persecuted, others were only half tortured, others won their release from prison, and others were not killed. All of this we owe to you." After his release on January 26, 1985, he said: "I owe my freedom to the poor people of my country, to Amnesty International and all your groups . . . to all the institutions and personalities who fight against human rights violations . . . to those who energetically protested against my unjust confinement to the Peruvian government and authorities, in events, meetings, marches, in newspapers, in letters to Peruvian Embassies in other countries. In this way the Peruvian Confederation of Peasants received 565 copies of protests sent to President Belaunde from 29 countries demanding my immediate release . . . the only way I in particular can repay you is to keep fighting for the defense of human rights for my people and the peoples of the world. If we have to give up our lives to do this, then we will do so gladly."

--Carlos Taype, released prisoner of conscience from Peru

## Philippines

"Greetings of Solidarity and Justice! We have received countless letters from different groups of Amnesty International all over the world, mostly concerned with the plight of Rodolfo Romano and his father-in-law, Jose Laceda.

"It has touched us deeply that all compassionately expressed sympathy to the victims and revulsion to the perpetrators of torture and cruelty. These gestures of commiseration we will remember forever. The barrage of letters you sent to our Minister of National Defense and the Acting Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces denouncing the brutalities done by their men has certainly hastened action on these cases. We are pleased to bring the good news that your efforts have borne fruit of justice: the fabricated case which was filed against Rodolfo Romano by his torturers was finally dismissed by the court."

--Office of the Bishop of Sosorgon, Philippines, 1984.

## Romania

"Amnesty International saved my life . . . .

"I found out [that I had been adopted by AI] in prison, from somebody in the next cell. I didn't see the person; my cell was dark; I was not permitted to see other persons or be seen. He asked me quietly if I was Carmen Popescu. . . .

"He told me 'don't be frightened, don't be discouraged. You have friends over the seas: they know about you. . . .'

"The message from many Romanians who know your wonderful work for prisoners of conscience around the world is to say thank you for your wonderful work."

--Carmen Popescu, released prisoner of conscience from Romania, in a talk to an AIUSA high school group in California.

## Somalia

"I believe that without Amnesty International our world would have been more of a tyrannical and unhappy place to live. Apart from the day to day worthy achievements, obvious for all to see and generally appreciated by all men of good will everywhere, inspiring confidence and a hopeful future in the hearts of many who have sadly lost their freedom, tasting the painfulness and the bitterness of tyranny and repression, I believe the efforts of Amnesty International create a healthy and restraining effect on many unjust governments in this world."

--released prisoner of conscience from Somalia

## South Africa

"It is with great pleasure to tell you that I am free at last from detention.

"How grateful are we with all the help from you and friends. May God be with you throughout your lifetime. We are grateful indeed."

-- released prisoner from South Africa, in a letter to the San Francisco Bay Area Amnesty International group that had worked for his release

"Those letters made the Minister of Police actually visit the prison, show his face. The government doesn't ever want to admit they released somebody because of the pressure. But they do, they do. They would say, 'Who are these people writing letters? Why can't they leave us alone?'"

--released prisoner of conscience from South Africa

"Some of the letters reached me in the hospital where I was treated for a heart attack resulting from torture. Knowing we are not alone in our struggle strengthens the courage and determination of myself and my people. We are hopeful. We cannot afford not to be optimistic."

--released prisoner of conscience from South Africa

After describing Amnesty International as a "social scourge," Transkei Security Police Chief Colonel Martin Mgceba showed prisoner Fikile Bam a large collection of telegrams and messages of concern about him from all parts of the world. Mr. Bam was then released unconditionally. No charges were ever brought against him and the authorities have given no reason for his detention without trial. Mr. Bam, a lawyer, expressed his thanks to AI and to all who appealed on his behalf.

"I am a black Lutheran minister in South Africa and Amnesty International just helped win back my freedom . . . .

"I want to express my deepest thanks to you for your generous commitment to easing the plight of literally thousands of prisoners of conscience.

"And if you ever wonder if your support of Amnesty International USA really matters, feel confident it does. Bless you. . . .

"I owe you and Amnesty International my life."

--Dean Reverend T. Simon Farisani, released prisoner of conscience from South Africa

## South Korea

"Don't stop writing. Each individual can have an effect. If you give us moral support, we will do the rest."

--*Kim Dae Jung, opposition leader and released prisoner of conscience from South Korea*

"During the dismal and lonesome days, international concern and support have always encouraged us greatly . . . All the dictators have fantasies that they can suffocate and divide people in their own country. Under these circumstances we know that what they are afraid of most is world opinion and criticism of their tyranny. Here we can see the effective role of the Amnesty International movement encouraging the oppressed.

"Your efforts and prayers saved my life and thanks to your support I can have an opportunity to live as a human being."

--*Lee Shim-bom, released prisoner of conscience from South Korea*

"Thank you for your letter. When in prison, especially, I could not fail to forget your encouragement, which created my courage and power. Thanks to God and you, I have safely returned home from imprisonment of 54 months. Only looking at the blue sky, I have the pleasure of flying into the sky. I don't know how much I am delighted to be free. Up to now, I have treasured the pair of socks made of wool which you gave me in prison, which keep my feet as well as my heart now warm. I thank you from the bottom of my heart again."

--*Park Chong-suk, teacher and released prisoner of conscience from South Korea in a November 1987 letter to the Dutch Amnesty International group that had worked for his release*

## **Sudan**

"At last I can write to you from home. I am now a free man . . . .

"I cannot find words to express my thanks to you in Amnesty International, for your solidarity, your sympathy and your struggle for my release. Without your help, without the feeling that other people in the world are defending our freedom and helping us and our people, life would have been so hard and difficult. Please convey my thanks and best wishes to your friends."

--*Sidgi Awad Kaballo, released prisoner of conscience from Sudan*

## **Swaziland**

"I was on the verge of total collapse and desperation before I was introduced to you, but you gave me strength and courage to go on."

--*relative of released prisoner of conscience, Swaziland*

## **Taiwan**

"During my four years in prison . . . your action and warm concern helped us to continue believing in the value of human beings with firmness even when we were in the coldest jail. I certainly have no regrets for losing freedom just because of my thoughts and ideals."

--*released prisoner of conscience from Taiwan*

"I can never forget how I was moved to tears when unexpectedly I was handed in a solitary cell a brief letter from Amnesty International."

--*released prisoner from Taiwan*

"Eleven years ago, the Taiwanese people, even privately, were not bold enough to receive former political prisoners. Now though, they dare to hold warm welcome parties - openly and publicly. There are many reasons for this change, but the painstaking efforts and the influence of Amnesty International may be one of the most important factors. Therefore, we Taiwanese have to be all the more grateful to [AI]."

--*released prisoner of conscience from Taiwan*

## **Thailand**

"I am Mr. Snan Wongsuthee. I would like to thank you for everything. I have already been released from the prison on February 3, 1988. By help of Amnesty International I have got the freedom. I would like to thank you very very much again."

--*Snan Wongsuthee, released Thai subject of an Urgent Action appeal, in a telex to Amnesty International*

## **Tunisia**

"It is with great joy that I send you my first letter in liberty, out of prison, to express my deep gratitude for the efforts made by you and your friends."

--*Abderraouf ben Romdhane, released prisoner of conscience from Tunisia, in a letter to an Amnesty International member who had corresponded with him in prison*

## **Uganda**

"I write to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you did for me and my baby when we were both in custody . . . These letters were a great consolation to me and mother . . . I believe these letters influenced the Uganda Government authorities when they decided to release me on September 19, 1984."

--*letter to Amnesty International from a released Ugandan subject of an Urgent Action appeal*

## **Uruguay**

"I myself perhaps owe my life, and with absolute certainty I owe my freedom to the action that you took in the moment when I was kidnapped in my country in November 1980. This is the reason why I have great confidence in what you can do."

--*released Uruguayan woman who had been the subject of an Urgent Action appeal*

"It gives me the greatest of pleasure to communicate with you and establish a dialogue in writing, in which I want to express my gratitude for all the support that has been extended to my family, to my people, and to me personally. The gratitude that all the Uruguayans feel for the moral and material assistance which all of you extended during these dark years we had to face is so great that it is difficult for me to find adequate words to express this feeling. Therefore, I only will say that I send you in these lines my most affectionate acknowledgement of your attitude, wishing that you will never need our support, but if fate should put you in circumstances requiring our help, count on it unconditionally from then and forever."

--*released prisoner of conscience from Uruguay, in a letter to the Amnesty International group that had campaigned for his release*

"You have been present during all these years with a constancy and dedication which has accompanied me in the worst moments, giving me strength and joy.

"I remember clearly the emotion I felt on returning to my cell after one of the fortnightly visits, the only time I talked to anyone, having learned about your letters. The solidarity that is expressed over oceans of distance gives strength and faith in one's solitude, and helps one confront the repressive apparatus by keeping one's human integrity and its essential values intact."

--*Lilian Celiberti, released prisoner of conscience from Uruguay, in an letter to the Amnesty International group that had "adopted" her*

"We feel very insignificant - in comparison with all the effort and 'lobbying' that you have put into helping us. As people, we feel proud to be members of the human race when we come across people like you. I don't know whether you have ever considered this, but probably the best thing you have done for us is to maintain our morale and restore our faith in human nature. I am really astonished at how much you have done, how many people, and how much time, all without my knowing anything at all . . . From our hearts, our profoundest thanks for everything and we hope that this letter is not the last time we have contact."

--*Brenda Ines Rovetta Dubinsky and Antonio Morelli, released prisoners from Uruguay, in a letter to an Amnesty International group*

"For my mother as well as for my family, I want to tell you how important it was for me to know that outside my family and across the seas there were people who I did not know, but who fought on my behalf and were near to me. When I read the letters that you sent me or my mother, my heart bursts with emotion as it does also when I learned of the financial help you gave my family, which was essential for it to survive.

"The most important thing is that . . . between us, human beings, it has been proved that borders are absurd, languages are surmountable, that distances can be overcome, because the heart is big . . . and people like you keep the hope of a new dawn alight."

--*Maria Cecilia Duffau Echevarren, released prisoner of conscience from Uruguay, in a letter to an Amnesty International group*

## **USSR**

"While I was in Severodonetsk I received New Year's greetings cards from Austria, but without any sender's address. Now I understand that they came from an Austrian group of Amnesty International . . . .

"It is difficult to imagine where I would be and in what condition I would be if it were not for your work. There were not only your letters addressed officially to the CPSU Central Committee, the Procurator General and the director of the camp, but there were also the letters which you addressed to me personally - especially a greeting card for my birthday, which touched me deeply . . . .

"The administration subjects the prisoners to a very great moral solitude. Many efforts can be undertaken to defend him: demonstrations, petitions, letters to the authorities, etc. . . . but the prisoner himself cannot know about these in the midst of rot and stench. And if by chance he does learn of this, a break in space and time is created. Everything that happens, everything that is done on his behalf happens in a completely different world, on a different level, it seems to the prisoner. . . .

"And the guard learns . . . that there is a certain V. in the zone who is receiving letters from abroad. And these guards will be a little cautious regarding me, because an ordinary citizen is suspicious about everything foreign. Because of this I will be protected from the gratuitous cruelty of this petty administration, which is characterized by aggressiveness: I won't be beaten, I won't be put in a punishment cell, etc. . . . Of course if the higher authorities give certain orders to the guards 'the machine' will take its course and I will be beaten anyway, put in a punishment cell and denied food. But I will have 80 percent protection from all that. And all thanks to an envelope!"

--released prisoner of conscience from the USSR, in a letter to an Amnesty International group

"When you are in confinement, you have no contact with friends, or anyone. You feel completely cut off, deprived of the outside world. Suddenly I got the letters [from Amnesty International members]. It is difficult to explain what that meant. These two letters I got gave me hope. I understood how important this human rights support, and the defense from the West was for me, because only thanks to it did I keep my mind and my brain alive."

After he was freed, Davydov was called into the office of the KGB colonel who had first investigated his case. The official pointed to a stack of letters sitting on the desk. "I want you to write to them and tell them you are free so they stop sending these letters" he said. The letters were from Amnesty International members and had been written to Soviet authorities appealing on Davydov's behalf.

"The only reason why I am not in a psychiatric hospital, why I was not arrested again, is the activity of human rights organizations and other activity in the West in defense of Soviet human rights."

--Viktor Davydov, dissident and released prisoner of conscience from the USSR who had been held in a special psychiatric hospital because of his "socially dangerous acts"

"Thanks to the str

## Appendix XIII

# Quotations for Flyers, Announcements, and Invitations

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## Quotations on the Death Penalty

"Retribution or vengeance seems difficult enough for a government to justify where adult offenders are involved and vengeance against children for their misdeeds seems quite beyond justification . . . The spectacle of our society seeking legal vengeance through the execution of children should not be countenanced."

--*American Bar Association report*

"State-authorized murder is no more right than some of the heinous crimes committed by individuals."

--*Donald Avenson, House Speaker of the Iowa Legislature, quoted in the Des Moines Register, January 25, 1989*

"The death penalty has been a gross failure. Beyond its horror and incivility, it has neither protected the innocent nor deterred the wicked. The recurrent spectacle of publicly sanctioned killing has cheapened human life and dignity without the redeeming grace which comes from justice meted out swiftly, evenly, humanely."

--*Pat Brown, Governor of California (1959-1967)*

The death penalty "is undeniably a murder which arithmetically cancels out the murder already committed; but it also adds a regularization of death, a public premeditation of which its future victims are informed, an organization which in itself is a source of moral suffering more terrible than death . . ."

--*Albert Camus*

"The Observer opposes capital punishment, period. The statistical evidence of racism in its application is overwhelming. And anyone can be wrongly convicted of a crime -- and wrongly executed for it. That is the horror of capital punishment. Nor do we think that executions either promote public regard for the value of life or deter potential murderers any more than the threat of life imprisonments would."

--*Charlotte Observer*

"The murder rate has always varied widely from nation to nation, presumably due to the differing cultural attitudes to violence and the availability of weapons. Nothing else could explain why the U.S. murder rate has held steady at about 60 times the British rate, both before and after the two countries stopped executing people."

--*Gwynne Dyer, San Francisco Chronicle*

"If you cast your eyes around the world and want to know the most infallible way to judge whether a nation is free or oppressive, all you have to know is whether that nation imposes the death penalty.

"What nations lead the world in executions? The Soviet Union and South Africa. What totalitarian or authoritarian nations have abolished the death penalty? None. What democracies impose capital punishment? With the exception of the United States, none. . . .

"What does this suggest?

"In my view, it tells us that, even though liberals tend to oppose the death penalty, the most powerful argument against it is conservative in nature: The state should not have the ultimate power over any individual, no matter what."

"This is a far less sweeping, far more modest argument against the death penalty than those usually made.

"In my view, it has the virtue of being right."

--Jeff Greenfield, syndicated columnist and ABC News Analyst, in a column appearing January 30, 1989 in the Dallas Times Herald

"Injustice is still alive and well and equal opportunity is still denied black Americans even in death."

--Reverend Jesse Jackson

"As one whose husband and mother-in-law have both died the victims of murder-assassination, I stand firmly and unequivocally opposed to the death penalty for those convicted of capital offenses. An evil deed is not redeemed by an evil deed of retaliation. Justice is never advanced in the taking of a human life. Morality is never upheld by legalized murder."

--Coretta Scott King

"The old law of an eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind."

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The death penalty is no more effective a deterrent than life imprisonment . . . While police and law enforcement officials are the strongest advocates of capital punishment, the evidence is overwhelming that police are no safer in communities that retain the sanction than in those that have abolished it. It also is evident that the burden of capital punishment falls upon the poor, the ignorant, and the underprivileged members of society."

--United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

"If you can prove to me that in any state that has the death penalty that there is a reduction in (crime rate) I'd be supportive of it. But I've yet to see the death penalty in any shape, manner or form reduce the crime rate for violent crime in any state."

--Governor Rudy Perpich of Minnesota, quoted in the Star Tribune of December 10, 1988

"I regard the death penalty as a savage and immoral institution that undermines the moral and legal foundations of a society. I reject the notion that the death penalty has any essential deterrent effect on potential offenders. I am convinced that the contrary is true: that savagery begets only savagery."

--Dr. Andrei Sakharov, released prisoner of conscience from the Soviet Union

"It is the deed that teaches, not the name we give it. Murder and capital punishment are not opposites that cancel one another, but similars that breed their kind."

--George Bernard Shaw

"Capital punishment deserves no standing in our criminal justice system.

"Most countries that presume to the description 'civilized' have long since abandoned state killing, with no increase in what previously had been capital crimes. If the death penalty were a deterrent to crime, there could be an argument for it. But it is not. It is just an unworthy act of social vengeance, and there's worse still: It may actually incite violence, serving perversely as a socially approved demonstration that killing is a legitimate way to solve a problem."

--Tom Teepen, Editorial Page Editor, Atlanta Constitution

# Quotations from the news media

"Amnesty is to be commended for its care and tenacity in documenting the 'ugly picture' of what governments are still doing to their people 40 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty does not recognize a world broken into blocs and makes no distinctions between the human rights abuses of 'our side' and 'their side,' nor does it reduce violations to some sort of rankings whereby one country might claim justification in coming off numerically better than a rival. Rather, the reports are given straightforwardly, with a simple, implicit challenge that the government responsible clean up its act. . . .

"Amnesty, with its reports and with its quiet, polite, but splendidly obstinate letter-writing campaigns on behalf of individual political prisoners, is helping to move the world to a single standard of human rights. Time and again we see that ostensible support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has not prevented abuses. But worldwide political pressure can be effective in pushing a nation from nominal to real support for that standard. And Amnesty has been an effective agent of that pressure."

--*Christian Science Monitor editorial, October 5, 1988*

"The world's foremost human rights organization."

--*Peter Jennings, ABC News, speaking of Amnesty International*

"For 25 years they have shined the light of conscience on the jailers and the torturers. Amnesty International fights for the freedom of political prisoners with cards and letters. And the amazing thing is, it works."

--*Ted Koppel, on a 1986 ABC News Nightline show focusing on Amnesty International*

"For the world's prisoners of conscience, Amnesty International is a beacon of hope . . . .

"No group has worked more visibly or effectively than AI to end [human rights] abuses."

--*Christopher Ogden, in the cover story on Amnesty International in the International Edition of Time magazine, October 17, 1988.*

## Appendix XIII

# Quotations for Flyers, Announcements, and Invitations

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## Quotation from the U.S. government

"Twenty-five years ago, British barrister Peter Benenson founded Amnesty International, an organization dedicated to investigating cases of imprisonment, torture, and execution of prisoners of conscience around the world. When it first began, Amnesty International -- or AI -- comprised a handful of volunteers in a small London office. Today it has more than 500,000 members, subscribers, and supporters, and 3,400 affiliates in more than 55 countries of Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

"Through the years, AI has monitored, reported, and protested abuses of prisoners' rights in virtually every country on earth, from psychiatric confinement of political dissidents in the USSR to police attacks on black demonstrators in South Africa; from tortures of civilians by government security in Zimbabwe to banishments of political opponents in Chile; from forced denationalization of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria to police mistreatment of suspected terrorist sympathizers in northern Ireland. Since it began its activity, more than half of the prisoners of conscience have eventually been freed. AI does not take credit for their release, although many have written or phoned their thanks to Amnesty members. In 1977, a full measure of appreciation was finally accorded when Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

"Amnesty International's greatest asset is its objectivity, and no country is immune from its scrutiny. It receives no funds from governments or politically-motivated interest groups, giving it a credibility enjoyed by few other organizations. Certain regimes, especially in totalitarian countries, invariably fare poorly in Amnesty's yearly reports, and top the list of human rights abusers worldwide. Some, like the Soviet Union, only publicize Amnesty reports that support their own propaganda objectives. When Amnesty's criticism focuses on their own transgressions, a few have resorted to fabricating attacks on Amnesty itself. In 1981, after an AI report described mass executions in Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini accused the organization of 'collaborating with the conspiracy of superpowers to suffocate the Islamic republic.' The Ayatollah forgot about 1978 Amnesty charges of secret police tortures during the previous reign of the Shah.

"Because of Amnesty International's dedicated work, more and more people are concerned about human rights. Because of the publicity accorded Amnesty's investigations and reports, governments that violate human rights are more sensitive to international censure, and may often think twice before incarcerating, torturing or executing prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International's symbol is a lighted candle entwined by barbed wire. After a quarter century of defending the rights of the persecuted around the world, it has become the essence of that symbol -- a candle of freedom and hope in the dark face of repression.

"That was a VOA Editorial, reflecting the view of the U.S. Government."

--*Voice of America editorial, broadcast on May 28, 1986, the 25th anniversary of Amnesty International's founding*

## Appendix XIII

# Quotations for Flyers, Announcements, and Invitations

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## Quotations from International Organizations

"Through its activity for the defense of human worth against degrading treatment, violence and torture, Amnesty International has contributed to securing the ground for freedom, for justice, and thereby also for peace in the world."

--*Nobel Prize Committee, upon awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Amnesty International*

"In our day and age people should not have to suffer for their conscience, their beliefs, or their opinions. . . . In drawing attention to this issue, Amnesty International has once again rendered a valuable service to the entire international community. Your previous campaigns against torture, the death penalty, arbitrary and summary executions, and now against political imprisonments have served to focus world opinion on these problems in a very special way."

--*Javier Perez de Cuellar, former Secretary General of the United Nations*

"Amnesty International is making effectively good the rule that 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.'"

--*Jorge El Illueca, President of the United Nations General Assembly*

"It's a worn cliche, but if Amnesty did not exist, it would have to be invented. It is simply unique."

--*Jean-Pierre Hocke, United Nations high commissioner for refugees*

## Quotations from famous performers and a famous producer

When Amnesty began 25 years ago, the subject of human rights didn't even come up between governments. Now, partly because of the work of Amnesty, it's really impossible for governments to discuss their agendas with each other without having to discuss human rights and their violations, and the facts of torture, detainment, no trials, etc."

--*Joan Baez*

"It's been a double pleasure. As an attorney and as a Latin American, I know how important Amnesty International has been in terms of saving lives in Latin America and throughout the world, and also how important it is that people become aware that the problems that we confront on this earth are common and the solution to these problems should be, and will be, also a common one. And it is a tremendous opportunity to have all these different people, all this different music in a city like New York, which is very befitting as a rallying point to make people aware of the need to confront these issues together and to resolve them together as well."

--*Ruben Blades, at the 1986 Conspiracy of Hope concert at the Meadowlands*

"Amnesty inspires us to play. The music cuts through to people, and the message is clear: You can write a letter or send a postcard. And the more you give, the more you get back."

--*Bono of U2*

"It's a success story, and it's good to be part of a success story. There's so many tears shed over world hunger and the like, but these are tears of joy when it comes to Amnesty International, because a thousand people a year get out of prison."

--*Bono of U2*

"I believe this tour is very important because it will make people aware of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I hope their consciousness will be raised, that people will become aware of their rights as individuals and exercise those rights, and that they will then go on to urge their governments to comply with this document. It is clear to me that we as individuals are not free until we are all free."

--*Tracy Chapman, in Montreal during the Amnesty International Human Rights Now! concert tour*

"We're Amnesty members, and we believe in the cause."

--*Bob Dylan, who with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, appeared in the Los Angeles Conspiracy of Hope concert tour for Amnesty International*

"The work that I have done with Amnesty is very important to me. I was very moved to meet some of the people that had been rescued from torture and unjust imprisonment, for whom Amnesty had been the only line of hope. Although there is still so much that needs changing, there is no doubt that Amnesty, in its 25 years, has changed the attitudes of governments on human rights all around the world. Through the simple tools of letter writing and the embarrassment of publicity, Amnesty has been surprising effective.

"It is part of a process that is making ordinary people aware of the power and responsibility they have in improving our world.

"I ask you to get involved."

--*Peter Gabriel*

"It's necessary that people know what Amnesty does. It's an international body that infiltrates the pits of madness and horror."

--*Bill Graham*

"We are free citizens, and it's our responsibility to share that freedom with the rest of the world."

--*Madonna, speaking from the stage at the Los Angeles Conspiracy of Hope concert for Amnesty International*

"We are asking the governments worldwide to put the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in practice. I want my audience to understand my message directly through my music and the rhythms of Africa. My message is the dignity of all human beings."

--*Youssou N'Dour, in Montreal for the Amnesty International Human Rights Now! tour*

"It's difficult for the Neville Brothers to afford this tour, financially. But morally and spiritually, we couldn't afford not to do it."

--Aaron Neville of the Neville Brothers, speaking of their participation in the Conspiracy of Hope concert tour for Amnesty International

"Rock & roll, to me, is a statement about energy and freedom. Therefore, it has a direct relationship to Amnesty - the most astonishing group I've ever been involved with."

--Lou Reed

"The moral outrage that you feel about some of the things that happen, you can actually do something with Amnesty International. I think people should be aware of that. It really does make a difference."

--Lou Reed

"Amnesty International is an extremely important (what an understatement!) human rights organization that helps to free prisoners of conscience (people imprisoned for speaking out and standing up for what they believe in!), ensure fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners, and end torture and executions -- worldwide. Their 25 years of hard work, care and dedication has helped bring hope and, in most cases, life to thousands of people throughout the world.

"You too can help, and it's easier than you probably think.

"Amnesty International provides members with human rights news and suggestions for letter writing activities. Yes, just by writing a letter to a government official who can authorize each prisoner's release, you are helping to let them know you're watching, and this has been quite an effective method in helping to stop senseless torture and death."

--7 Seconds

"We believe in the dignity of all human beings. We wholeheartedly support the work of Amnesty International in defense of all those who are imprisoned or tortured because of their peacefully held beliefs. So should you!"

--Simple Minds

"At the moment I don't think there's a more important organization in the world than Amnesty International. That's why I'm here."

--Bruce Springsteen, at the 9/2/88 Human Rights Now! concert in London

"As a child I got a sense of many things from rock-n-roll music--a sense of life, a sense of fun, a sense of human possibility, a sense of sex. But I think that what I got most of all from the records that first inspired me was a sense of freedom. One of the greatest challenges of adulthood is to hold on to your idealism after you lose your innocence. Whether you are young or old, if you believe that a single human spirit can be a very powerful thing, Amnesty International, in a very tough, pragmatic, and realistic way, gives you a way to put your ideals into service in a world in which they are so badly needed."

--Bruce Springsteen in Montreal for the Amnesty International Human Rights Now! concert

"It can be fun to write to people who lead authoritarian or repressive regimes, have a dictator as a pen-pal, and be a complete nuisance to him by sending him these letters."

--Sting

"One postcard might seem very insignificant, but when you multiply that by thousands upon thousands these governments are embarrassed as hell to receive them, and it really does work."

--Sting, speaking of the Amnesty International postcard campaign during the Conspiracy of Hope concert tour

"The people who are looking for a better future are the people that Amnesty International must protect, whether they

are working for the environment, political reform, better working conditions, wages, housing or health. These things affect all of us. These are real people with families and addresses. I hope that this tour will reinforce Amnesty International where it is most needed. I think Amnesty International is one of the most civilized organizations in the history of the world. It strives for justice through the work of ordinary people. I am proud to be a part of it and this tour."

--*Sting, in Montreal at the Amnesty International Human Rights Now! tour*

## Appendix XIII

# Quotations for Flyers, Announcements, and Invitations

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## Quotations from famous philosophers, statesmen, jurists, and writers

"What after all has maintained the human race on this old globe despite all the calamities of nature and all the tragic failings of mankind, if not faith in new possibilities and courage to advocate them?"

--Jane Addams

"Open your newspaper any day of the week and you will find a report from somewhere in the world of someone being imprisoned, tortured or executed because his opinions or religion are unacceptable to his government. There are several million such people in prison--by no means all of them behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains--and their numbers are growing. The newspaper reader feels a sickening sense of impotence. Yet if these feelings of disgust all over the world could be united into common action, something effective could be done."

--First paragraph of "*The Forgotten Prisoners*", in which Peter Benenson announced the founding of Amnesty International

"Pressure of opinion a hundred years ago brought about the emancipation of the slaves. It is now for man to insist upon the same freedom for his mind as he has won for his body."

--Last two lines of "*The Forgotten Prisoners*", see above

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

--Edmund Burke

"We must realize that we cannot escape the common lot of pain and that our only justification is to speak on behalf of those who cannot."

--Albert Camus

"Freedom of expression is the matrix, the indispensable condition of nearly every other form of freedom."

--Benjamin Nathan Cardoza

"The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression."

--William Edward Burghardt Du Bois

"Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If

people all over the world, in thousands of rooms like this one, would do this, it would change the earth."

--*William Faulkner*

"The strong and the weak have alike a right to Justice."

--*Gandhi*

"In poor Basque villages even teenage boys spoke of Amnesty International (perhaps the only English words they knew), and a returned political prisoner explained how much it meant to them, in jail, to feel that this organization existed and that they were not forgotten by the world."

--*Martha Gelhorn, American writer and wife of Ernest Hemingway, after a visit to post-Franco Spain*

"When men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas -- that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out. That at any rate is the theory of our Constitution. It is an experiment, as all life is an experiment."

--*Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.*

"If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought -- not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate."

--*Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.*

"The spirit of truth, and the spirit of freedom -- they are the pillars of society."

--*Henrik Ibsen*

"I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

--*Thomas Jefferson*

"There can be nothing more dreadful than that the actions of a man should be subject to the will of another."

--*Immanuel Kant*

"The rights of all men are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened."

--*John F. Kennedy*

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

--*Martin Luther King, Jr., winner of the Nobel Peace Prize*

"I firmly believe that I am a spokesman for justice and freedom and equality -- a man moved by the plight and pain of my oppressed brothers and sisters."

--*Don Mattera, poet, journalist, and former Amnesty International prisoner of conscience from South Africa*

"In Germany they first came for the Communists; I did not speak because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews; I did not speak because I was not a Jew. Then they came to fetch the workers, members of trade unions; I was not a trade unionist. Afterward, they came for the Catholics; I did not say anything because I was a Protestant. Eventually they came for me, and there was no one left to speak."

--*Pastor Martin Niemoller, a Protestant minister imprisoned by the Third Reich*

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."

--*William Pitt, 1783*

"Perseverance is more prevailing than violence; and many things which cannot be overcome when they are together, yield themselves up when taken little by little."

--*Plutarch*

"We stand today at the threshold of a great event both in the life of the United Nations and in the life of mankind. This Universal Declaration of Human Rights may well become the international magna carta of all men everywhere. . . . Man must have freedom to develop his full stature and through common effort to raise the level of human dignity."

--*Eleanor Roosevelt, advocating for the United States the approval of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December 9, 1948*

"Disavowed - sometimes very quietly - but systematically practiced behind a facade of democratic legality, torture has now acquired the status of a semi-clandestine institution."

--*Jean-Paul Sartre*

"The purpose of torture is not only the extortion of confessions, of betrayal: the victim must disgrace himself, by his screams and his submission, like a human animal. In the eyes of everybody and in his own eyes. He who yields under torture is not only to be made to talk, but is also to be marked as sub-human."

--*Jean-Paul Sartre*

"I believe that world peace can only be achieved when there is freedom for people of all politics, religions and races to exchange their views in a continuing dialogue. For this reason I would particularly ask all those who are working in their different ways towards world peace to make their contribution, preferably by active service or failing that, by financial contribution, to this great new endeavor called Amnesty International"

--*Dr. Albert Schweitzer, 1963.*

"Under a government which imprisons unjustly, the true place for a just man is also in prison . . . the only house in a slave state in which a free man can abide with honor. "

--*Henry David Thoreau*

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

--*Voltaire*

"Liberty of thought is the life of the soul."

--*Voltaire*

"He who helps in the saving of others, saves himself as well. "

--*Hartmann Von Aue*

"The greatest evil today is indifference. To know and not to act is a way of consenting to these injustices. The planet has become a very small place. What happens in other countries affects us."

*--Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize*

## Appendix XIII

# Quotations for Flyers, Announcements, and Invitations

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## Quotations from the Bible on Working for Human Rights (Kings James Version)

### **Isaiah 32:7**

The instruments also of the churl are evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right.

### **Isaiah 42:6,7**

I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

### **Isaiah 61:1**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

### **Jeremiah 22:3**

Thus saith the Lord; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.

### **Psalm 146:5-9**

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:

Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners:

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous:

The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

### **Proverbs 31:8,9**

Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

### **Lamentations 3:34-36**

To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,

To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High

To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.

### **St. Matthew 5:10-12**

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

### **St. John 3:19-21**

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

### **James 2:14-17**

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

## Amnesty International USA Congressional Visits Debriefing Form

Please complete this form after meeting with your Representative or Senators. Keep a copy for your group's records and send a copy to your regional office.

### **The Basics**

Representative/Senator Visited:	Date of Meeting:
	Length of Meeting:
AIUSA Groups(s) Represented at the Meeting:	
Your Name and Address:	
Your Phone Numbers: Day (      )                      Evening (      )	
Your Group Number (if more than one group was represented at the meeting):	
If your group's Legislative Coordinator is someone other than yourself, please give us that person's name, address and phone number:	

### **The Meeting**

Was the Member of Congress Present?
Names of AIUSA Delegation Members:
1) Characterize the manner in which you were received by the Member of Congress and/or aides: <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful <input type="checkbox"/> Interested <input type="checkbox"/> Not Helpful <input type="checkbox"/> Cool
Other Comments:

2) General sentiments of the Member of Congress and/or aides regarding AI:

3) What requests for action on prisoner cases or on legislation did you make of the MOO? What actions did the MOO agree to take?

Your Request	MOC's Response

4) What issues or questions did the MOO or aide raise during the meeting?

5) What materials, if any, did you leave with the MOO/aides?

6) What methods below did you use to obtain this meeting?

Written Request       Phone Call       Assistance or Influential Person       Other

### **History of Contacts with This MOC**

Did your group meet with this MOO or aides last year? If so, when:

How did the MOO follow through on requests made then?

Please summarize your groups contacts with this MOO:

### **Follow Up**

Be sure to write, thanking the MOC for the meeting and reminding the MOC what he/she promised to do on behalf your prisoner and on legislative issues. If you promised to send the MOC any materials, this is the time to honor the request.

Please send this form (making sure you keep a copy!) to your appropriate regional office.