MONTHLY BULLETIN

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ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY IS A GROUP OF ARTISTS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, SAVING LIVES AND PROMOTING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

Welcome to the first edition for the Artists of Amnesty Monthly Bulletin, which will discuss human rights issues and cases of individuals at risk as well as the life-saving work of Amnesty International. Our Monthly Bulletin also will highlight the efforts of artists on behalf of human rights.

Over 43,000 prisoners of conscience -- those imprisoned because of their political beliefs or activism -- have been released in the four decades that Amnesty International activists have mobilized to fight injustices worldwide. Since the beginning of this human rights movement, members of the artistic community have championed prisoners of conscience by dedicating their time, resources and efforts to secure the release of victims worldwide. The program, Artists for Amnesty, is comprised of artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, photographer and industry professionals across the entertainment spectrum dedicated to promoting and defending human rights internationally. It is appropriate that Artists for Amnesty makes its official debut on May 30 with a screening of the film "Missing."

ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY AND "MISSING"

Twenty years ago, Universal Pictures and Polygram financed a movie that told the true story of the disappearance of American Charles Horman in Chile during the 1973 coup that brought Augusto Pinochet to power. The movie captured the tragedy that engulfed the country during Pinochet's dictatorship. The filmmakers and creative team involved with the movie recognized the significant role played by the entertainment community in the human rights movement. The impact of this film resonates today.

GABRIEL BYRNE, long time supporter, is currently working with director Terry George on the "Imagine" Project. The project consists of the production of music video featuring

ON THE FRONTLINES

children singing John Lennon's *Imagine*.

ANNIE LENNOX actively lobbied for the release of Ngwang Choepel, Tibetan musicologist imprisoned for attempting to preserve Tibetan folk music. Annie worked closely with Amnesty International and other human rights organizations to pressure the Chinese government.

PATRICK STEWART established the Patrick Stewart Human Rights Scholarship. Amnesty International USA awards these scholarships to student activists for human rights projects that the students develop themselves. The scholarships allow these young activists the opportunity to do hands-on human rights work around the globe.

MIMI KENNEDY worked with Amnesty International on its Conflict Diamonds campaign, and actively lobbied the U.S. Congress to pass the Clean Diamonds Act. Mimi also delivered the keynote address at that the Los Angeles Unified School District Social Studies Conference on May 24, where she discussed the vital importance of human rights education being integrated into high school curriculum. When we began the Artists for Amnesty program last year,

FREE AT LAST

Amnesty International USA selected nine Special Focus Cases for artists and other activists to champion. Through the efforts of numerous artists and industry professionals, who worked in tandem with grassroots members, tremendous pressure was brought to bear on governments responsible for these prisoners of conscience. The efforts resulted in the release of six prisoners! To all who worked so diligently and selflessly to secure the release of these individuals, their freedom is both a personal and a global victory.

Ibrahim Sahid

General Gallardo

Ngwang Choepel

Dr. Taye Wolde Semayat

Moustache Brothers

SPECIAL FOCUS CASE

REBIYA KADEER

A successful and charismatic businesswoman from North-western China who had an appointment to discuss human rights issues with delegates from the U.S. Congressional Research Service in August 1999. The meeting never took place. While she was en route to the appointment, Chinese authorities arrested her and took her to a local prison notorious for torture. Ms. Kadeer is among the most prominent members of China's Uighur ethnic group in the largely Muslim Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. She has made significant contributions to securing women's rights in China and founded the "Thousand Mother's Movement" to promote employment for Uighur women. The Chinese government itself recognized her contributions by appointing her to its delegation for the 1995 United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing. Amnesty International considers Rebiya Kadeer to be a prisoner of conscience and has appealed for her immediate release.

REBIYA KADEER

BACKGROUND

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of gross human rights violations in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. Chinese authorities have targeted primarily Uighurs, members of the majority ethnic group there. Prominent individuals in the Muslim community have been subjected to oppression and often brutal treatment. Thousands of Uighurs remain in prison, and Xinjiang is the only region of China where political prisoners are known to have been executed in recent years.

TAKE ACTION:

Please send letters urging that Rebiya Kadeer be freed immediately and unconditionally. Write to:

President of the People's Republic of China
Jiang Zemin Guojia Zhuxi
Beijingshi
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

JUNE EVENTS

JUNE 15

RUN FOR FREEDOM

For the past five years Amnesty International activists in Orange County have organized a 10K run to draw attention to human rights. The day features a 5K, 10K, and 1K children's fun run. For more information regarding the race visit: www.runforfreedom.com.

JUNE 26

UNITED NATIONS DAY IN COMMEMORATION OF SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

For the past three years the Los Angeles office of Amnesty International has organized an event in conjunction with the Program for Torture Victims on thi s day as an effort to end the use of torture. The Program for Torture Victims is a Los Angeles-based non-profit agency that provides psychological and medical services to survivors of torture.

This year's event wiill be at Loyola Marymount College, 7PM. For more details call: 310.815.0450.

JOIN ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

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