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.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2006

Welcome to the *Artists for Amnesty Monthly Bulletin*, which will keep you informed on critical human rights issues, cases of individuals at risk, and the life-saving work of Amnesty International. Our Monthly Bulletin will also highlight the efforts of artists on behalf of human rights.

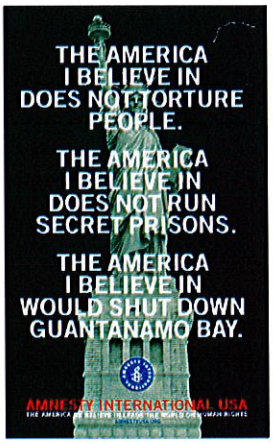
THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN

In October, President Bush signed the "Military Commissions Act of 2006," disregarding America's deep human rights tradition. Now the administration can detain people indefinitely without charge or trial in the war on terror, and use cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment as interrogation techniques.

We're in a struggle for the soul of our nation. Amnesty International has launched a new campaign to restore our traditional American values of justice, rule of law, and human dignity.

Please join us to fight for the America we believe in, the America that leads the world on human rights.

Be part of this campaign. Restore "The America I Believe In." Start now by signing the pledge.



Please visit http://www.amnestyusa.org to sign the pledge and to learn more about standing up for the America you believe in.

FEMICIDE IN THE AMERICAS

During September and October, artists and industry professionals participated in events to raise awareness about the femicides in Mexico and Guatemala. Actor Samantha Mathis traveled to Washington DC for two days of lobbying Congressional representatives and the Guatemalan ambassador to take concrete actions on behalf of the families of women and girls who have been murdered in Guatemala. She then returned to Los Angeles where she hosted a salon at Creative Artists Agency to inform the industry about her trip and Amnesty International's efforts on behalf of the women.

Samantha Mathis (3rd from right), Ambassador Castillo, Amnesty and Embassy Staff.

Lorena Mendez-Quiroja. © Bill Jones 2006.

Documentary filmmaker Lorena Mendez-Quiroja screened her new documentary "Border Echoes" about the femicides in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico. Journalist Diana Washington Valdez, an investigative reporter who has written extensively about the murders, discussed the current situation. Her book, Harvest of Women, which focuses on the murders in Juarez and Guatemala, was available at the event.

Michele Dominguez Greene. © Ileana Landon

Michele Dominguez Greene performed with her band at a benefit concert to raise money for Amnesty's Juarez campaign. Michele wrote the song "Ciudad Juarez" in honor of the disappeared and murdered women. She is donating proceeds of her CD to the Juarez campaign.

Day of the Dead – Mexicans and Guatemalans commemorate the Day of the Dead on November 2nd. Amnesty members signed petitions to protest the murders of the women and to call on the Mexican and Guatemalan governments to end the femicides in both countries.

For more information please visit:
www.amnestyusa.org/women/guatemala

DARFUR

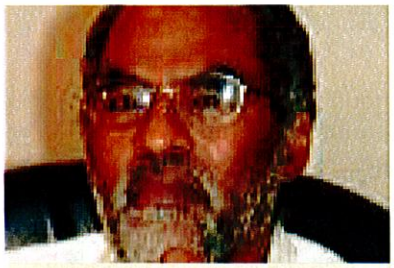
On September 17th, the Save Darfur rally took place at Central Park in NYC. Over 30,000 people attended the rally. Mira Sorvino, Amnesty International's *Stop Violence Against Women* Campaign Ambassador, spoke along with Larry Cox, AIUSA's Executive Director. Attendees wore blue to show support for the presence of United Nations peacekeepers in Darfur.
For more information, please log onto:

http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/sudan/index.do

GET UP, STAND UP

SUDAN

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE FREED



Abu Obeida Abdallah freed October, 14, 2006.

Journalist Abu Obeida Abdallah was arrested on September 29, in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, by officials of the Sudan National Security Agency (NSA, the Sudanese security services).

On October 5, 2006, Amnesty International issued an urgent action seeking the release of Abu Obeida Abdallah, a journalist on the national daily newspaper Al-Ra'y Al-Amm ("Public Opinion"), who was thought to be held in the political section of the NSA office in Khartoum North. The reason for his detention was unknown. At the time, the NSA reportedly stated that he would be released once it had completed their investigations into him. Abu Obeida Abdallah was a specialist on Darfur and had previously covered the peace talks on the Darfur region earlier this year.

On October 2, Sudanese journalists protested the detention of Abu Obeida Abdallah during an annual gathering of journalists.

On October 14, Abu Obeida Abdallah was released after more than two weeks in incommunicado detention without charge.

Abu Obeida Abdallah stated that he was treated well in detention. He also said that he had been questioned about the conflict in Darfur and about the murder of Sudanese journalist Mohamed Taha, whose beheaded body was found on September 6, 2006.

Abu Obeida Abdallah thanked all of those who had worked to secure his release.

Artists for Amnesty would like to thank the artists and members of the entertainment industry who took action on behalf of Mr. Abdallah.

TAKE ACTION

No further action required.

FILM FESTIVAL

Thousands of people attended the 2nd Annual Amnesty International Human Rights Film Festival co-sponsored by the National Geographic Society September 14-16, in Washington, D.C.

The feature films and documentaries screened included: *Catch a Fire, The Ground Truth, The World According to Sesame Street, All About Darfur, Black Gold, Golden Venture, Mario's Story*, and Salvador (20th Anniversary Screening).

The World According to Sesame Street

The Amnesty International Film Festival is dedicated to showcasing some of the world's best documentary and fiction films related to human rights. Through the art of film, the Festival strives to expose new audiences to human rights abuses occurring around the globe, including in the United States. Using the resources of Amnesty International, we strive to provide our audiences with concrete opportunities to take action to stop these abuses, and restore human rights and dignity to all.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAYS OF GLORY (INDIGÈNES)
Screening and Q & A
Museum of Tolerance
November 7, 7PM
RSVP REQUIRED: 323.202.4780

INNOCENTS LOST
Salon on Conflict Diamonds and Child Soldiers
Creative Artists Agency
November 14
by invitation only

CAUTIVA
Los Angeles Premiere
Sunset Laemmle 5
November 21, 7:30PM
Reception to follow at Gaucho Grill (7980 W. Sunset)
RSVP REQUIRED: 323.634.2599

BLOOD DIAMOND
College Screening Series
December 4-7

Los Angeles Premiere
December 6
by invitation only

AFA Bulletin edited by Bonnie Abaunza, Mario Tarfur, and Lucia Noyce

JOIN ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

Artists for Amnesty
2999 Overland Ave., Ste. 111
Los Angeles, CA 90064
p 310.815.0450 f 310.815.0457
e afa@aiusa.org
w www.amnestyusa.org/artistsforamnesty