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

VOLUME V

OCTOBER 2002

*Welcome to the **Artists for Amnesty Monthly Bulletin**, which will keep you informed about 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.*

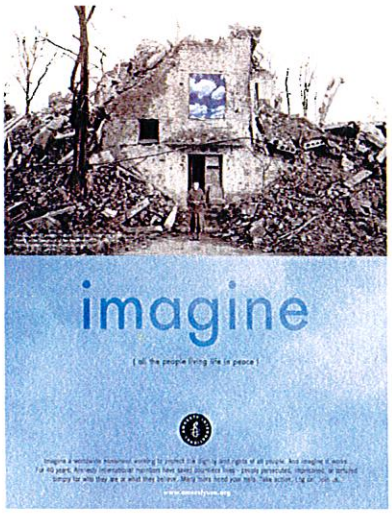
IMAGINE

On September 9, 1971, John Lennon's album "Imagine" was released . The title song, "Imagine," has become the most popular and widely covered of John Lennon's compositions. This vision for peace and respect for humanity remains as relevant today as it was 30 years ago. Amnesty International plans to use the message the song conveys to educate a new generation about the importance and benefits of defending and promoting human rights.

Amnesty International, with the support of **YOKO ONO**, is proud to announce **Imagine Day** and the launch of the Imagine Campaign. "Imagine" will be used as a theme for a human rights education campaign introducing articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in schools.

On October 13, **BOOKER T. JONES, HEITOR PEREIRA, FREDDIE WASHINGTON, JIM KELTNER** and an international children's choir recorded the song. ACADEMY AWARD winning composer **HANS ZIMMER** will produce the single for Amnesty International. The CD will be available later this year.

In partnership with Creative Artists Agency and Los Angeles Unified School District, Imagine Day will be celebrated at Venice High School on Human Rights Day, December 10. Selected students will be honored for human rights essays they have written. Amnesty International would like to thank **ANTONIO BANDERAS, MELANIE GRIFFITH, GABRIEL BYRNE, PAUL DEKTOR, JESSIE NELSON, STEWART LEVINE,** and **MARYLATA JACOB** for their help with this project.

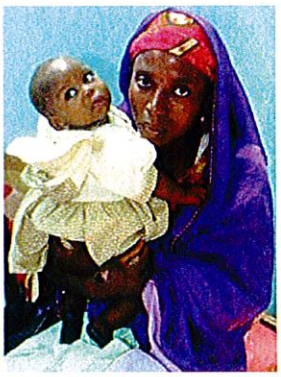


"Imagine all the people living life in peace."

- John Lennon

UPDATE: AMINA LAWAL

The case of **AMINA LAWAL**, the Nigerian woman facing death by stoning for adultery, was featured on *Oprah*, resulting in a flood of actions, with as many as 15 emails sent every second to the Ambassador of Nigeria. Since the beginning of Amnesty's campaign on behalf of Amina Lawal, over 300,000 actions have been sent. These actions are facilitated through our on-line Human Rights Action Center. In addition, a petition consisting of 1,270,000 signatures from over 100 countries protesting the sentence was handed over to the Nigerian High Commission on September 27. Amnesty International would like to extend its gratitude to **OPRAH WINFREY**. If you would like to take action on this case, please visit: **www.amnestyusa.org.**



ARTIST UNDER FIRE

DON DUONG, a 45 year-old actor from Vietnam, with film credits including "We Were Soldiers" and "Green Dragon." He has been declared a national traitor and banned from acting as a result of his involvement with both films. The highly respected actor who received the Vietnamese Best Actor Award is being criticized by the government for "participating in films that distort the history and humanity of the Vietnamese people." The Vietnamese government has reportedly seized his passport and is not allowing him to leave the country. The Vietnamese government denies these allegations. In "We Were Soldiers," Mr. Duong portrayed the commander of the Vietnamese forces, the late Col. Nguyen Huu An.

Information from the Los Angeles Times

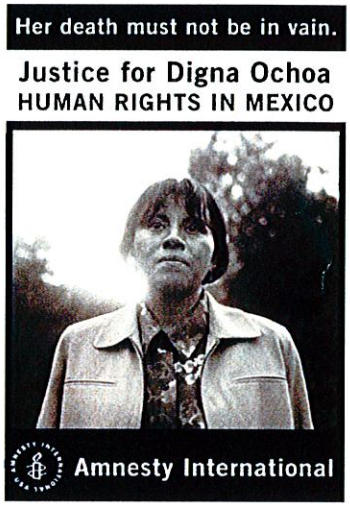
ON THE FRONTLINES

SANDRA BULLOCK, GESINE BULLOCK, and **TAMMI CHASE** will produce the story of Sandra Chase. In 1995 Sandra Chase, an American citizen, was imprisoned while taking a vacation in Ecuador. Authorities held Sandra Chase in prison for two years, without charging her, and withheld medical attention until her daughter Tammi Chase exhausted all possible resources to arrange bribe money that ultimately never succeeded in releasing her mother. Congresswoman Corrine Brown (D-Georgia) and Amnesty International remained outspoken and united as we worked for Sandra's release. After 60 Minutes aired a story on Sandra Chase, the Ecuadorian government released her on humanitarian grounds.

GET UP, STAND UP

DIGNA OCHOA

Saturday, October 19, 2002, marks the one-year anniversary of a tragic event that dealt a grave blow to human rights in Mexico--the day that human rights lawyer Digna Ochòa was found shot to death in her office in Mexico City. Ms. Ochoa represented persecuted anti-logging environmentalists Rodolfo Montiel Flores and Teodoro Cabrera Garcia, among many other clients.



Compounding the tragedy from a year ago, and despite commitments from the government of President Vicente Fox, the investigation into Ms. Ochoa's death has yet to be concluded. Earlier this year, Mexico City's Attorney General was forced off the investigation after leaking to the press the dubious theory that Ms. Ochoa had committed suicide. The investigation is now in the hands of special prosecutor Margarita Guerra.

Amnesty International encourages you to take this opportunity to reiterate our position that the culture of impunity must end in Mexico. Unless this happens, those responsible for Ms. Ochoa's death and for the wrongful arrest and torture of Mr. Montiel and Mr. Cabrera may not be brought to justice. In fact, it will only serve to illustrate that human rights are not defended, and that it is unsafe to be a human rights and environmental activist in Mexico. Remarkably, even while the investigation into Ms. Ochoa's death stalls, the investigation into who tortured Mr. Montiel and Mr. Cabrera has been dropped completely.

Join us in making sure the Mexican government understands that the world is still actively monitoring the human rights situation and environmental stewardship in Mexico. In honor of the memory of Digna Ochoa, we urge you to take a stand for human rights. Send a letter pressuring the Mexican government to conduct a complete and impartial investigation into the death of Digna Ochoa and the torture of Teodoro Cabrera and Roldolfo Montiel Flores, and to bring those responsible to justice.

TAKE ACTION

Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada
Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Palacio Nacional. Patio de Honor
1er. Piso, Col Centro,
C.P. 06067, México DF
MÉXICO

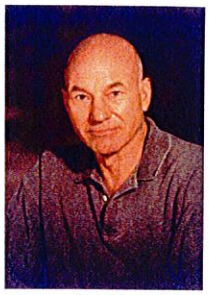
Fax. 0052-55-5277 2376, 5515 5729

PATRICK STEWART SCHOLARSHIP

Amnesty International USA and Patrick Stewart are proud to announce the twenty-two winners of the Patrick Stewart Human Rights Scholarship. The winners from this year's scholarship received between $300 and $1,800 to use for their participation in short-term human rights projects around the world.

Amanda Alexander	**Brigit Greeson Alvarez**	**Katrina Anderson**
Alesha Brandon	**David Buxton**	**Nadejda Chapkina**
Colleen Costello	**Douglas Grane**	**Mieke Holkeboer**
Sarah Hooker	**Benjamin Kacev**	**Brian Kelly**
Eunice Lee	**Ana Maria Gomez Lopez**	**John Lyons**
Neda Morrar	**Erica Schommer**	**Maria Stephan**
Ishmael Kamara	**Holly Henderson-LeMasurier**	

Some examples of projects the scholarship winners participated in include: working with the Senegalese National Youth Council to help develop the African Network of Youth Against Aids, assisting the Tibetan Children's Village to help develop tools to determine psychological trauma suffered by victims or witnesses of torture; and working with the Association of Indigenous Council of North of Cauca and the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca to collect testimony surrounding the April 2001 massacre of 100 people in Colombia.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SISTER DIANNA ORTIZ: Book signing with Sister Dianna Ortiz
OCTOBER 28, 6:30 pm
The Latino Museum of History, Art and Culture
201 N. Los Angeles Street Los Angeles
RSVP: 310.815.0450

SISTER DIANNA ORTIZ: A conversation with Sister Dianna Ortiz
OCTOBER 29, 7:30 pm
St. Paul the Apostle Parish
10750 Ohio Avenue (at Selby) Los Angeles
RSVP: 310.815.0450

LOS ANGELES SCREENING: RABBIT PROOF FENCE (Miramax Films)
Directed by Phil Noyce
NOVEMBER 19
For more information: 310.815.0450

AFA Monthly Bulletin now on-line: www.amnestyusa.org/artistsforamnesty

JOIN ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

CONTACT: Bonnie Abaunza
Director, Artists for Amnesty
2999 Overland Avenue, Suite 111
Los Angeles, CA 90064
310.815.0450 babaunza@aiusa.org
visit amnesty on-line: www.amnestyusa.org

AFA MONTHLY BULLETIN Edited by Bonnie Abaunza and Mario Tafur