winning composer **HANS ZIMMER**, who has produced a special version of *Imagine* for Amnesty International.

The *Imagine* Campaign will focus on the song's central message — *"Imagine all the people living life in peace."* A recent *Rolling Stone* article called the song a "simple, elegant prescription for peace on earth." We must *imagine* a world in which human rights are fully enjoyed by all, and then take action to make that vision a reality. A special section of our website, www.amnestyusa.org/imagine, will highlight events and opportunities for involvement with the campaign.

The campaign includes a special focus on youth and education. Amnesty International, with more than 1600 high school and college chapters across the U.S., is uniquely positioned to help provide today's youth with the tools needed to ensure that respect for human rights will ultimately triumph over violence, destruction and intolerance.

On *Imagine Day* on December 10, **GABRIEL BYRNE, PATRICK STEWART, MARIO LOPEZ, AMERICA FERRERA** and **JULIE WARNER** joined students at Venice High School in Los Angeles to celebrate the launch of the campaign. **JOY ENRIQUEZ, PATRICK PARK, SANDRA RAMIREZ** and **FREDDIE WASHINGTON** provided musical performances featuring songs written by **JOHN LENNON.** Amnesty International awarded the winners of the *Imagine* Human Rights Essay contest. The winning essays focused on the issues of hate crimes, prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, and Prisoner of Conscience **REBIYA KADEER**. Also participating in the afternoon ceremony were former Mexican Prisoner of Conscience **BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSE GALLARDO** and Nigerian poet and novelist **CHRIS ABANI**, who was imprisoned and tortured in Nigeria for his writings.

Through this campaign, Amnesty International hopes to make *Imagine* a global anthem for the 21st Century. Our aim is to honor the spirit of John Lennon's original intention—to raise awareness and move people to consider, to *imagine*, what is required to make the world a safer, more peaceful place.

***You bring me the deepest joy that can be felt by a man whose invincible belief is that Science and Peace will triumph over Ignorance and War, that nations will unite, not to destroy, but to build, and that the future will belong to those who will have done most for suffering humanity.***
**Louis Pasteur,** Paris, December 27, 1892

Gabriel Byrne on Imagine Day

Yoko Ono Lennon's special video message

Chris Abani, Julie Warner, and General Gallardo

Patrick Stewart and Brooke Baxter (essay contest winner)

## *IMAGINE* HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY AWARD WINNERS

**Introduction by guest editor Ben Bjelajac**

When the staff of Amnesty International USA asked me to be a guest editor and write about how my generation views human rights and the challenges to peace in the world today, I had to carefully decide how to tackle these issues. It is difficult to talk about the disturbing cases of human rights abuses and torture that occur in so many countries. It is far easier to close your eyes and pretend that everything is fine. Teenagers and children do not want to hear about torture and "disappearances"; most have difficulty with the daily stress that accompanies school and social life.

The fact is there are many teens who are very involved with promoting peace and human rights and it is inspiring to know that student groups in high schools and universities across America strive to ban torture and ill-treatment globally. When people think of human rights activists, their thoughts mostly turn to adults; however, there are many teens fighting the good fight. As a sophomore at Loyola High School in Los Angeles, I am not directly affected by human rights abuses. I am lucky to have been born in a country that believes in promoting freedom and respect for human and civil rights. But there are millions who are not as lucky as I am. As teenagers, we need to understand the importance of the human rights struggle, because we will soon be in the vanguard to ensure that people everywhere receive fair and just treatment.

For the launch of the *Imagine* Campaign, students at Venice High School were asked to write essays focusing on human rights topics ranging from the death penalty to child soldiers and from violence against women to INS detentions. The three recipients of the *Imagine* Human Rights Essay Award are: **BROOKE BAXTER, BARBARA LEYVA** and **SAMI NEWLAN.** The following are excerpts from the winning essays.

**Raising the Level of Awareness About Hate Crimes: A Comprehensive Approach**
**by Brooke Baxter, Grade 12**
The United States was founded on the ideals of freedom and civil liberties. We are a nation of immigrants, a country of opportunity, a colossal salad bowl of cultures, religions, ethnicities and ideas. Hate crime offenders assume these differences separate and alienate us. In reality, it is these distinctions that bring us together as a nation. Before starting an international coalition to raise awareness and to prevent biased crimes, we must begin nationally. In the year 2000, a shocking 8,154 hate crimes were committed domestically. We must find ways to reduce the 602 active hate groups and 194 active "patriot" groups that infiltrate our country with loathing and abhorrence of humankind. In order to teach Americans about hate crimes, we need to be reached at different levels reflecting the maturation and intellectual development of the aging process. Separate programs must be launched in the media and educational system in order to reach all Americans.

**An Essay on the Human Rights Violations in Guantanamo Bay**
**by Barbara Leyva, Grade 11**
The threat posed by terrorism will not be extinguished by the force of our actions, but by the integrity with which they are executed. We cannot deny the rights of the Geneva Conventions or due process to those imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay—i.e., the right to being granted POW status, the right to access to an attorney, and a fair trial—based on mere technicalities and twisted logic. There is no peace or justice to be found in violations of human rights.

**Rebiya Kadeer: Ethnic, Cultural, and Religious Persecution**
**by Sami Newlan, Grade 10**
In August 1999, on her way to discuss human rights with visiting members of the United States Congress, she was arrested. She was charged by the government with "providing secret information to foreigners," tried in secret and sentenced to eight years in prison in March 2000. She did not commit murder, she did not steal anything, she did not even break the law, yet she is serving prison time in a facility notorious for mistreatment of prisoners. By imprisoning her, the government is cutting her vocal cords, tearing her away from her family, and putting her life in danger. More importantly, Rebiya Kadeer's imprisonment completely devalues not only her life and her extraordinary accomplishments, but also the lives and rights of those for whom she was fighting for.

imagine

ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

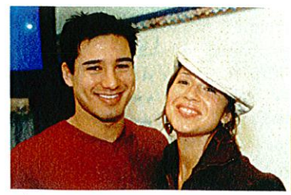
ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY IS A GROUP OF ARTISTS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, SAVING LIVES AND PROMOTING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2002

Last year, Artists for Amnesty worked on a wide range of events, activities and issues including:

- Academy Awards ® Celebration Dinner with Guest of Honor Nobel Peace Laureate Jose Ramos Horta
- Launch of Artists for Amnesty honoring the 20th anniversary of the film, *Missing*
- Book-signings by Sister Dianna Ortiz, author of *The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth*
- Photo Exhibition *Refugees even after Death*: Photographs of the Exhumations- The Clandestine Cemeteries of Guatemala
- First Annual West Hollywood Amnesty International Film Festival
- Special Preview Screenings of:

  *Bloody Sunday*
  *The Gatekeeper*
  *Rabbit Proof Fence*
  *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- Launch of the *Imagine* Campaign


Mario Lopez and Joy Enriquez backstage on *Imagine Day*

**We also celebrated the release of Prisoners of Conscience who were Artists for Amnesty Cases: Brigadier General José Gallardo (Mexico), Ngawang Choephel (Tibet), Dr. Taye Wolde (Ethiopia), Ibrahim Said (Egypt), U Pa Pa Lay and U Lu Zaw (Burma).**

## GET UP, STAND UP

### FEAR FOR SAFETY OF JEWISH FAMILY IN ARGENTINA

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Gustavo Melmann, members of his family and witnesses in the trial after the murder of Melmann's daughter Natalia. They have received repeated death threats since they pressed for the investigation into her murder. On February 4, 2001, 15-year-old Natalia Melmann disappeared as she returned home from a discotheque in the city of Miramar, south of Buenos Aires. Her body was found four days later, and showed signs of sexual assault and torture. She had last been seen getting into a police car under duress.

On September 30, three policemen from the Buenos Aires police force were sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the rape and murder of Natalia Melmann. The same day, while in court, members of the policemen's families made death threats against Gustavo Melmann, the public prosecutor, and members of the court. Relatives of the policemen also appeared on television repeating death threats against Gustavo Melmann saying "We're going to kill you, you Jewish son of a bitch." Several witnesses have also been threatened, and one of them was attacked by a relative of the policemen after the sentencing.

The Melmann family has filed judicial complaints about the threats made against themselves and the witnesses. Amnesty International is not aware of any action taken by the authorities regarding these complaints.

Help Amnesty International in its call for an immediate, independent and thorough investigation into these death threats by writing to the government of Argentina. Those responsible for these death threats must be brought to justice.

**TAKE ACTION**

**Sr. Gobernador del la Provencia de Buenos Aires**
**Ing. Felipe Carlos Solá**
**Casa del Gobierno**
**Calle 6 entre 51/53**
**1900 La Plata, Provincia de Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA**

**FAX: 011 54 11 4819 7619**
**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor**

## ON THE FRONTLINES

Music lovers and skateboarders flocked to eBay December 12-19 to bid on decks and memorabilia signed and personalized by some of today's hottest artists: **TOM MORELLO (AUDIOSLAVE), BECK, BLINK 182/ BOX CAR RACER, BLONDIE, DANNY BOY (HOUSE OF PAIN), THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS, MISSY ELLIOTT, FISCHERSPOONER, FOO FIGHTERS, THE HIVES, MOBY, ALANIS MORRISETTE, NEPTUNES/ N*E*R*D*, THE OFFSPRING, KELLY OSBOURNE, PEARL JAM, THE ROOTS, SYSTEM OF A DOWN**, and pro-skateboarder **TONY HAWK**.

Amnesty International thanks all of these artists for their tremendous support and commitment to human rights.

AFA Monthly Bulletin edited by Bonnie Abaunza, Mario Tafur, and guest editor Ben Bjelajac

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to offer the following people and companies our special thanks . . .

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Gioconda Belli
Cari Bjelajac
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Marianna Botey
Jackie Brooks
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Brad Burlingame
Gabriel Byrne
Suzanna Camejo
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Nicole Kidman
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Eddie Moreno
Robert Myman
Meena Nanji
Steve Nemeth
Sheila Nicholls
Phillip Noyce
Gina Oberndorf
Ingrid Oliu
Mark Ordesky
Sister Dianna Ortiz
Marisol Padilla Sanchez
Patrick Park
Alicia Partnoy
Rhea Pearlman
Heitor Pereira
Nic Plant
Mark Poncher
Ben Press
Hylda Queally
Arshia Radpour
Robin Raj
Sandra Ramirez
Rick Ramirez
Jason Reynolds
Irene Romero
Joe Rosenberg
Cari Ross
Shannon Rotenberg
Tim Roth
Geoffrey Rush
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Lorraine Sais
Susan Sarandon
Jay Scavo
John Shea
Chris Sievernich
Diane Sillan Issacs
Russel Simmons
Stacey Snider
Fran Solomon
Sissy Spacek
Katherine Spillar
Michael Spring
Gloria Steinem
Patrick Stewart
Sting
Beth Swofford
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Miramax Films
Media Ventures
Universal Pictures
Kaplan Communications
Directors Guild of America
CAA
Hero Publicity
Paramount Classics
William Morris Agency
MGM
Hollywood Records
Wingnut Films
HBO
Latino Museum of History, Art and Culture
Ago Restaurant
Collaborate
NALIP
Los Angeles Unified School District
Polaris PR
American Express Financial Advisors
City of West Hollywood
Loews Cinemas
Museum of Tolerance

and many more . . .

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# MONTHLY BULLETIN

SPECIAL EDITION

VOLUME VII DECEMBER/JANUARY 2003

*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.*

### LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Greetings for the New Year. The focus of this month's bulletin is Amnesty International USA's "Imagine" Campaign. Launched on December 10th in Los Angeles, the two-year campaign will focus on human rights education.

This campaign has particular relevance now that the world is debating potential military action in Iraq, North Korea has withdrawn from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the war on terrorism presents continuing challenges to the human rights community to speak out and take action to protect the rights of all. The ground swell of voices raising critical huma n rights concerns internationally is a hopeful sign of a growing solidarity movement.

Artists for Amnesty hosted a number of events in 2002 that helped educate the public about human rights and focused on campaigns to save the lives of prisoners of conscience around the world. We would like to extend our gratitude to all of the artists, industry professionals and activists who supported Amnesty International and the programs and initiatives launched by the Artists for Amnesty program. We hope to continue our productive and essential relationship with the artistic community. Your voices make the difference.

Thank you. Peace.

*I like to believe that people, in the long run, are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.*
**President Dwight D. Eisenhower**, audio and television broadcast with Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, London, August 31, 1959.

## IMAGINE DAY

This past year, Amnesty International has faced major challenges to its work: how best to promote and protect human rights in the aftermath of the September 11th tragedy and as the world confronts the possibility of war. As the world's largest grassroots organization, Amnesty International offers a message of hope and the opportunity for people everywhere to take action and to protect human rights. It is in this way that we will be able to bring security to all.

Amnesty International launched a nationwide public awareness campaign on December 10, 2002, International Human Rights Day, to inspire activism and educate youth about human rights and how to protect them. The two-year, multi-media campaign will have as its centerpiece **JOHN LENNON**'s song ***IMAGINE***, which eloquently captures the spirit of our message and challenges us to create a world without artificial divisions of faith or politics. We are very grateful to **YOKO ONO LENNON**, who has generously granted Amnesty International the rights to this song and to actor/producer **GABRIEL BYRNE** for his vision and involvement with our project. Other partners include **CREATIVE ARTISTS AGENCY, LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, MAGNUM PHOTOS,** advertising agency **COLLABORATE**, and Academy Award-