

PUBLISHED BY MINNESOTA ADVOCATES

HUMAN RIGHTS



FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

OBSERVER

International Women's Day

Education...Resources...Advocacy...Activism ...Community...Networking... Celebration!

All of these elements were found in abundance at the 11th Annual International Women's Day Celebration on March 4, 2006. Over 500 participants gathered in Coffman Memorial Union on the University of Minnesota campus to engage the spirit of the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and to assess and celebrate progress on women's human rights issues. Co-presented by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and the Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota, the event inspired and challenged those attending through panels, workshops, resources for activism and dramatic performances.

Naomi Tutu, the South African-born human rights activist and daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, delivered the morning keynote address. Tutu spoke powerfully about the interconnectedness between women's struggles in the developing world and in our local communities, and between violence in our homes and violence in the world at large. "Our

rights cannot be separated from the rights of women in South Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan, Sudan...The first and best step in recognizing and celebrating human rights is to refuse to let our lives be governed by fear."

Continued on page 8



Keynote speaker Naomi Tutu



"Many Voices, One Vision"
printed with the permission of Jane Evershed

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
is proud to announce
The 2006 Human Rights Awards Dinner

June 14, 2006
The Depot, Downtown Minneapolis

🌀 *Human Rights Award Winners* 🌀
Keynote Speaker

Hauwa Ibrahim, internationally recognized Nigerian human rights lawyer and advocate

Kao Ly Ilean Her, Executive Director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans
Lupe R. Serrano, Executive Director of Casa de Esperanza

🌀 *Emcee* 🌀

Garrison Keillor, host and writer of Minnesota Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*

For more information and tickets, call Andrew Williams at (612) 341-3302 x110

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Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

The mission of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. Minnesota Advocates was founded in 1983 by a group of Minnesota lawyers who recognized the community's unique spirit of social justice as an opportunity to promote and protect human rights here at home and worldwide. We are a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents immigrants and refugees in our community who are victims of human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy in Minnesota to engage the public, policy makers and children about human rights and cultural understanding. Minnesota Advocates holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.

From the Director's Desk

As immigration reform has become both a national and state legislative priority, negative myths about immigration have increased. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has expanded our campaign to dispel these myths and provide accurate information about the contributions of immigration to our nation's economic and cultural vitality. As John F. Kennedy said more than forty years ago, "Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life."

We must ensure that any immigration reform efforts are based on accurate information and fundamental human rights principles. Unfortunately, as the debate becomes more politicized, immigrants are increasingly being used as scapegoats for the weaknesses in national security policy and problems in the economy. Many proposed reforms do not improve either public safety or economic conditions, and instead have potentially devastating effects on our communities.

On the federal level, the House of Representatives passed an extreme, punitive measure that makes illegal presence in the United States a felony and criminalizes organizations and individuals who assist or provide support to undocumented persons. It also limits judicial review of immigration cases and access to federal courts. This legislation focuses only on enforcement and does not include provisions aimed at fixing our broken immigration system.

In Minnesota, the legislature is considering a measure intended to overturn the city separation ordinances adopted in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Many major cities around the country, including New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and Washington, DC have passed similar policies prohibiting police from inquiring about immigration status unless immigration status is part of the crime being investigated. The mayors and the police chiefs of both Minneapolis and St. Paul strongly oppose this measure because the fear of potential immigration consequences that it creates deters immigrants from reporting or assisting with the investigation of crimes, making our cities vastly less safe. Those supporting the bill cited national security concerns and the

September 11 terrorist attacks in their legislative testimony. Notably, however, the men who committed the terrorist acts on September 11 were not undocumented and even if local police were enforcing federal immigration laws, none of the highjackers would have been detected.

Minnesota Advocates supports balanced immigration reform that: 1) provides protection to refugees and asylum seekers fleeing persecution; 2) supports family reunification; and 3) provides a path to citizenship with reasonable requirements.

As we struggle to make sense of September 11 and work to develop policies to prevent future terrorist attacks, we cannot compromise the fundamental values upon which this country was built. We will not make our country safer by focusing on racial, ethnic or religious profiles or immigration status rather than on actual criminal conduct.

More importantly, when we talk about immigration, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are talking about individual human beings, all fundamentally equal in dignity and rights according to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of the United States. All immigration law reforms must reflect this reality.



Robin Phillips
Executive Director

Immigrant Rights Advocacy Takes Center Stage

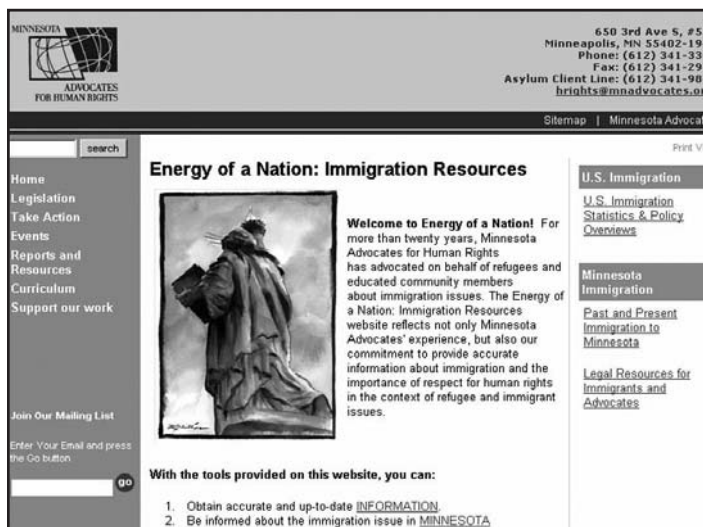
Immigration law and policy reform is being considered at both the state and federal levels. An overflow crowd gathered at a January 10th community forum in St. Paul to begin discussing these comprehensive immigration reform efforts. Government officials, police, attorneys, immigrant advocates and academics spoke about the importance of a balanced and fair approach to reform. The forum was organized by a coalition of organizations including Minnesota Advocates, the American Immigration Lawyers Association MN/Dakotas Chapter, Centro Campesino, Centro Legal, Inc., Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, and Jewish Community Action.

Archbishop Harry Flynn spoke at the event, calling for morally acceptable immigration policies. He reminded the crowd that “undocumented people are vulnerable - and our deepest principles demand that we respond to their needs, out of respect for the human rights of every person, including the right to work to support a family, the right to emigrate and the right to participate in society.” He also explained that, “These rights are clearly articulated in many of our faith traditions, as well as in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.” Representatives of the Minneapolis and St. Paul police departments also spoke out in response to recent proposals by Governor Pawlenty, calling for policies that build trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. Other speakers included Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybek and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, who both urged Minnesotans to join the fight against anti-immigrant legislation.

“[U]ndocumented people are vulnerable -- and our deepest principles demand that we respond to their needs...”
 - Archbishop Harry Flynn

Minnesota Advocates developed resolutions on federal and state immigration issues that were adopted by a number of precincts during the March precinct caucuses. Minnesota Advocates is also helping to coordinate testimony at the legislature to address many of the issues being debated in both pro- and anti-immigrant legislative proposals. For example, on March 1, Women’s Program Director Cheryl Thomas testified before the Minnesota Legislature, explaining the reasons why local police should not enforce federal immigration laws. Thomas drew on the findings of Minnesota Advocates’ 2004 report, *The Government Response to Domestic Violence Against Refugee and Immigrant Women in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area*. The report found that refugee and immigrant women are so afraid of potential immigration consequences, whether real or perceived, that they are reluctant to contact police even in cases of severe abuse. Thomas testified that, if passed, this bill would increase fear of police in immigrant communities, making immigrants even less likely to seek social services like police protection and health care services.

Energy of a Nation: A New Website to Inform the Public about Immigration



For more than twenty years, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has advocated for the rights of refugees and immigrants and has educated community members about immigration issues. We are now expanding our experience with immigration and education into Internet advocacy with our new website: www.energyofanation.org. The *Energy of a Nation: Immigration Resources* website provides accurate information about immigration and explains the importance of respect for human rights in the context of refugee and immigrant issues.

The *Energy of a Nation* website dispels myths about immigrants, providing updated fact sheets on current immigration in Minnesota and a quiz to test knowledge about immigration facts. The site educates visitors about current legislation affecting immigrants and provides advocacy tools to contact lawmakers. In addition, links to reports on immigration as well as community events and resources are available at the site. *Energy of a Nation* is an important tool for informing the debate about comprehensive immigration reform nationally and in Minnesota.

In its second phase, to be launched in late 2006, the *Energy of a Nation* website will teach students about immigration through an interactive version of the *Energy of a Nation* curriculum that educators have used since 1997 to dispel myths about immigrants.

Subscribe now!

To receive **email action alerts and updates** regarding federal and state immigration issues, please send an email with your name and email address to:
energyofanation@mnadvocates.org.

Human Rights Advocate to Speak at Awards Dinner Working for Human Rights on the Frontlines



Hauwa Ibrahim

Hauwa Ibrahim, a Nigerian human rights lawyer, recently gave a lunch lecture sponsored by Minnesota Advocates and Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, L.L.P. One of the top defenders of women's rights in Nigeria, Ibrahim has successfully challenged numerous charges and convictions under the Nigerian Court's interpretation of Islamic Sharia.

Ibrahim's lecture focused on her successful defense of Amina Lawal, a young Nigerian woman who was sentenced to be stoned to death for adultery. In this case that grabbed headlines around the world, Ibrahim became the first woman ever to defy tradition and address a Nigerian Islamic court directly. Her primary strategy in the Lawal case, and similar ones, has been to use the provisions of Sharia law to demonstrate flaws in prosecution cases. A firm proponent of the rule of law, she has also argued in more recent cases that Sharia law requires the courts to respect the procedural and substantive rights guaranteed by the Nigerian constitution and international human rights law.

Ibrahim's work was recently recognized by the European Parliament, which awarded her their top human rights award, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. The prize, named after a former Soviet dissident, is awarded annually to the person or group that the assembly considers has contributed significantly to human rights. Czech reformer Alexander Dubcek, South African civil rights leader Nelson Mandela, and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan are among previous recipients of the prize, which was first awarded in 1988.

Hauwa Ibrahim will give the keynote address at Minnesota Advocates' Human Rights Awards Dinner in Minneapolis on June 14. See page 1 for details.

Support Human Rights: Make a Donation!

We are currently seeking donations for our annual Awards Dinner Silent Auction on June 14, 2006. All proceeds go to support Minnesota Advocates' programs and projects. Possible donations include:

- ◆ Homemade gourmet dinners
- ◆ Wine
- ◆ Gift baskets
- ◆ Cabin and hotel stays
- ◆ Language and dancing lessons
- ◆ Collectibles
- ◆ Handmade crafts from all over the world
- ◆ Tickets and season passes to sport, music and theater events
- ◆ Framing, photography, portrait, and salon services
- ◆ Artwork
- ◆ Memberships to local museums and non-profits
- ◆ Gift certificates for restaurants and retailers

To donate or for more information, please contact Min Chong at (612) 341-3302 ext. 115 or mchong@mnadvocates.org.

Minnesota Advocates is updating its email lists.

If you would like to receive announcements of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities or program information, please contact Min Chong at mchong@mnadvocates.org or (612) 341-3302 ext. 115.

Minnesota Advocates does not share any of its mailing lists with outside organizations.

Continued Advocacy for Immigrant and Refugee Women

Innovative Training Brings Issues to Life

The Women's Program, in collaboration with Pangea World Theater, has developed a new training which includes a theatrical piece, *Journey to Safety*, based on Minnesota Advocates' report, *The Government Response to Domestic Violence Against Refugee and Immigrant Women in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area*. The report outlines the obstacles that battered refugee and immigrant women face when seeking protection and government services in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The training begins with a twenty minute dramatic performance including five vignettes, highlighting obstacles such as language barriers, fear of deportation, and community pressures that must be overcome by battered refugee and immigrant women seeking protection. The performance is followed by a facilitated discussion of the findings of the Minnesota Advocates' report and strategies for addressing the problems.



"Journey to Safety" performed by Pangea World Theater

The premier of the new training at the Minnesota state court judges conference in December 2005 was an overwhelming success. As one participant observed, "This innovative learning session made an inherently important message a compelling one in the eyes of the judiciary." Another judge commented that the training "brought out issues that unfold in domestic violence court in a way that is riveting and insightful." Pangea World Theater and Minnesota Advocates showcased the training at the International Women's Day Celebration on March 4, 2006. Future trainings are being scheduled in the upcoming months in a variety of venues. Since the release of the report in December of 2004, Minnesota Advocates has made dozens of presentations to judges, governmental agencies, medical groups and civic organizations.

Report Brings Changes to Justice System

Minnesota Advocates' report *The Government Response to Domestic Violence Against Refugee and Immigrant Women in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area* continues to have a significant impact on state and local government agencies. The Minnesota Supreme Court recently adopted rules that establish a comprehensive interpreter grievance procedure for handling complaints against court interpreters for unprofessional or unethical behavior. Costs of court-appointed interpreters in civil court are now paid from the state court budget rather than by the party in need of an interpreter. The Minnesota Department of Human Services included a supplement drafted by Minnesota Advocates outlining specific barriers that apply to battered immigrant women in its most recent booklet distributed to child protection employees statewide. Order for Protection forms that relate to petitioner and respondent submissions are being translated into nine different languages by the state court system. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights' guidelines for judges in criminal domestic violence cases involving refugee and immigrant women have been distributed during trainings, both locally and nationally.



Cheryl Thomas, Director of the Women's Human Rights Program at Minnesota Advocates. Photo by Sarah Whiting.

Cheryl Thomas Named a 2005 Changemaker

Cheryl Thomas, director of the Women's Human Rights Program at Minnesota Advocates, was named a 2005 Changemaker by Minnesota Women's Press (MWP) and was featured in their end of the year issue. J. Trout Lowen, MWP editor, highlighted "the powerful research of Cheryl Thomas at Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights" as one example of how "making change is not someone else's business."

The feature article about Cheryl focused primarily on Minnesota Advocates' recent human rights report on battered refugee and immigrant women in the Twin Cities. The report has sparked substantial changes in areas directly related to finding safety and justice for battered immigrant women.

Cheryl spoke of her surprise and delight at being honored by Minnesota Women's Press, and said she found it very gratifying to have this recognition of the strength of the organization as a whole and of the staff, particularly in the Women's Program. This award "is also a tribute to the broader community in their recognition of the critical nature of this issue and the tremendous response the battered immigrant women report has received."

Cheryl founded the Women's Human Rights Program at Minnesota Advocates in 1993, and has been its director since 2002.

Family Reunification Helping Asylees Complete Their Journey

No moment in the *pro bono* attorney's practice surpasses seeing an asylum client finally reunited with his or her family. Last November, a Liberian client brought his wife and children to a house party, having been reunited after nearly five years of separation. They join the hundreds of others who have been reunited through Minnesota Advocates' work.

Family reunification is frequently a primary concern of asylum seekers, since most of Minnesota Advocates' clients flee alone, leaving family members behind. Often asylum seekers feel guilty about leaving, and fear for the safety of their family members.

Practice Tips

Understanding the family reunification process can help ease clients' anxieties. Asylum seekers have no right to petition for their families. However, within two years of being granted asylum, the asylee can bring his or her immediate family by filing Form I-730, Petition for Asylee Relative. There are virtually no exceptions to this petition deadline.

Asylees can petition for their spouses and children. Under immigration law, "child" is defined to include biological, step and adopted children who are under 21 at the time the asylum application is filed and remain unmarried. All children falling into these categories should be included in the initial asylum application, and the attorney should emphasize to the client that documentation of the relationship will be needed before that child can join the client in the U.S.

Planning ahead with your client can later reduce often lengthy processing times. For example, asylum seekers can gather docu-



A Minnesota Advocates asylum client finally reunites with his family after over four years of separation

ments, such as birth, adoption and marriage certificates, while waiting for asylum to be granted. USCIS will also require recent photos of family members which the client should get as soon as asylum is granted. Finally, asylees should prepare financially to cover the costs of plane tickets and housing for their families as well as for the high cost of DNA testing, which consular posts sometimes require before issuing a visa.

Documents Required for I-730

- + Recent photo
- + Birth certificate
- + Marriage certificate
- + Adoption documents
- + Proof that asylum was granted

Secondary Documents

- + Proof of parental relationship such as:
 - School records
 - Medical records
 - Affidavits
- + DNA testing

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
and Fredrickson & Byron, P.A.

invite you to a new

Immigration Lecture Series

This series will address the growing state and national debate on immigration issues.

April 21
May 19
June 16

Lectures will be held at noon at the law offices of Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis

Lectures are free and open to the public (with registration) and CLE credit will be offered. Lunches will be provided to all those who register to attend. Please RSVP to Aaron Van Alstine at avanalstine@mnadvocates.org or (612) 341-3302 ext. 127. For more information, visit www.mnadvocates.org.

Minnesota Immigration Teach-In

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is reaching out to Minnesota teachers of grades 7-12 and encouraging them to teach an immigration lesson any day between April 24-28 using materials provided on the new website, www.energyofanation.org.

Minnesota Immigration Teach-In Days seek to celebrate Minnesota's heritage as a state invigorated by immigration in the past and present, to create a more informed and inclusive classroom, and to encourage students to advocate for immigrants and refugees in their community. Lesson plans can be downloaded from the website or taught directly online.

Full details and activity choices are available at www.energyofanation.org.

Refugee and Immigrant Program Volunteer Asylum Grants

Thank you to the following volunteers for the Refugee and Immigrant Program who successfully aided Minnesota Advocates' clients with their asylum cases:

Cameroon – University of Minnesota Immigration Clinic

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Volunteer Attorney
Reynaldo Aligada

Egypt – University of Minnesota Immigration Clinic

El Salvador – University of Minnesota Immigration Clinic

Ethiopia – University of Minnesota Immigration Clinic

Ethiopia – Volunteer Attorney Tim Ewald

Laos – University of Minnesota Immigration Clinic

Liberia – Volunteer Attorney Donald Campbell

Kyrgyzstan – Volunteer Attorney

Benjamin Hasbrouck

Somalia – Volunteer Attorneys Tom

Swigert, Surya Saxena and

Kimberly Fuhrman

Togo – University of Minnesota

Immigration Clinic



Client intake for asylum cases is always open by calling the
REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT PROGRAM CLIENT LINE: (612) 341-9845
where your case will be screened and scheduled for an intake interview.

Clients may also access our services through the following legal clinics which provide brief consultations and referrals:

CENTER FOR FAMILIES WALK-IN CLINIC

Center for Families
3333 North Fourth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55412
Second Monday of each month, 3-5 PM

VLN/PARK AVENUE METHODIST WALK-IN CLINIC

Park Avenue Methodist Church
3400 Park Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Thursdays, 3-5 PM
Residents of Hennepin County Only

Legal consultations are also available to clients of the **Minnesota AIDS Project** and the **Center for Victims of Torture**. Clients of those agencies should contact their social worker to schedule an appointment.

International Women's Day Continued from page 1



Panelists in the plenary session were (from top to bottom): Nyango Melissa Nambangi, Susana de Leon, Farheen Hakeem, Peggy Flanagan, and Pakou Hang.

The five panelists in a second plenary session spoke about their passionate commitment to making a difference in the lives of women. Susana de Leon, Peggy Flanagan, Farheen Hakeem, Pakou Hang and Nyango Melissa Nambangi described their different paths to activism within their own communities and in the broader world as well. From the suggestion to start small to the challenge of ensuring our shoulders are strong enough for the next generation to stand on, these women embodied the dynamism and strength of women activists through the ages.

Opportunities for further involvement and activism were presented at each of the ten workshops at IWD, where issues included trafficking, globalization and Latina women, immigrant women entrepreneurs, obstetric fistula, new laws on domestic violence, community-based advocacy for LGBT rights, racism among school-aged girls, involvement as candidates for political office, activism to end violence against women and children, and health disparities including teen pregnancy and women with HIV.

Two performances by Pangea World Theater gave life to issues of women's human rights in



"Journey to Safety" by Pangea World Theater

the lives of women today. The first was "Journey to Safety," which had its debut at a judge's training in December (see page 5). The show was a dramatic portrayal of the challenges battered refugee and immigrant women face in negotiating the legal and judicial systems in Minnesota. Based on a recent Minnesota Advocates human rights report, the work vividly depicted issues of interpretation, fear of deportation, and community pressures that can be barriers to safety for battered immigrant women.



Minnesota Advocates Women's Program Director Cheryl Thomas and Kao Ly Ilean Her, Executive Director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans

In the closing performance, "Momentum: A Celebration of Resistance," Ten actors and a Taiko drummer portrayed how women view the world, altered by personal experiences and cultural ties. Despite being silenced by culture and economic forces, they continue to fight for a better future – leaving a legacy of empowerment, creating opportunities and giving women a voice.



Speaking of African Women's Health workshop at IWD

Sixty co-sponsoring organizations joined forces for IWD this year



Naomi Tutu, Meraj Khan, and Raj Chaudhary

with display and information tables at the event. The resources provided by this record number of co-sponsors gave ample opportunity for attendees to continue the momentum and inspiration of the day with further involvement and activism.



"Momentum: A Celebration of Resistance" by Pangea World Theater



IWD participants visit the Minnesota African Women's Association display

Financial support for the event was provided by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, TCF Bank, and the following groups at the University of Minnesota: Office for University Women; Institute

for Global Studies, through a Title VI grant in International Studies from the U.S. Department of Education; Center on Women and Public Policy, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; Human Rights Center; Department of Women's Studies; MacArthur Program/Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of

Global Change; the Arleen C. Carlson Chair in Political Science; Event Partnership Grant provided by the Student Activities Office; the University of Minnesota Academic, Community, and Campus Life Initiatives in Partnership with Coca-Cola; Diversity Education Fund of the Minnesota Student Association; and Graduate and Professional Student Assembly. Additional financial support was provided by numerous co-sponsoring organizations and individual donors.



Sara Dejoras, Artistic Director of Misora Taiko Drum Ensemble

We are grateful for the volunteer efforts of over 100 people who contributed to the planning and smooth running of International Women's Day.

Special thanks to **Tammy Tucker of Sweet Tea Design** for our print materials, **Melissa Toft and Laura Nelson** for photography, **Bob Vaaler** for video projection and taping, and **Jane Evershed** for providing her painting, "Many Voices, One Vision," as the image for this year's event.

Food and coffee at the event were provided by the following generous donors: **Au Bon Pain, Bread and Chocolate, Café of the Americas, Coffee News Café, D. Brian's Deli, Dunn Bros. Coffee, Franklin Street Bakery, Good Earth Restaurant, Hampden Park Co-op, Keys Café, Kowalski's, The Lone Doughnut Café, LUNA Bars, Peace Coffee, Seward Co-op, Trotter's Café and Bakery, Turtle Bread Company, Whole Foods Market, and Wilde Roast Café.**

Human Rights & Asylum Conference

Conceiving a New World Order: Labor Rights as Human Rights

Thursday, June 1, 2006

Topics will include:

- United Nations norms on the responsibilities of multinational corporations
- Human rights fact-finding and reporting strategies to protect against sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace
- Using United States courts to pursue human rights violators abroad
- Applying international human rights standards and mechanisms to promote workers' rights locally
- Domestic labor rights as human rights and the challenges of advocacy
- A dialogue on strategies to protect labor rights

21st Annual Asylum Conference

Friday, June 2, 2006

Topics will include:

- The basics of asylum
- Membership in a particular social group: A gender analysis
- How to prepare an asylum case
- Practice before the Asylum Office
- How to work with the client who has been tortured
- Asylum law updates: Legislation, BIA and Federal Courts
- Emerging issues in asylum practice such as terrorism and material support
- Immigration Court Practice: Trial tactics for the *pro bono* asylum attorney

Featured Speakers

Deborah Anker (Harvard Law School Immigrant and Refugee Clinic), Maria Baldini-Potermin (Scott D. Pollock & Assoc. PC), Audrey Carr (Michael H. Davis Law Office), Ben Casper (Attorney at Law), Justin Cummins (Miller-O'Brien, P.L.L.P.), Immigration Judge Joseph Dierkes, Karen Ellingson (Attorney at Law), John Keller (Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota), Assistant Chief Counsel Kevin Lashus, Anne Lockner (Robins, Kaplan, Miller, & Ciresi L.L.P.), Immigration Judge Kristin Olmanson, Nancy Peterson (Attorney at Law), Robin Phillips (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights), Assistant Chief Counsel Daniel Pornschloegl, Dr. Patricia Shannon (The Center for Victims of Torture), Dinesh Shenoy (Ingber & Aronson, P.A.), Jenny Stohl Powell (SMRLS), Virgil Wiebe (University of St. Thomas)

Location: Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
50 South Sixth Street
15th Floor
Minneapolis, Minnesota
8:00am–5:00pm

2006 HUMAN RIGHTS & ASYLUM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>NON-PROFIT/GOV'T</u>	<u>STUDENT</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> June 1	\$125	\$50	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> June 2	\$125	\$50	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Both days	\$200	\$100	\$60

- I cannot attend. Please send me the materials (\$40)
- I cannot attend, but would like to make a contribution of \$_____

TOTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Check (please make payable to Minnesota Advocates)
- Visa
- Mastercard

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

CLE: Credit to be applied for.

REGISTER BY: May 26, 2006

REFUND/CANCELLATION: Refunds for cancellations will be made up to the day of the conference less a \$25 administrative fee. Paid registrants who do not cancel, yet fail to attend, will receive the written materials.

NAME _____

FIRM/NON-PROFIT/LAW SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

FAX _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PLEASE RETURN TO
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 Minneapolis, MN 55402
 Fax: (612) 341-2971
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
 Kim Babine
 kbabine@mnadvocates.org
 (612) 341-3302 ext. 120

Human Rights Day 2005: Human Rights and Discrimination

On December 9, 2005 Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights commemorated the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by holding an afternoon seminar, reception and evening performance at the University of Minnesota Law School that highlighted historic and contemporary situations of discrimination. Speakers addressed the effects of September 11 on Minnesota immigrants, refugees and religious minorities; local trends in race, national origin and religious discrimination; the historic discrimination against the Western Shoshone Nation; and reparations for ancestors of African slaves.

Following the seminar, audience members attended a thought-provoking, one-person show called "I Voted for Gummi Bears" (see box). Written and performed by Minneapolis artist Ochen K., this performance addressed the issue of felon disenfranchisement. Through the creative use of multimedia, research, statistical analysis and personal story-telling, Ochen K. provided an emotionally compelling breakdown of the history and effects of Jim Crow laws enacted in the 19th century that today keep 13 percent of the national black population from voting.

After the performance of "I Voted for Gummi Bears," a panel of experts discussed the issues of voting rights and felon disenfranchisement and later addressed many questions and concerns raised by members of the audience.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and Faegre & Benson LLP announce an encore performance of

**"I Voted for Gummi Bears"
by Ochen K.**

A compelling and insightful presentation of voting rights discrimination issues in the United States

Thursday, July 13, 2006 at 12:00 P.M.

Faegre & Benson LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street



This performance will be free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to Aaron Van Alstine at (612) 341-3302 ext. 127 or avalstine@mnadvocates.org.

For more information, go to www.mnadvocates.org.

Staff and Intern Update

Kim Babine has joined Minnesota Advocates as the 2005-2006 Lutheran Volunteer Corps Program Assistant in the Refugee and Immigrant Program. Kim graduated from Luther College in May 2005 with degrees in Religion and Women's Studies.

Tony Brown left Minnesota Advocates after three years as Development and Communications Director. We miss him!

Sarah Herder has joined us as a Program Associate in Development and Communications. She received her Masters of Public Policy with a self-designed concentration in Human Rights from the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs and a B.A. in English from the University of Minnesota, Morris. Sarah also holds a licensure in secondary education.

Laura Provinzino has finished her year as Minnesota Advocates' first Wellstone Legal Fellow and has joined Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, LLP as an associate. We miss you, Laura!

Ann Schuetz is our new Online Editor with the Education Program. Ann received a Masters of Public Affairs in social and educational policy from the Humphrey Institute and a B.A. in Spanish and English Education at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. She taught secondary school Spanish and English for 12 years and most recently served as the education coordinator at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.

Andrew Williams has joined Minnesota Advocates as our Director of Development. He formerly served as Director of the Posse Foundation in Chicago, and recently as Director of Multicultural Affairs at Carleton College. Andrew has a B.A. in sociology-anthropology from Earlham College and an M.A. in cultural anthropology from the University of Michigan. He is currently a Ph.D. student and DOVE Fellow at the University of Minnesota in the Comparative and International Development Education Program.



Kim Babine, Ann Schuetz, Andrew Williams and Sarah Herder

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights welcomes new **interns and volunteers** to our programs this spring: **Sara Bielawski, Britny Blomgren, Caroline Jacobson, Amanda McRae,** and **Leah Tran** (J-term) with Education; **Stephanie Bates, Julia Parke, Elizabeth Petheo,** and **Amie Shindelar** with the Refugee & Immigrant Program; **Jeeva Ananthan, Melanie Bradshaw, Katharine Horowitz, Kadra Ibrahim, Mia Lisa McFarland, Amy Medtlie,** and **Jessica Mowles** with the Women's Program; and **Sara Baber, Carrie Coslin, Taneeza Islam, Elizabeth Kiechle,** and **Angie Lewis** with Special Projects.

Minnesota Advocates invites you to the **Women's Program Spring House Party** Wednesday, April 19, 2006

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the home of
Anne and Peter Heegaard
184 Bank Street SE, Minneapolis

Live jazz and a report on new developments in the Women's Human Rights Program. Join us to celebrate and support the human rights of women around the world!

Women's Human Rights Film Series

Presented by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library

Afghanistan Unveiled

April 5, 2006 7:00 p.m.
Arlington Hills Branch Library
1105 Greenbrier St., St. Paul.

God Sleeps in Rwanda

May 10, 2006 7:00 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Branch Library
2245 Como Ave., St. Paul

Minnesota Advocates will facilitate discussion after each film.

For more information, contact Mary Hunt at
mhunt@mnadvocates.org or (612) 341-3302 ext. 107.

Death Penalty Speaker Series

**European View on the Death Penalty
in the Context of the War on Terror**

Presented by **Fionnuala Ní Aoláin**
May 10, 2006 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
50 South 6th Street, 15th Floor, Minneapolis

For more information or to RSVP, contact Rose Park at
rpark@mnadvocates.org or (612) 341-3302 ext. 106.

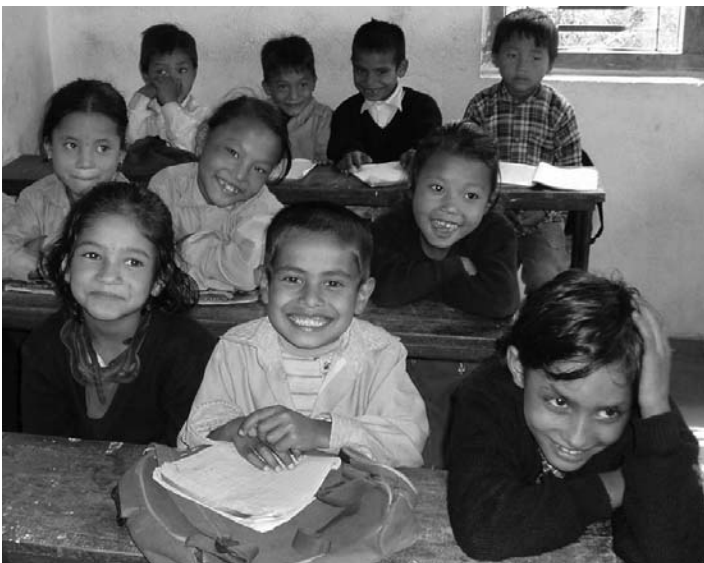
Sankhu-Palubari Community School **Happy, Healthy Students Continue to Learn**

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights continues to sponsor the Sankhu-Palubari Community School in Sankhu, Nepal, a village in the Kathmandu Valley about an hour outside of Kathmandu. The school, established by Minnesota Advocates in 1999 to promote education as an alternative to child labor, now goes through grade 6. Grades 7 and 8 will be added over the next two years as the students advance through their studies. The Sankhu School is offered free of charge to eligible students who come from the most disadvantaged families in the area. Because the government schools charge fees to the students, these children would not otherwise be able to attend school.



The school curriculum includes reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as English and human rights. The students are also provided a free lunch each day, an important part of the program for many of the students who walk an hour each way to school.

In February, Minnesota Advocates' Board Chair, Aviva Breen, Executive Director, Robin Phillips, and Education Program Director, Colleen Beebe traveled to Nepal to conduct a site visit at the school and to meet with the teachers and the headmaster. Former executive director, Lynn Thomas, and attorney, Dan Pennie were also part of the delegation. The students appeared healthy and happy and were thriving in their classes. Many were able to tell the delegation about their school work in English.



Minnesota Advocates supports the
Sankhu-Palubari Community School
through individual donations.

*It costs only \$150 to educate a student
for an entire year.*

For more information about our school
or to make a donation
see www.mnadvocates.org.

Faegre & Benson LLP and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights announce

The Children's Human Rights Speaker Series



This speaker series will be held bi-monthly throughout 2006 and 2007 and will present a wide variety of topics related to children's human rights.

12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

May 25, July 24,

September 28, November 30

Faegre & Benson LLP

200 Wells Fargo Center, 90 South Seventh Street

For more information, please visit our website or contact Amy Beier at (612) 341-3302 ext. 118 or abeier@mnadvocates.org.

Local Attorneys Honored for Work Against the Death Penalty



Sandra Babcock and Joe Margulies

A crowd of 150 supporters gathered on January 9 in the Minnesota Center for Photography to honor local attorneys Sandra Babcock and Joe Margulies and to support Minnesota Advocates' Death Penalty Project. Sandra and Joe are leading advocates against the death penalty both locally and nationally, and their guidance has been invaluable in directing our project. Joe began his work against the death penalty at the Texas Capital Resource Center. Sandra currently directs the Mexican Capital Legal Assistance Program through which she has provided litigation support to attorneys in over 80 capital cases involving Mexican nationals.

While Sandra and Joe welcomed the national and international strides to oppose the death penalty, they stressed the need for continued vigilance and efforts to abolish capital punishment. Both Sandra and Joe recognized and thanked Minnesotans for their commitment to combating the death penalty and assisting those on death row.

Minnesota Advocates thanks the businesses who donated food and beverages to this event: **Baja Sol, Bombay Bistro, Cub Foods, Emily's Lebanese Deli, Good to Go, Summit Brewing Company, Salsa a la Salsa, and Target.**

For more information on Minnesota Advocates' Death Penalty Project, visit www.mnadvocates.org.



Attendees listen to remarks by Sandra and Joe



Andy and Heather Capistrant with Minnesota Advocates board member Wood Foster

Education Program House Party: February 1, 2006

Thank you to everyone who attended the February 1 Education House Party which featured Minnesota Advocates work bringing human rights education to the classroom and community. This work is paramount in creating safe and positive learning environments for our children today and in the future! The Education Program staff would like to thank our Education Advisory Committee and interns for their support in making this event a success. We would also like to thank hosts Rebecca Skoler and Steve Stovitz and speakers Stan Mack and Lucy Smith.



Cathy Carlson, Human Rights Education Advisory Committee member Raymond Carlson, and Mary Parker attended the house party.



Stan Mack, superintendent of Robbinsdale Schools, recounted personal stories of being an immigrant, learning to speak English, and stressed the importance of human rights education in the schools.



Lucy Smith, storyteller, educator, visual artist and Holocaust survivor, shares insights about making human rights meaningful to young people.

Thanks to the following for donating food to this event: **Chiang Mai Thai, The Craftsman Restaurant, Crescent Moon Bakery, Joe's Garage, The Longfellow Grill, Starbucks, Sushi Tango.**

Volunteer Corner

Amy Albus

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights accepts 30 - 50 interns to our programs and projects annually. While all of our interns are highly qualified, some stand out for going above and beyond the 10 - 40 hours per week commitment that they make to Minnesota Advocates. Amy Albus is one such intern. Amy began her internship with our Women's Human Rights Program in May 2005 and has since volunteered nearly 800 hours of her time.

Amy holds a B.A. and B.S. in International Studies and Criminal Justice from York College in Pennsylvania. She also recently completed her law degree at the University of Richmond Law School, including studying abroad for one semester in Bangkok, Thailand through the Golden Gate University Law School program and a year at the University of Minnesota Law School as a visiting student. She graduated from the University of Richmond Law School in December 2005 and took the Minnesota State Bar Exam this past February.



Amy Albus

During her internship, Amy provided invaluable assistance with our Stop Violence Against Women website - reviewing and updating content, monitoring and posting news related to women's human rights, helping with the National VAW Monitor Program, and drafting a new section on forced marriage.

Amy's next plans are to move to Zagreb, Croatia with her husband, where she hopes to continue her work in human rights. Thank you, Amy, for your dedication and wonderful work!

Thank you to our Refugee and Immigrant Program Volunteers:

Volunteer Physicians

Dr. Afshan Anjum

Dr. David Parker

Volunteer and Consulting Attorneys

Gregg Bachmeier
 Audrey Carr
 Linda Close
 Jessie Collings
 Cornell University
 Paula Duthoy
 Gregg Fishbein
 Phillip Fishman
 Bill Ford
 Michael Fondungallah
 Mark Frey
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 Amy Schroeder Ireland
 Steve Thal
 Mark Thieroff
 Laura Tripiciano
 Pam Vanderwiel
 Rebecka VanderWerf
 James von Geldern
 David Wilson
 David Woodward
 University of Minnesota Law Students/
 Immigration Clinic
 William Mitchell College of Law/
 Immigration Clinic

Volunteer Interpreters

Kathryn Baumhover (French)
 Anne Carayon (French)
 Nicolas Collard (French)
 Dives Diaves (Arabic)
 Carole Diop (French)
 Antoine Epou (Mina)
 Natela Farsiyants (Russian)
 Valerie Ferment (French)
 Patrick Finnegan (French)
 Kathleen Gobel (French)
 Sarah Goldthwait (French)
 Koffi Gozo (Mina)
 David Hollenberg (Arabic)
 Erika Jerme (French)
 Julia Kashaeva (Russian)
 Tanya Kerksen (Spanish)
 Shantal Marshal (Spanish)
 Selahadin Mohammed (Amharic)
 Yawo Mottey (French)
 Mohamed Omer (Amharic)
 Richard Parks (French)
 Rima Reda (Arabic)
 Jess Reimer (Spanish)
 Pam Ritger (Spanish)
 Mariama Sene (French)
 Andrea Templeton (French)
 Susan Westphal (Spanish)
 Alyssa Wetzel (Spanish)
 Emily Williams (Spanish)

If you are interested in volunteering as a physician, attorney, or interpreter for
 Minnesota Advocates, please contact
 Malinda Schmiechen (612) 341-3302 ext. 103 or mschmiechen@mnadvocates.org
 or Amy Beier: (612) 341-3302 ext. 118 or abeier@mnadvocates.org

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Robin Phillips Executive Director
Kim Babine Refugee & Immigrant Program Assistant
Colleen R. Beebe Education Program Director
Amy Beier Refugee & Immigrant Program Associate
Min Y. Chong Assistant to the Executive Director/Administrative Associate
Michele Garnett McKenzie Refugee & Immigrant Program Director
Emily Good Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Sarah Herder Development/Communications Program Associate
Mary Hunt Women's Program Associate
Kay Kautio Administrative Director
Laura Nelson Women's Program Staff Attorney
Rebecca Palmer Women's Program Staff Attorney
Rosalyn Park Staff Attorney, Special Projects and Women's Program
Jennifer Prestholdt Deputy Director
Malinda Schmiechen Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Ann Schuetz Education Program Online Editor
Kathy Seipp Education Program Associate
Cheryl Thomas Women's Program Director
Aaron Van Alstine Education Program Assistant
Katie Vang Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist
James Weissbrodt Administrative Assistant
Andrew Williams Development Director

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Minnesota Advocates team to Nepal with our Sankhu-Palubari Community School partners.



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