

March 8th Marked the Eighth Annual International Women's Day Celebration

For the third consecutive year, International Women's Day in Minnesota was celebrated in a spring blizzard. In spite of the weather, more than 400 people - scholars, community activists, women's advocacy groups, and community members - gathered March 8 at the University of Minnesota's School of Law for Minnesota Advocates' Eighth Annual International Women's Day Celebration. "We are here today in celebration of women's connections across borders and in recognition of women's unique and essential contribution to achieving justice and peace in the world," said Cheryl Thomas, Director of the Women's Human Rights Program at Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights at the opening plenary session. The Human Rights Program at the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota co-presented the event with Minnesota Advocates.



Congresswoman Betty McCollum, recent appointee to the House International Relations Committee, gave the keynote address at the International Women's Day Celebration.

"[International Women's Day] is a reminder, a wake-up call, a loud shout, our day to keep moving forward in our struggles, to uplift our heroines," Fourth District Representative Betty McCollum said in her keynote address. "Today cannot be a day of rest, but of awakening." In her speech Rep. McCollum addressed local, national and international issues facing Minnesota's women, stating, "It is shameful that in the United States of America women have an illusion of equality, but in reality we are not guaranteed equal rights."

Eighteen workshops highlighted the *Twelve Areas of Concern for the Advancement of Women* set forth by the United Nations. For example, University of Minnesota's Women's Studies Professor Susan Craddock led one workshop on the complex social, economic, physical and political reasons women suffer

disproportionately from HIV/AIDS. State Senator Ellen Anderson led a panel on family and medical leave policies, noting that, "countries such as Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan have paid family leave policies exceeding our own policies here in the US." Kate Stanley of the *Star Tribune* made a case that US journalists should raise readers' awareness of women's global issues.

"Journalists," she said, "need to shake off the sham that journalism is judgment free. It isn't. It's about justice. It's more about Mandela and less about massacres."

(Continued on page 11)

20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

Join us in Celebrating 20 Years of Human Rights Advocacy 1983 - 2003

Guest of Honor

Honorable Mary Robinson
 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002)

2003 Human Rights Award Recipients
 Honorable Paul and Sheila Wellstone
 Professor David Weissbrodt

Tuesday, June 3, 2003 □ Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis □ Reception: 5:30-6:30pm □ Dinner: 6:30-8:30pm
 Formal invitations will be mailed in April. For additional information, call 612-341-3302, x113 or visit www.mnadvocates.org.

From the Director's Desk

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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. By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, we build broad constituencies in the United States and selected global communities.

These past several months, we have heard a great deal about the shortcomings of the United Nations in the national media. What we have not heard much about is the work the United Nations actually does.

The United Nations was created in the aftermath of World War II to help ensure that the horrors of that war are never repeated. Countries around the world came together to codify uniform standards of human rights and to create a forum for international cooperation in all areas of peace, security and development.

The United States was actively involved in the creation of the United Nations through the participation of great diplomats like Eleanor Roosevelt and Harold Stassen of Minnesota. The United Nations was never meant to be sovereign over individual nations. No country would agree to be part of such an organization. As a result, the success of the United Nations depends upon the good will and commitment of its member states.

The United Nations is a forum for preventing and resolving international disputes and addressing a broad range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights issues. In addition to peace and security, the United Nations programs address health, nutrition, poverty alleviation, economic development and the environment.

The United Nations and its agencies do what no nation can do separately. For example, it has deployed more than 40 peace-keeping missions to protect human life as countries rebuild after war and military conflict. The United Nations has negotiated many peaceful settlements to regional and national conflicts including the end to the Iran-Iraq war, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and an end to the civil war in El Salvador.

The United Nations promotes human rights through the creation of international treaties and ongoing monitoring of compliance with these treaties. It provides a forum for individual complaints and shines an international spotlight on cases of human rights abuses such as arbitrary detention, torture and disappearance.

The United Nations promotes democracy through technical assistance and election monitoring. Its many agencies provide essential services in developing countries that have saved millions lives. These agencies, including UNDP, UNICEF and UNIFEM, have assisted people around the world through health care services, literacy projects and education reform. They have created extensive programs to address AIDS, reproductive health issues and child mortality.

Through our work at Minnesota Advocates, we have seen the impact of the United Nations in the lives of real people. We have seen the United Nations standards for human rights and the rule of law serve as benchmarks for countries transitioning to democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. We have seen the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women form the basis of real legal reform to improve the status of women in countries that respect international law. We have seen United Nations-sponsored health care and immunization programs positively impact child survival rates. Every day, we witness the implementation of the Convention on the Status of Refugees and the standards developed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as we represent asylum seekers in the United States.

As we contemplate the human rights implications of the war in Iraq and the challenges of creating a lasting peace, we must work to strengthen the United Nations to ensure its important work goes on. While its systems are not perfect, it continues to promote human rights, peace and prosperity in countries around the world. To borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill, the United Nations is the worst form of international organization, except for all the others.

Robin Phillips
 Executive Director

The Honorable Mary Robinson to Speak at 20th Anniversary Dinner on June 3, 2003

Minnesota Advocates' annual Human Rights Awards Dinner will celebrate the organization's twenty years of human rights advocacy. The event will be held June 3, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis.

Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland who recently completed five years of service as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will be the guest of honor. She will share her perspectives on global human rights. Her current project, Ethical Globalization Initiative, draws on her experience and leadership in the field of human rights and her extensive network of contacts among world leaders, especially in developing countries.

Mary Robinson will also present Human Rights Awards to this year's honorees, Professor David Weissbrodt and, posthumously, Senator Paul and Sheila Wellstone.

International human rights scholar and advocate, David Weissbrodt has been a Professor of International Human Rights Law at the University of Minnesota Law School since 1975. He is director of the University of Minnesota's Human Rights Center and a founding board member of Minnesota Advocates. In 2001, Weissbrodt was elected Chairperson of the UN Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the first US citizen ever to chair the Sub-Commission, and the first since Eleanor Roosevelt to head a UN human rights body.

The Wellstones, who died in an airplane crash during the 2002 US Senate campaign, were determined and resourceful promoters of human rights, and their leadership in the Senate on these issues was unparalleled. Senator Wellstone was a forceful advocate for human rights as chairman of the South Asia subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was outspoken and active in his concern about human rights violations in many countries, including Colombia, Chechnya and Afghanistan.

Sheila Wellstone commanded international stature as a leader on violence against women, and she greatly influenced Senator Wellstone's work on this issue. They were key figures in the passage of every piece of significant federal legislation on domestic violence over the past decade, including the Violence Against Women Act. Sheila served for six years in Minnesota Advocates' Women's Program Advisory Committee.

Fred de Sam Lazaro, a correspondent for PBS's "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," will be the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Invitations will be mailed in April. Information is available on our website, www.mnadvocates.org or call 612-341-3302, Ext. 113.

Minnesota Advocates Announces The Wellstone Fellowship

All of us at Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights continue to mourn the loss of Senator Paul and Sheila Wellstone. To honor their memory and help preserve the legacy of their work, we have created The Wellstone Fellowship program at Minnesota Advocates. This fellowship will provide a recent graduate of a law or professional degree program, or someone pursuing a new course in his or her career, the opportunity to work for a year on human rights issues. We hope to increase the cadre of talented professionals in our community working to promote and protect human rights.

Board member Marlene Kayser and volunteer Ruth Usem have agreed to lead the effort to establish this fellowship. As Senator Wellstone once said, "If we don't fight hard enough for the things we stand for, at some point we have to recognize that we don't really stand for them."

For more information or if you would like to contribute, please see www.mnadvocates.org.

Announcing

Human Rights and National Security Monthly Lecture Series

Sponsored by Fredrikson & Byron

**"Disappeared" in the War Against Terrorism: Detention,
Due Process and The Right to a Lawyer.**

May 15, 2003

Noon-1:00p.m.

Fredrikson & Byron

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and the Fredrikson & Byron law firm are proud to present a new lunchtime lecture series on human rights in the post-September 11 world. The speakers series will be held on the third Thursday of the month throughout 2003. All lectures are free and open to the public.

The first lecture is scheduled for May 15, 2003. Joe Margulies, attorney for several detainees at Camp Delta in Guantanamo Bay, will provide his observations about the categories of persons detained since September 11, their conditions of detention, and their rights under U.S. and international law. He will also describe the pending litigation that contests the legality and conditions of their detention.

For additional information, please go to www.mnadvocates.org. To R.S.V.P., please contact Therese at 612-341-3302 ext. 116 or tgales@mnadvocates.org by May 13.

Founders' Reflections: The Beginning of Minnesota Advocates, and Minnesota's Place in the Human Rights World

Note: This article is the first of an on-going series of reflections by the founding members of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights in our 20th anniversary year. David Weissbrodt, a member of the Minnesota Advocates' board, is the Fredrikson & Byron Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota.

By David Weissbrodt

From the beginning of the modern human rights movement, Minnesota has been recognized around the world as one of the most important centers of international human rights research and advocacy. In 1945, Minnesota Governor Harold Stassen was a US delegate to the founding conference of the United Nations. He was one of the original signers of the UN Charter, which enshrines respect for human rights as one of its purposes. At the 1948 Democratic National Convention Hubert Humphrey gave his historic civil rights speech and was instrumental in setting the national agenda to protect civil rights.

Minnesota's national human rights leadership continued through the work of Donald Fraser, who served in Congress and as Mayor of Minneapolis. Fraser chaired a critical part of the International Relations Committee in Congress, and authored legislation that made human rights a primary tenet of US foreign policy and inspired President Jimmy Carter and his Vice President, Walter Mondale, to make human rights a central part of our nation's international objectives. All the presidents since that time have followed the same approach, albeit with some variations.

Congressman Fraser's work also had important consequences here in Minnesota. In 1983, he inspired Sam Heins to bring together a dozen Twin Cities lawyers – including Fraser, Barbara Frey, Art Benson, Bill Cameron, Jim Dorsey, Wood Foster, Tom Fraser, Tom Johnson, Sheldon Karlins, Bob Sands, and Tom Tinkham – to establish the organization now known as Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

Although I was on sabbatical from teaching at the University of Minnesota in 1983 when the organization was formed, I advised the group and served in the first board of directors. I received a letter and then a telephone call from Sam Heins. He told me of establishing Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights – then called Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee – and asked what projects it might undertake. From my work with Amnesty International, I knew that people in such countries as Guatemala, the Philippines, Poland, among others, would be found dead under circumstances suggesting that the government, or someone associated with the government, had been responsible. The government would not investigate the deaths.

I suggested that the new organization develop an international standard for an adequate autopsy and inquest. Dr. Lindsey Thomas, who was then an Assistant Coroner in Hennepin County and is now the chief coroner of Chisago County, and Dr. Garry Peterson, Chief Medical Examiner of Hennepin County, volunteered to help. They worked with a group of lawyers – including Tom Johnson, then Hennepin County Attorney – to prepare the standards, which were essentially the approach used in Minnesota to handle such cases, but with a certain sensitivity to differences among legal systems and the availability of medical facilities in different countries.

The techniques and procedures developed by Minnesota Advocates were eventually adopted by the United Nations as international standards. The UN published a booklet explaining the standards, popularly known as the Minnesota Protocol. The work we did in Minnesota has been used in Bosnia, Rwanda, the West Bank, and elsewhere. The Protocol was also used as the basis for developing investigatory standards regarding allegations of torture, known as the Istanbul Protocol.

After New York and Washington, D.C., Minnesota has the largest and most active human rights community in the United States.

After I returned to Minnesota I had a call from the office of Governor Rudy Perpich. Rudy Jr., the governor's son, had come home for Christmas vacation from Stanford University, where he had apparently gotten interested in human rights. Rudy Jr. asked his father what the governor had done to protect human rights and to stop torture. The governor wanted to know more, and a staff member asked me to write a memo on what Perpich could do to

stop torture. I prepared a list of ten things the Governor could do – some simple gestures, such as writing a letter to a government official in a country, like Turkey, where torture was endemic; and some ambitious ideas, such as establishing a Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota.

Rudy Perpich's reaction was absolutely typical: Instead of picking a few of the ten activities, he said, "We can do it all." That was the birth of the Center for Victims of Torture. Minnesota Advocates played an important part in getting the Center for Victims of Torture started. In the early days, Barbara Frey served simultaneously as the Executive Director of both the Center and Minnesota Advocates. Sam Heins served as the Chairperson of the Center's Board. Bob Sands wrote the Center's by-laws. The Center now has offices in Minneapolis and St. Paul, employing over 50 doctors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and other staff.

Minnesota Advocates, the Center for Victims of Torture, and the Amnesty International groups in Minnesota are part of a larger human rights community in Minnesota. After New York and

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STOP Violence Against Women Virtual Training and Mentoring Internet Site is Online

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights “pre-launched” selected portions of the STOP Violence Against Women Internet site (STOPVAW) on March 8, 2003. The web address, www.stopvaw.org, was distributed to advocates in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

This distance-learning website is designed to support organizations and individuals in the region working on issues of violence against women. The preliminary launch featured the domestic violence and trafficking sections of the website. The remaining sections on sexual harassment and sexual assault will be completed by the end of 2003.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to use technology in human rights advocacy to help people document and overcome violence against women,” said Cheryl Thomas, Director of Minnesota Advocates’ Women’s Program, who is overseeing the web site project. “We believe this project will significantly change lives in Central and Eastern Europe.”

Minnesota Advocates has been developing the STOPVAW website in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Open Society Institute, and the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center. The site provides both introductory and in-depth discussions of forms and strategies for combating violence against women and training materials. It also contains links to hundreds of resources, including research, model laws, policies, and reports from countries in the region, as well as the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

When complete, the site will include a discussion of NGO advocacy strategies, such as fact-finding, and resources for NGO capacity building, such as NGO development and

fundraising. The completed site will host moderated electronic discussions about advocacy strategies, as well as a mentoring program that matches advocates with experts willing to provide online technical assistance.



Ekho Baasanjav (center) returned to Mongolia this December, after completing a legal fellowship with Minnesota Advocates. Ekho’s fellowship was sponsored by the Network of East West Women, a Washington D.C. human rights organization that supports the growth of grassroots women’s movements in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, the Newly Independent States and the Russian Federation. Ekho was joined by two other 2002 legal fellows, Ania Nowak from Poland (left) and Nino Bakakuri from Georgia (right) for the Women’s Program Fall House Party. Thanks to Ekho for her hard work and for all who contributed to the House Party to make it a success.

Women’s Human Rights Speaker Series

Sponsored by Briggs and Morgan

Minnesota Advocates’ Women’s Human Rights Speaker Series will continue on the first Thursday of each month throughout 2003. Since November 2001, Minnesota Advocates has partnered with Briggs and Morgan law firm to present a lunchtime lecture series dedicated to improving awareness of women’s human rights issues. The speaker series is free and open to the public.

These lunchtime events have become a popular forum to learn about, discuss and debate current women’s human rights issues. Speakers include local activists, human rights lawyers and academics with experience in women’s rights issues.

The next Speaker Series event is scheduled for April 3, at Briggs & Morgan. Ann Towns of the University of Minnesota will speak on “The Tensions Between Women’s Rights and Multiculturalism in Peru.” Upcoming presentations include, “Trafficking in Women as a Human Rights Violation and Engendering Economic, Cultural and Social Rights: Women in the United Nations System.”

For additional information please go to www.mnadvocates.org. To R.S.V.P. please contact Amelia at 612-341-3302 x107 or abuttress@mnadvocates.org.

Metro Area Educators Gain Human Rights Teaching Strategies

If I saw [human rights education] ...at my school, I would see students and staff treating each other respectfully. I would hear words of love and peace instead of hate and bigotry. It would feel safe and secure, like home. --Participant in human rights education course offered by the Minnesota Global and Human Rights Education Network

Three years ago Minnesota Advocates helped to establish the Minnesota Global and Human Rights Education Network. This network is a collaboration of eight human rights organizations that provides curricula and other resources to help teachers bring human rights and global education themes to their classrooms.

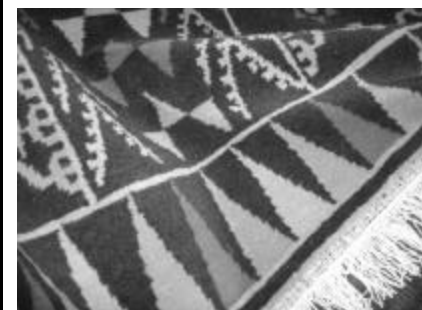
The network remains busy. The most recent project was "A Human Rights Culture: Bridging Classroom, Curriculum, and Community," a 4-part course over the winter for teachers interested in

Other network member organizations include: Center for Victims of Torture; Growing Communities for Peace; Minnesota International Center; Resource Center of the Americas; University of Minnesota's Human Rights Resource Center; University of Minnesota's Institute for Global Studies; and World Citizen, Inc.

For additional information contact Sarah Herzog at 612-624-3746 or sherzog@umn.edu.



Incorporating human rights themes in the classroom (left) a student participates in a refugee camp reenactment at Sandburg Middle School.



Human Rights Day Silent Auction: Nepali rug

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION 2002

The Celebration of Community and Diversity, held on International Human Rights Day December 10, 2002 was a profound reminder of the cultural richness that we enjoy here in Minnesota. More than 150 people joined Minnesota Advocates at William Mitchell College of Law to celebrate human rights and their relevance in our community. Volunteer attorneys mingled with teachers, board members, and immigrant community leaders as they sampled delicious food donated by 23 local ethnic restaurants. Children danced to lively African music, provided by two Minnesota Advocates volunteers. A lucky few even won gift certificates from a prize drawing at the end of the evening. A silent auction raised money for Minnesota Advocates.

Our Human Rights Day celebration was one of many such events that take place around the world on December 10. On that day in 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an enduring international commitment to human rights. Our local Celebration of Community and Diversity is a unique opportunity to honor Minnesota Advocates' dedicated volunteers and supporters. The celebration's success was possible thanks to the generous efforts from volunteers, auction donors, staff, participating restaurants and shops, and William Mitchell College of Law.

Thanks to the following businesses for donating food and beverages for celebration of Human Rights Day 2002:

- Boca Chica Restaurant; Cambodia Cheng Heng; Crescent Moon Bakery; Emily's Lebanese Deli; First Wok; Gardens of Salonica; Jerusalem's Restaurant; Keefer Court; La Bodega; Lund's; Mai Village; Me Gusta; Rainbow Foods; Saigon Restaurant & Bakery; Sawatdee; Seafood Palace; Shuang Cheng; Summit Brewing Company; Swede Hollow Café; Tacos Blass; Tacos Morelos; Terlizzo's and Village Wok.

Upcoming Schedule of Events and CLE Registration Form



April and May

- **Women's Human Rights Speaker Series: The Tensions Between Women's Rights and Multiculturalism in Peru**
Presented by Ann Towns
Thursday, April 3, 2003, 12:00 to 1:00p.m.
Briggs and Morgan, PA, 2400 IDS Tower
 Ann Towns is a Ph.D. Candidate in political science at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on globalization and notions of multiculturalism and women's rights, using Peru and Sweden as case studies. She has spent several years in Latin America conducting dissertation research and working on human rights issues. Please R.S.V.P. by noon on Tuesday, April 1. Email abuttruss@mnadvocates.org or call (612) 341-3302 ext. 107 for more information.
- **Women's Program Spring House Party**
Wednesday, April 23, 2003, 5:30-7:30p.m.
At the Home of Ruth Usem, 4700 West Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55410-1923
 The Women's Program spring house party will celebrate the Women's Program's 10th anniversary and will tour the decade with stories of volunteers, staff and partners of the Women's Program.
- **Women's Human Rights Speaker Series: The Trafficking of Women and Girls - A Growing International Crisis**
Presented by Loan Huynh and Robin Phillips
Thursday, May 1, 2003, 12:00 to 1:00p.m.
Briggs and Morgan, PA, 2400 IDS Tower
 Please R.S.V.P. by noon on Tuesday, April 29. Email abuttruss@mnadvocates.org or call (612) 341-3302 ext. 107 for more information.
- **Sankhu-Palubari Nepal School House Party**
Thursday, May 8, 2003, 6:00p.m.
At the Home of Dr. David and Mary Parker, 2808 River Parkway West, Minneapolis, MN 55406-1841
 House party to support the partnership with the village of Sankhu, Nepal, to support the Sankhu-Palubari Community School for children who are at risk of becoming child laborers.
- **The Second Annual Upper Midwest Regional Conference on Building Inclusive Communities**
Thursday and Friday, May 15-16, 2003, all day
Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa
 Presenters and workshop sessions will address race, immigrant, and refugee issues. To learn more about the conference, contact Therese Gales at Minnesota Advocates (612-341-3302, ext 116) tgales@mnadvocates.org or Sharon Sayles-Belton at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute (612-625-0315) ssayles-belton@hhh.umn.edu.
- **"Disappeared" in the War Against Terrorism: Detention, Due Process and The Right to a Lawyer**
Thursday, May 15, 2003, Noon-1:00p.m.
Fredrikson & Byron
 Joe Margulies, attorney for several detainees at Camp Delta in Guantanamo Bay, will provide his observations about the categories of persons detained since September 11, their conditions of detention, and their rights under U.S. and international law. To R.S.V.P., please contact Therese at 612-341-3302 ext. 116 or tgales@mnadvocates.org by May 13.

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Three Exciting Human Rights CLE Opportunities!

Human Rights Law and Policy

(7 CLE credits to be requested)

Thursday, June 5, 2003, 8:30a.m.-5:00p.m., *Dorsey and Whitney*

This human rights training will introduce lawyers to laws, policies and advocacy strategies to promote and protect human rights.

Course sessions will include:

- Introduction to Human Rights Law
- International Refugee Law
- Introduction to Women's Human Rights
- Transitional Justice and International Justice Mechanisms
- US Government and Human Rights
- Children's Human Rights Issues
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Minnesota

18th Annual Asylum Conference

(7 CLE credits to be requested)

Friday, June 6, 2003, 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., *Dorsey and Whitney*

Since 1986, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has presented the Annual Asylum Conference to recruit and train volunteer asylum attorneys and update immigration law practitioners on current asylum practice. The Asylum Conference has gained a reputation for excellence throughout the region, presenting local and national experts in the area of asylum law and practice. The Conference serves as a source of information to volunteer attorneys, immigration attorneys and refugee service providers throughout the region.

This year's conference will highlight the fundamentals of asylum law and the latest information about the new Department of Homeland Security, Board of Immigration Appeals restructuring, and other immigration law changes affecting asylum practice. Confirmed speakers include Mark Silverman of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center and Cecelia Espenosa of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Human Rights and the Death Penalty

(3 CLE credits to be requested)

Tuesday, June 17, 2003, 9:00a.m. -12:00p.m., *Faegre and Benson*

This seminar will give an overview of the history and jurisprudence surrounding the administration of the death penalty in the United States, as well as current issues related to capital punishment. The session will also include practical information on handling an appeal for a client on death row.

Course sessions will include:

- Introduction to the Death Penalty: History and Jurisprudence
- Nuts and Bolts of Capital Representation
- Recent Developments in Capital Punishment Issues

June CLE Registration Form

Name: _____

Firm/Organization/School: _____

Work Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to attend the following CLE course(s):

- | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Human Rights Law and Policy | \$200 | (7 CLE credits to be requested) |
| _____ 18th Annual Asylum Conference | \$200 | (7 CLE credits to be requested) |
| _____ Human Rights and the Death Penalty | \$ 75 | (3 CLE credits to be requested) |
| _____ All three programs | \$350 | |

I owe \$ _____

_____ Enclosed is my check

_____ Please charge my credit card:

Visa/MC #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____



Please mail or fax this form to:

CLE REGISTRATION
 MINNESOTA ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
 310 FOURTH AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 1000
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415
 FAX: 612.341.2971

Please call 612.341.3302 with any questions

REFUND/CANCELLATION: Paid registrants who cancel their registration at least 72 hours before the program will receive a full credit; if fewer than 72 hours, a \$25 administrative fee will be deducted. Paid registrants who do not cancel, yet fail to attend, will receive the written materials.



June and July

• **20th Anniversary Human Rights Awards Dinner**

Tuesday, June 3, 2003 5:30-6:30p.m. Reception 6:30-8:30p.m. Program and Dinner

Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis

The Honorable Mary Robinson will present Minnesota Advocates' 2003 Human Rights awards to Senator Paul and Shelia Wellstone and Professor David Weissbrodt for their contributions to promoting and protecting human rights.

See www.mnadvocates.org or call (612)341-3302 ext. 113 for more information.

• **Women's Human Rights Speaker Series: Speaker TBA**

Thursday, June 5, 2003, 12:00-1:00p.m.

Briggs and Morgan, PA, 2400 IDS Tower

Please R.S.V.P. by noon on June 3. Email abuttress@mnadvocates.org or call (612) 341-3302 ext. 107 for more information.

• **Human Rights Human Rights Law and Policy**

Thursday, June 5, 2003, 8:30a.m. -5:00p.m.

Dorsey and Whitney

See page 8 for details.

• **18th Annual Asylum Conference CLE**

Friday, June 6, 2003 , 8:00a.m. -5:00p.m.

Dorsey and Whitney

See page 8 for details.

• **Death Penalty CLE**

Tuesday, June 17, 2003. 9:a.m. -noon

Faegre and Benson

See page 8 for details.

• **Women's Human Rights Speaker Series: Speaker TBA**

Thursday, July 3, 2003, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Briggs and Morgan, PA, 2400 IDS Tower

Please R.S.V.P. by noon on Tuesday, July 1. Email abuttress@mnadvocates.org or call (612) 341-3302 ext. 107 for more information.



Join us for the Nepal School (left) fundraiser on Thursday, May 8 at the home of Dr. David and Mary Parker.

Wish List

One way to support Minnesota Advocates is to donate new or gently used items to the organization. We are currently in need of the following items:

- Small TV and VCR
- Portable Easel
- Printing Services
- Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook, 8th Edition
- Frequent flyer miles
- Computers (Pentium 2 or up)

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Minnesota Advocates' office at 612.341.3302 or brights@mnadvocates.org



Founders' Reflection , Continued from page 4

Now, more than ever, we need to use and strengthen human rights law and procedures.

Washington, DC, Minnesota has the largest and most active human rights community in the United States. The University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, which I lead, focuses on human rights education from kindergarten through graduate school and tries to bring home lessons of human rights and tolerance not only for refugees but for all residents of Minnesota.

Other Minnesota-based human rights organizations include the American Refugee Committee, International Women's Rights Action Watch, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy,

International Leadership Institute, Minnesota International Health Volunteers, Project Tandem (which deals with religious rights), and the Resource Center of the Americas.

The work of human rights groups has never been more important. Some government officials and scholars believe that the world has so changed since September 11, 2001 that we need to develop new approaches to terrorism and international relations that make human rights irrelevant. These voices have begun to undermine the important structures of international law, human rights, and international organizations that we have so carefully built over the past half-century. They would urge us to ignore the United Nations Charter, which commits this country to seek peaceful solutions to problems before we pursue armed action.

Now, more than ever, we need to use and strengthen human rights law and procedures. We must reaffirm the nearly universal commitment to human rights treaties, and particularly humanitarian law obligations. Human rights groups recognized that the only way to achieve peace is through respect for human rights. If we discard those bulwarks to our rights every time there is violence, human rights will have little value. In the justified effort to condemn and oppose terrorism, we need to assure that human rights protections are still guaranteed.



Attention Attorneys
Take a Minnesota Advocates
pro bono asylum case!
 Join probono.net today and
 view a list of current
 asylum cases in need of
 volunteer attorneys.

International Women's Day , Continued from cover

The event also featured more than 50 booths representing the cosponsoring agencies, a multi-media performance that explored the strengths of many immigrant women in Minnesota and closed with an original performance by the Granary Girls. Barbara Frey, Director of the Human Rights Program, summarized the day's atmosphere, "Women have voices of strength, voices of concern, voices of anger, and voices of hope. It is the voice of hope that is the most important in these times."

This year marked the beginning of a new partnership between Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and the Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota in presentation of the celebration. Allie Moen, a University of Minnesota student and one of the organizers of the event, said, "I was proud to be a member of this planning committee." Amelia Buttress of the Women's Program coordinated the event.

Special Thanks to all those who helped make this year's event a success:

Event Coordinator: Amelia Buttress

The 2003 Steering Committee: Allie Moen, Aysegul Kozak, Barbara Frey, Cheryl Thomas, Jessica Root, Natalie Elkan and Sally Kenney.

The Event Volunteers: Alexis Neumann, Grace Remy, Jessica Schnabel, Rochelle Hammer and the staff of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

The volunteers, workshop presenters, performers and local organizations who gave their time and made this event possible.

Jane Evershed for allowing us to use her painting, "Evolve," as the image for this year's celebration.

The University of Minnesota Academic and Community Initiatives in partnership with Coca-Cola, Institute for Global Studies through a Title VI Grant in International Studies from the US Department of Education, Human Rights Center, European Studies Consortium, MacArthur Program/ Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, College of Liberal Arts, Department of Political Science, Department of Women's Studies, Office for University Women, and the Center on Women and Public Policy Program of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

We would also like to thank the following companies for food and beverage donations:

Acme Deli; Cub Foods; Holy Land Deli and Bakery; North Country Cooperative; Old Dutch Foods; Peace Coffee; Sam's Club; Tower Grocery; Twin City Bagel; Wedge Co-op; Wuollet Bakery

Minnesota Advocates Somali Case Will Impact Deportation Policy

Some time in the next three to six months, the federal Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Paul, Minnesota, will decide if the government can deport Somali people back to the chaos of present day Somalia. The decision could affect immigration cases nationwide.

Minnesota Advocates and its volunteer lawyers began challenging the removal of Somalis two years ago, because federal and international law prohibit repatriation without a specific removal agreement. Jeffrey Keyes, a long-time volunteer attorney with the Refugee & Immigrant Program, and Kevin Magnuson, both of Briggs & Morgan, P.A., took the cases of Ayub Abukar and Keyse Jama in the spring of 2001.

On February 1, 2002, Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan recommended that Jama not be deported to Somalia until the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) could obtain the acceptance of the Somali government for his return. Just two weeks later, INS, together with the Canadian immigration authorities, deported approximately 30 other Somali citizens to Mogadishu using a private deportation firm. On March 31, 2002, US District Judge John Tunheim in Minneapolis ruled that the Attorney General did not have the statutory authority to remove persons to Somalia because there was no functioning government to accept their return.

The INS appealed Tunheim's decision. It was argued before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on February 12, 2003.

"The federal government is literally dumping people into the chaos of Mogadishu and taking off," said Michele Garnett McKenzie, Director of Minnesota Advocates' Refugee and Immigrant Program. "But the law does not allow someone to be deported to a place that has no government."

Recent Somali history is brutal: A civil war erupted in 1991. Fighting between clan-based militias left at least 400,000 Somalis living as refugees, and more than 300,000 living as internally displaced persons. Since the outbreak of the conflict, the United States has accepted more than 40,000 Somalis as refugees. While fewer than 7,000 Somali refugees came to Minnesota directly upon their arrival in the United States, thousands more have "secondarily migrated" to Minnesota, joining the flourishing Somali community now estimated at between 22,000 – 28,000.

The fighting continues, as killings and reprisals escalate the danger. Women and minorities were particularly vulnerable to abuses. No central government controls Somalia today. Indeed, no group controls more than a fraction of the country's territory, and there is no national judicial system. While formal reconciliation talks opened in early 2000, the progress toward stability remains minimal.

Most Somalis living today in the United States have valid immigration status as refugees, asylees, lawful permanent residents, or are US citizens. But the Justice Department reports that approximately 2,700 people are subject to final orders of removal from the United States. Since 1997, the INS has removed 196 Somali nationals to Somalia. The INS asserts that it has the authority to remove persons to Somalia in the absence of any recognized government to accept them, arguing that because there is no government to reject persons removed to the territory of Somalia, the required "acceptance" has occurred.

Similar Somali deportation cases are scattered across the country. In late November 2002, a group of Somalis with final orders of removal were detained in Minnesota, and then moved to a rural Louisiana jail. A judge's order stopped those deportations on the day of a planned flight to Mogadishu. The case is pending in the Western District of Louisiana, and a Seattle case involving Somali deportations assumed national implications in January when Judge Pechman ordered the INS not to deport any Somali in the United States. The INS has also appealed that decision to the Ninth Circuit.

Creating Dialogue about Human Rights

Would you like a Minnesota Advocates speaker to come address your community group, K-12 classroom, or place of worship? Minnesota Advocates has speakers who address human rights topics, such as:

- Immigration and refugee law and policy
- Domestic violence
- The use of the death penalty in the United States
- Human rights in a post-9/11 world

Please contact Megan Powers mpowers@mnadvocates.org or Therese Gales tgales@mnadvocates.org or call us at 612.341.3302 if you are interested in having a speaker.

Create a Legacy!

Please remember Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights in your estate planning.

Update from Peru: Anti-terrorism Laws Ruled Unconstitutional

By Sheila Stuhlman



Cradling her newborn baby girl, Juana fought back tears as she talked about her nine years behind bars. She was one of more than 14,000 Peruvians imprisoned under former President Alberto Fujimori's harsh 1992 anti-terrorism decrees, which were partially struck down by the nation's highest court on January 3, 2003. Juana shared her story with Minnesota Advocates' team during their November 2002 trip to Peru to monitor the work of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Peru is slowly making reforms to protect the human rights of its citizens. The Constitutional Court declared unconstitutional the trials of civilians in military courts or before anonymous judges. The court found the definitions of treason and "apology for terrorism" to be unconstitutional. The court also recommended that sentences be reviewed after thirty years, and that detainees convicted of terrorism not be held in complete isolation. The court's president said the decision brings Peru in line with international human rights standards and rulings by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which had directed Peru to reform its anti-terrorism legislation.

Now Peru's Congress and President Alejandro Toledo are enacting legislation to implement the court's decision. In January, a new law allowed life sentences for terrorism, but it included the possibility of parole after 35 years. Subsequent decrees required that cases tried under the 1992 terrorism laws be turned over to special investigators for a case-by-case review, and the creation of a special state prosecutor's office for terrorism cases. In all, more than 2,200 cases will be reviewed, 1,800 that were tried in civilian courts and 410 cases that were tried in secret military courts. The individuals will remain under preventive detention until their cases are reviewed.

These developments constitute important steps toward preventing more cases like Juana's. She was arrested in January 1993 by Peru's National Directorate Against Terrorism when she left her home in search of medicine for her 3-year-old son. She happened to be near an area of Lima that had been bombed by Shining Path earlier that morning. Six months after her arrest, one of Peru's "faceless" military courts (a one-way mirror concealed the judge's identity) found Juana and her husband guilty of treason, and sentenced them to life in prison. Fortunately, Juana and her husband did not have to wait for the new state prosecutor's office to review their cases. They proved their innocence to a Presidential pardons panel and were freed on December 15, 2001. Many more "innocents," however, remain in prison.

Arbitrary arrests and detentions comprise only a portion of the serious human rights abuses committed in Peru between 1980 and 2000. The government's war against the alleged members and supporters of the guerrilla groups Shining Path and Túpac

Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) resulted in an estimated 45,000 people killed or "disappeared," as well as 600,000 people displaced. These numbers will undoubtedly continue to climb as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission continues its important work of revealing the truth about what happened during the twenty years of political violence in Peru. Juana and other victims of human rights abuses expressed to Minnesota Advocates their hope that the work of the Commission will result in a better Peru for their children.

Sheila Stuhlman is an associate attorney with Miller-O'Brien in Minneapolis. She is an active Minnesota Advocates volunteer who is currently representing several pro bono asylum clients. She participated in Minnesota Advocates' human rights monitoring mission to Peru and is currently working with other team members to write a report on the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission process.



Interviewing Peruvian human rights victims for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Are you a federal employee?

You can support Minnesota Advocates through your donations in the Combined Federal Campaign. Look for us in the CFC catalog under Human and Civil Rights Organizations of America.

Immigration News: Special Registration

The federal government recently announced a project called the “National Security Entry-Exit System” as part of its work against international terrorism. This effort is better known as “special registration.”

The procedures, which seem to be evolving, causes anxiety and confusion among everyone involved, including immigration officers.

Introduced last November, the program requires non-immigrant men from certain countries to report to the federal government for registration, fingerprinting and questioning – based solely on their home country. This program has received much criticism from civil rights groups and immigrants alike. According to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), special registration is “ill-conceived” and “abhorrent to our national values” as it

primarily targets men from Muslim countries - Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Kuwait.

Although no reports of widespread arrests have been documented in Minnesota, the anxiety of foreign visitors remains high. These visitors – students, tourists, and temporary workers – fear the unknown. Detention is a very real possibility. The federal government can detain anyone whose federal government paperwork is out of date, even for a minor status violation. Someone who is waiting for a decision on a pending application – even if they are considered lawfully present in the United States – is vulnerable to arrest if they have fallen out of status.

Instances of arrests of foreign visitors add to the anxiety. The INS in Southern California detained hundreds of people who appeared for registration. Of those detained, many reported being held in inhumane conditions. Family members and lawyers reported that people were being held in overcrowded cells overnight without room to sit or sleep and were denied food and necessary medicines.

Minnesota Advocates has provided counsel to special registrants—in some cases accompanying individuals to the INS for the registration—and has fielded many questions about the registration program. Anxiety increased among many of Minnesota Advocates’ asylum clients, many of whom are torture survivors, even though they were not subject to registration.

The procedures, which seem to be evolving, cause anxiety and confusion among everyone involved, including immigration officers. Until recently, applicants in Minnesota were made to wait for extended periods of time in the frigid weather outside of the INS building in suburban Bloomington. Once in the building and through the security check, applicants wait again in a room filled with other nervous people waiting for interviews. Registrants are first questioned by an immigration adjudications officer, mainly about biographical information. If the registrant is out of immigration status, even if he has a pending immigration application, he is interrogated by an immigration investigations officer.

Then the registrants are fingerprinted, perhaps the most anxious moment because they are brought to the detained area without their lawyers. If everything goes well, the applicant can leave freely. However, the possibility that the applicant will be detained for an indefinite time is always present.

The legitimacy of this process has been widely questioned from the start, and not only because of the traditional American discomfort with law enforcement roundups of any group of people. AILA contends, for instance, that while the special registration program does little to seek out those in the US who might be planning acts of terror, it diverts resources from initiatives that effectively enhance our security. For more information about the National Security Entry-Exit System please visit www.mnadvocates.org.

Support Minnesota Advocates Online!

Supporting Minnesota Advocates just got easier: we have added an on-line donation option to our website, www.mnadvocates.org.

To use the online donation option, click on “Donate” and follow the instructions. Supporters with any major credit card can make nearly instantaneous contributions to the cause of human rights in a single gift or recurring monthly gifts. The same mechanism also allows transfers of stock.

The service is administered by VeriSign, the most experienced company managing internet financial transactions, and the information contained in this secure transaction will not be shared with anyone other than Minnesota Advocates.

The processing of these donations is underwritten by a grant, which means that every penny of your credit card contribution through our website will be applied to the work of Minnesota Advocates. Stock transactions will still be subject to a fee.

As a special introductory offer, the first 20 people who make an on-line donation of \$25 or more through our website will receive a colorful, limited edition, archived t-shirt from past International Women’s Day celebrations.

Once a Year is not Enough: More Volunteer Recognition

Every year, Minnesota Advocates recognizes a handful of our outstanding volunteers at the annual Human Rights Awards Dinner. This year, inspired by our Twentieth Anniversary, we are establishing the Volunteer Recognition Corner as a regular feature in *The Observer*.

Minnesota Advocates' success is largely due to the talent and energy of our exceptional volunteers and we want to celebrate their many contributions to our work. We invite you to submit recommendations for volunteers who have gone "above and beyond" the call of duty. Please submit a 250-word (or less) description of your recommendation and how he or she has contributed to the overall mission of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. Recommendations will be considered on an on-going basis.

If you know a volunteer who has gone 'above and beyond' the call of duty, please let us know! As part of our 20th Anniversary celebration, we'd like to recognize a different volunteer in each of our newsletters. Please send your recommendations via e-mail to: hrights@mnadvocates.org with the subject heading "Volunteer Corner."

Job Opportunities

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY

Application deadline April 25, 2003

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is seeking a Staff Attorney for its Women's Human Rights Program. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is a volunteer-based, non-governmental, non-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights.

Qualifications include a J.D. with experience in women's human rights advocacy or violence against women issues. Human rights fact-finding or other international experience is preferred. Proficiency in Spanish or Russian is a plus. Responsibilities include legal research, writing, human rights fact-finding and documentation, and working with volunteers and international partners. Strong interpersonal and leadership skills are required. Candidates should be willing to travel internationally.

To apply please send letter and resume to:

Cheryl Thomas, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 310 Fourth Ave. South, Suite 1000, Minneapolis, MN 55415

If it's Friday morning, you can rest assured that there will be a little extra warmth in the back of our office! For the past three years, Selamawit (Selam) Yohannes has spent her Friday mornings volunteering with the Refugee & Asylum Project. Week after week, Selam uses her skills as a paralegal and native Amharic speaker to keep our work going. In addition to creating a social services database, drafting countless letters, and translating for clients, Selam has also been known to escort clients on the bus, and during one particular cold spell, even bought a coat for a client who was ill. Thank you, Selam, for your warm smile, cheery laugh, and your dedication to serving those whose human rights have been violated.

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Application deadline April 25, 2003

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is seeking an Administrative Assistant. The position is responsible for providing general office support for Minnesota Advocates and its Executive Director.

Qualifications include word processing, database management, interaction with the public, and telephone communications. The ideal candidate will possess solid organizational and communication skills; be responsive to staff needs; be comfortable working with diverse groups of people; have experience working in a non-profit environment; and have an interest in human rights, social justice and international affairs. Full-Time, Excellent Vacation and Insurance Benefits, Salary depends on experience.

To apply please mail or email letter and resume to: Ronald Barnes, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 310 Fourth Ave. South, Suite 1000, Minneapolis, MN 55415. No telephone calls please.

Staff

Robin Phillips	Executive Director
Kendra Allen Popov	Administrative/Development Associate
Ronald Barnes	Administrative Director
Molly Beutz	Visiting Legal Fellow
Tony Brown	Development/Communications Director
Amelia Buttress	Women's Program Associate
Elisabeth Duban	Women's Program Staff Attorney
Manpreet Dhanjal	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Therese Gales	Refugee & Immigrant Program Director of Education
Amy Schroeder Ireland	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Eric Iverson	Refugee & Immigrant Program Assistant
Michele Garnett McKenzie	Refugee & Immigrant Program Director
Grant Mussman	Refugee & Immigrant Program Assistant
Maren Olson	Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Megan Powers	Education Program Associate
Jennifer Prestholdt	Deputy Director
Cheryl Thomas	Women's Program Director

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2003 International Women's Day Presentation: Voices of Minnesota's Young Immigrant Women featured (Left to Right) Gail Chang Bohr (moderator), Souza Yang and Sahro Ahmed.

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