Minnesotans: Vote to Protect Human Rights

On Tuesday, November 6, two proposed constitutional amendments will be on the ballot in Minnesota: the Anti-Marriage Amendment and the Voter Restriction Amendment. Remember to vote NO on both when you go to the polls! This is a rare opportunity to vote directly on issues that impact human rights in our communities.

For more information on the Anti-Marriage amendment, visit www.mnunited.org.

For more information on the Voter Restriction amendment, visit www.ourvoteourfuture.org.

Monitoring Domestic Violence Legislation

The Advocates has just launched its new report, Implementation of Croatia’s Domestic Violence Legislation. The report is based on findings spanning two years of work, including two fact-finding missions and extensive secondary research. Croatia should be commended for passing one of the first domestic violence laws in the region—the law provides many important protections for victims of violence including eviction, restraining order, and a prohibition against stalking and harassment. But the findings are also sobering. While the laws and the resulting government intervention have penetrated a world of brutality and silence, there is a long road ahead. Passing laws, while a critical first step, is not enough. Legislation must be constantly improved and attitudes about women, power, and privilege must change.

In dozens of interviews, The Advocates asked, “Are women safer? Are their human rights to equality and security being prioritized? Are there swift and serious consequences for violent abusers?” In September, Cheryl Thomas and Rosalyn Park traveled to Croatia to publicly answer these questions and officially launch the report to the Croatian Parliament and audiences in Zagreb, Rijeka, and Karlovac. In partnership with its in-country partner, Autonomous Women’s House Zagreb, The Advocates presented these findings and its many recommendations for

continued on page 9
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

I recently returned from a visit to our school in Nepal, the Sankhu-Palubari Community School. While there, I had the opportunity to talk with several of our students and former students. One young woman, Kanchi, was a student from our first kindergarten class. She described how her five older sisters grew up working in the fields with no opportunity to go to school. When she was six years old, she learned about our school, a new school for poor children that she could attend at no cost. She described how she cried and begged her parents for more than a month for the opportunity to go to school. She knew then, as a small child, how important her right to education was. With the support of her five sisters, she was finally able to convince her parents to let her enroll in our school. You can read more about Kanchi’s story and see pictures from our recent trip to the school on our new blog, The Advocates Post, www.theadvocatespost.org.

Shortly after talking with Kanchi, we heard the horrific news of Malala, the Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban simply because she was speaking out for the right to education for girls. Malala was well-known for her activism. This brave young girl was going to school and did not want her education or her friends’ educations to be interrupted by outside political forces. Malala also knew at a young age that the right to an education is a fundamental human right. Our hearts break for her and the other Pakistani girls who have been impacted by this outrageous violence.

Girls around the world face obstacles to education from many forces, both private and public. Some, like Kanchi, from within their own families, others, like Malala, from outside forces organized to keep girls in narrowly prescribed roles. While we are inspired by their bravery, their situations can also make us feel helpless.

There are, however, many things we can do to help. For example, we can speak out in support of the right to education for girls everywhere. We can support programs, like the Sankhu-Palubari Community School, that provide opportunities for girls to go to school. Just like in the United States, when girls have access to free, high quality education, they soon become a school’s top students. And, as we have seen in at our school in Nepal, the more girls learn and succeed in school, the more supportive parents become of sending their girls to school.

In addition, we know that the best way to protect the human rights of an entire community, including its girls, is to improve the status of women. We must support equality and the full recognition of the human rights of women all over the world through programs like our Women’s Human Rights Program that has, for the last 20 years, been a leader in the international movement to end violence against women and girls. Our partnerships have facilitated the passage of new laws, providing legal protection to millions of women in Minnesota and around the world.

In addition, the United States is currently engaged in the long process of developing an exit strategy from Afghanistan. Women’s rights advocates are imploring the United States government to demand assurances from the Afghan government that it will protect the human rights of women and girls and that this promise be central to any formal agreement. We can assist these activists by encouraging our own senators and representatives to keep women’s human rights front and center in the negotiations with the government in Afghanistan.

We are inspired by the bravery of Malala and Kanchi, and other girls around the world who are speaking up for their human rights. We can honor this bravery by doing all that we can to protect access to education and human rights for women everywhere.

Robin Phillips
Executive Director
**Burundian Human Rights Leader Granted Asylum After Five Years of Litigation**

Mr. S is a human rights activist from Burundi. His story is a testament of courage and strength in the face of oppression and violence.

In 1994, Mr. S’s parents were killed in the aftermath of ethnic cleansing. Partly because of this tragedy, Mr. S became involved in a non-violence movement in college and wrote articles about peace and tolerance for the college newspaper. He later became a member of a human rights group. Mr. S participated in marches and eventually gave a radio interview denouncing the imprisonment of journalists who had criticized the Nkurunziza government.

Following this radio interview, the secret service invaded Mr. S’s house in the middle of the night and brought him to a secret service prison. There he was beaten, starved, and twice threatened with death. After more than 20 days in prison, the secret service forced him to sign a pledge to never speak out against the government again. Mr. S continued to speak out against injustice. When Mr. S publicly condemned the government for taking the lives of 16 prisoners, he was imprisoned for almost 2 months, tortured again, and threatened with death by starvation. Human rights groups spoke out against Mr. S’s detention, prompting the government to release him, but the secret service attacked him at his house the very next day, killing his sister and infant son and taking his wife and two other children.

Mr. S escaped to the United States in April 2007 and contacted The Advocates for Human Rights. With the help of volunteer attorneys Mark Lee from Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand, who is a board member of The Advocates, and Matt Lewis from General Mills, he was granted asylum on June 27, 2012. Mark and Matt represented Mr. S in removal proceedings over the course of five years. Mr. S says The Advocates “saved my life. They represent my hope. They took me when I was desperate and found me not one lawyer but two. If I hadn’t found them, I don’t know what I would have done. Now I can finally breathe.” Mr. S is currently studying International Trade at St. Paul College and working with The Advocates to reunite with his wife and two children, who are still missing.

**Earn an Extra $100 for Human Rights on Give to the Max Day, November 15**

Give to the Max Day was created in 2009 to increase giving to nonprofit organizations across Minnesota. It is a day for Minnesotans to come together to raise as much money as possible for nonprofits in 24 hours – starting at midnight on November 15, 2012 through midnight on November 16, 2012.

Thank you to everyone who supported The Advocates on the 2011 Give to the Max Day and helped us raise over $20,000 dollars for human rights!

This year, a generous donor has agreed to donate an extra $100 for every individual who becomes a monthly sustaining donor on Give to the Max Day. You can commit to donating $10 a month or $100 a month – either way, you’ll secure an extra $100 for The Advocates!

Every donation to Minnesota nonprofits on Give to the Max Day will also be entered in an hourly “Golden Ticket” drawing, when two donations will be selected and increased by $1000! That means that every donation you make to The Advocates on Give to the Max day could provide an extra $1000 for human rights.

Please visit our Give to the Max Day page at http://givemn.razoo.com/story/The-Advocates-For-Human-Rights on November 15 and help us raise a record amount for human rights!
In May 2012, diplomats representing countries around the world attended the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Morocco and India. In preparation for these reviews, The Advocates submitted three joint stakeholder reports: one with the Moroccan non-governmental organization Global Rights on domestic violence in Morocco; one with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty on capital punishment in Morocco; and one with the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) on the rights of religious minorities in India.

Jennifer Prestholdt and Amy Bergquist from The Advocates attended the May UPR sessions in Geneva with Stephanie Willman Bordat and other representatives from Global Rights-Morocco, as well as Jawad Khan of IAMC and Karen Bridges (a Geneva-based volunteer for The Advocates). During each session, diplomats made brief oral “interventions” to praise or criticize the country under review and to make recommendations to improve human rights on the ground.

Leading up to the sessions, The Advocates and partners engaged in extensive lobbying to encourage delegates to raise the issues addressed in The Advocates’ reports. Of 148 recommendations for Morocco, 34 concerned the rights of women and 15 called for a specific law to address violence against women. Ten recommendations focused on the death penalty and prison conditions affecting people held on death row. Of 169 recommendations for India, 61 pertained to the rights of religious minorities.

Much to the elation of The Advocates’ Moroccan partners, two days after the session Morocco

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**INTRODUCING THE DIASPORA DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

The Advocates for Human Rights has a special relationship with diaspora communities. (“Diaspora” refers to individuals who live outside of their country of birth/ancestry yet still retain ties to that country.) Through our Refugee and Immigrant Program, The Advocates is often the first connection that asylum seekers have to their new community. Our *One Voice Minnesota* project works with diaspora communities to build welcoming communities in Minnesota for diaspora community members and for all people. The Advocates also has a long history of working with diaspora communities to document human rights abuses in their home countries; the Liberian TRC Diaspora Project and the Oromo Project are good examples of the impact that diaspora communities can have on human rights in their countries of origin. The Advocates has also recently worked with members of the Indian diaspora to engage in advocacy at the United Nations on issues concerning religious minorities in India.

In the current era of electronic communications, when diaspora members can monitor human rights developments and quickly organize across distance and national boundaries, diaspora communities have an increasingly important role to play in improving human rights. The Diaspora Documentation Project aims to tap this potential, which has long been overlooked in the human rights field.

The Advocates’ Diaspora Documentation project is developing and piloting practical resources and tools grounded in the daily work of human rights defenders. In order to benefit civil society organizations throughout the world.
agreed in full to 140 of the 148 recommendations. It agreed to all but one recommendation relating to women’s rights, and specifically agreed to repeal a controversial law that permits perpetrators of rape to marry their victims in order to evade prosecution. Morocco also agreed to “make efforts to achieve the total abolishment of the death penalty” but declined to abolish capital punishment “as rapidly as possible.”

India’s response to the recommendations stood in stark contrast with Morocco’s and disappointed human rights activists. India did not agree to even one recommendation. Instead, India said it would respond “in due time” before the September 2012 meeting of the Human Rights Council. Just two days before that meeting, India finally responded. India agreed to only 67 of the 169 recommendations. Worse yet, India took the unprecedented step of “summarizing” many recommendations, watering them down to eliminate critical nuances that would better enable human rights organizations to hold the Indian government accountable. Of the 61 recommendations relating to religious minorities, India adopted only 11—some only partially.

Facing harsh criticism leveled by several human rights organizations at that meeting, the Indian government pledged to work assiduously on all issues highlighted during the UPR, regardless of whether it had formally accepted a particular recommendation.

As the name “Universal Periodic Review” suggests, the UPR is a cyclical process. So in four years, Morocco and India will appear before the Human Rights Council again to provide a status update and hear new recommendations. In the meantime, The Advocates will continue to work with its Moroccan and Indian partners to ensure that the governments keep their promises, and to monitor human rights conditions.

As part of the project, The Advocates is conducting a survey to learn more about diaspora communities and the human rights issues they care about. If you are a member of a diaspora community, we welcome your input! Please visit www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/diaspora_community_survey.html to complete the survey.

The Advocates’ International Justice staff and volunteers are also working to create resources for diaspora communities to document and report on human rights abuses, advocate at the United Nations and other international human rights mechanisms, draw media attention to human rights issues, and conduct social media campaigns to raise awareness and support.

The Diaspora Documentation project has exciting potential to better protect the human rights of individuals and communities, and to change global human rights policy. Stay tuned!
The Tortilla Curtain, by T.C. Boyle

In his most popular novel, T.C. Boyle confronts the often controversial issue of undocumented immigration head-on, illuminating through a poignant, gripping story the people on both sides of the issue, the haves and the have-nots. Boyle weaves a narrative of two couples and a violent chance encounter that brings them together, instigating a chain of events that eventually culminates in a harrowing confrontation. The novel shifts back and forth between the two couples, giving voice to each of the four main characters as their lives become inextricably intertwined and their worlds collide.

Date: Monday, December 10, 2012
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: The Advocates for Human Rights
330 Second Avenue South, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RSVP online at www.advrights.org/book_club_rsvp.html.

FilM and Panel Discussion: Beneath the Blindfold

Beneath the Blindfold is a new documentary that sensitively paints a holistic portrait of the experiences of torture survivors and their path to healing after torture.

A post-film panel discussion will include Beneath the Blindfold co-directors Ines Sommer and Kathy Berger; Robin Philips, executive director of The Advocates; Curt Goering, executive director of The Center for Victims of Torture; Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, co-director of the Human Rights Center of the University of Minnesota; and Barb Frey, director of the Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota.

This event is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by The Advocates, the Center for Victims of Torture, the Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota.

Date: Monday, December 10, 2012
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Bell Museum Theater
10 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Training to End Violence Against Women


Designed in cooperation with Marcia Avner and the Sheila Wellstone Institute, the training focused on understanding and framing work to end violence as a human rights issue, as well as on specific tools and approaches for increasing the impact and effectiveness of this work.

“It’s time for us to start framing our goals as rights to be demanded, enforced, and realized,” said Marcia Avner in her opening observations.

Thanks to Marcia Avner and the Sheila Wellstone Institute of Wellstone Action! for sponsoring the training.

Sheila Wellstone INSTITUTE
a program of Wellstone Action!
This fall, The Advocates for Human Rights released a K-12 teaching guide to familiarize students with issues facing Iraqi refugees. The curricular resource was created as part of a joint project with the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project (IARP). During the project, Iraqis gave voice to their experiences by writing books and producing short videos. The teaching guide is designed to promote communication and understanding between Americans and Iraqis.

The elementary school lesson plan facilitates empathy by having students connect their own experiences to those of Iraqi children through photographs. It also gives students opportunities to role-play the act of welcoming new students in their school and community. Students are challenged with a question about getting along with our global neighbors, posed by one of the Iraqi producers in a video.

The middle school lesson plan delves into the moving story of a young Iraqi man, who tells the story of his childhood with references to the past and present.

The high school mini-unit has several activities to choose from, including watching the videos and reading the texts created by Iraqi refugees; reading texts written by United States veterans of the Iraq war; watching and discussing the documentary film, “The Unreturned” by Nathan Fisher; writing an essay about the current humanitarian crisis in Iraq; and taking action on issues that students find interesting and pressing.

The lessons are available to download for free on The Advocates’ website, DiscoverHumanRights.org. The books and videos referenced in the curriculum are provided for free through the IARP’s Iraqi Art Project website, iraqiartproject.org, which focuses on artistic collaboration as a platform for dialogue and the support of Iraqi culture.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

History Speaks to the Present on Stage: The Advocates’ Night at the Guthrie Theater

In early October 2012, The Advocates partnered with the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis to facilitate a panel discussion of civil rights in the United States after an evening performance of Appomattox. Executive Director Robin Phillips moderated the discussion, joined by expert panelists Daniel Bergin, David Grant, and Vic Rosenthal.

Approximately 60 people stayed for the panel discussion after the play. Daniel Bergin, Senior Producer and Partnership Manager for Twin Cities Public Television, spoke of the arts as a powerful vehicle for social commentary and change. David Grant, screenwriter and playwright, eloquently urged the audience to consider what many view as the contemporary iteration of slavery – the alarmingly high rates of incarceration among young African American men. Vic Rosenthal, executive director of Jewish Community Action, explained how voting rights are being put in serious jeopardy under the proposed Minnesota constitutional amendment.

Tying together the lessons from the play and the current ballot initiative in Minnesota, Phillips stated The Advocates’ official position against the voter restriction amendment on the grounds that it would threaten citizens’ right to vote once again in this country. “Voting is a human right, not a privilege,” Phillips remarked.

To take action or learn more about Minnesota’s voting restriction amendment, go to theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/voter_suppression_amendment.html.
In 2013, the Minnesota legislature will be asked to make good on the promise of Safe Harbor by funding the mechanism that will allow sexually exploited children to find safety, security, and a future free from exploitation.

In 2011, The Advocates led Minnesota in passing the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth act. Safe Harbor requires the state to end prosecution of children under 16 on prostitution charges when they are the victims of commercial sexual exploitation; divert 16 and 17 year old victims at least one time before pursuing juvenile adjudications; and recognize that sexually exploited youth are children in need of protection and services.

The Safe Harbor legislation directs Minnesota to create a new approach toward prostituted children. In 2013, the Minnesota legislature will be asked to make good on the promise of Safe Harbor by funding the mechanism that will allow sexually exploited children to find safety, security, and a future free from exploitation.

Minnesota’s Safe Harbor law required the state to engage stakeholders in creating recommendations for a statewide victim-centered model to meet the needs of sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation. That model will be presented to the Minnesota legislature in early 2013. Throughout the past year, The Advocates has worked with colleagues from throughout the state to develop the structure to support the successful implementation of the vision of Safe Harbor. That structure will provide the foundation upon which the promise made in the 2011 legislation – that prostituted children will be treated as the victims of sexual exploitation, rather than as juvenile delinquents – can be fulfilled.

In the process of developing this structure, core values emerged of how Minnesota’s approach to sexually exploited youth should operate. At all levels the system must be victim-centered, trauma-informed, culturally specific, and gender responsive, and must work to ensure the safety of the victim. A “no wrong door” theme emerged as the guiding principle to ensure that sexually exploited youth or youth at risk of sexual exploitation can access needed services to prevent exploitation or recover from its effects, regardless of whether the child is “in the system” or working through community-based programs. Housing and supportive services form the backbone of this new approach.

One area where the 2011 legislation failed, however, was in recognizing all prostituted children as crime victims. The 2011 Safe Harbor Act adopted a conference committee compromise which relied on the so-called “age of consent” to distinguish between prostituted children who are victims of sexual exploitation (those under 16) and those who can “consent” to prostitution (those 16 and older). The reasoning followed by the legislature goes something like this: if a 16-year-old can consent to sex, then she can consent to prostitution.

This reliance was misguided, resting on a distinction that exists under Minnesota’s sexual assault laws. The 2011 Safe Harbor law has inappropriately created a distinction between prostituted children that rests precariously on the two notions that prostitution is a victimless transaction between two consenting parties and that prostitution is essentially consensual sexual conduct. The “age of consent” concept relates to the perpetrator of sex crimes by assigning strict criminal liability for rape and sexual assault in cases where the child is under 16. That concept relates to the criminal liability of the assailant, not to the age of majority, the age of criminal responsibility, or the marriageable age.

The Advocates and its partners see no benefit to the victims of sex trafficking in distinguishing between prostituted children under 16 and those who are 16 or 17 years old. Minnesota lawmakers have the opportunity to correct this error during the 2013 session and The Advocates looks forward to working with supporters to change the Safe Harbor law to better protect 16 and 17 year old victims.

Stop violence against women

Members of the coalition that led passage of the Safe Harbor bill in Minnesota received a Special Recognition Award at the 2012 Human Rights Awards Dinner.
change. In addition, The Advocates met with the press, national television stations, the Ministry of Interior (see attached photo) and the United Nations to discuss the report and future advocacy efforts to implement the recommendations.

One of the biggest concerns our visit highlighted was the problem of dual arrests. Because of vague language in the law making ‘psychological violence’ an offense, police are arresting not only men when they physically assault their wives, but also women when husbands claim their wives verbally ‘insulted’ them. A victim could be arrested and charged for merely calling her physically abusive offender a bad name. Another serious problem is when victims are punished when their children see the violence: weak language of the laws combined with discriminatory views of women result in domestic violence victims having their children taken away and even arrested for ‘allowing’ the children to witness the violence against them.

Prosecutors, who are so important to sending the message to communities that violence will not be tolerated, are uninvolved and uninterested. We found that they rarely pursue even the most serious cases or else often drop cases – and offenders are free to continue abuse. Furthermore, independent women’s shelters that protect and empower women face severe financial problems due to complicated and oppressive government funding requirements. The list goes on.

But so does the unyielding movement to end domestic violence.

Women’s human rights advocates and inspiring leaders in the legal system persist in their efforts. Interestingly, despite the challenges, women’s advocates all over Croatia say that the police are their best allies in trying to keep women safe. The police officials we met with in Zagreb last week acknowledge and want to fix what is not working. In our meetings, they requested training in how to determine where risk is highest for women and importantly, how to identify the primary aggressor in domestic violence. Many government and community leaders are working on changing laws and practice. And women themselves are increasingly seeking help, claiming their right to safe and healthy lives for themselves and their children.

Women’s Human Rights Film Series

From Oscar®- and Emmy®-nominated filmmaker Kirby Dick comes “The Invisible War,” a groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of America’s most shameful secrets: the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military. The film paints a startling picture of the problem – today, a female soldier in combat zones is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire. “The Invisible War” exposes this under-reported epidemic to the world. The film is co-sponsored by Metropolitan State University’s Gender and Sexuality Services.

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Metropolitan State University, Founder’s Hall Auditorium, 700 E. Seventh St., Saint Paul

Please contact Mary O’Brien at (612) 746-4682 or mobrien@advrights.org with any questions.

Stay informed:
Sign up to receive The Advocates’ updates and action alerts at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/join_our_listservs.html.
Thank you for your support of the 29th annual Human Rights Awards Dinner!

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Michele Garnett McKenzie, Ifrah Jimale  Mike Farrell, Stacey Mills Heins, Judith Ney  Bob Vaaler
Mr. H is an Ethiopian native from the Oromo ethnic group who was imprisoned numerous times and tortured due to his ethnicity and perceived membership in the Oromo Liberation Front.

Asylum Victories

The Advocates’ clients and staff are grateful to our many volunteer attorneys who dedicate hours to preparing and defending asylum applications. The Advocates wants to recognize the following attorneys for their efforts on recently concluded cases.

Mr. R is a citizen of Ethiopia and a victim of torture. He was targeted by the government because of his Oromo ethnicity. University of Minnesota law students Claudia Vincze-Turcean, Justin Erickson, Willy Madeira, and Lindsey Greising represented him, with assistance from Professor Steve Melli and The Advocates’ Emily Good. Mr. R was granted asylum after an affirmative interview.

Mr. L is a former professor and citizen of Ethiopia who was tortured due to his perceived political opinion. He was granted asylum and successfully represented at the affirmative level by University of Minnesota law students Gordon Knoblach, Jenna Nand, Edmond Ahodome, and Kevin Lampone, with assistance from Professor Steve Melli and The Advocates’ Emily Good.

Ms. G was an activist and member of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) in Cameroon when she was arrested and tortured by the government. Deepinder Mayell from The Advocates successfully represented her and she was granted asylum in September 2012.

Mr. N is a citizen of the DRC. He was tortured by the government because he was a human rights activist and a member of the UDEMO political party. He was represented by John Mandler and Michelle Weinberg from Faegre Baker Daniels in an affirmative interview and was granted asylum in September 2012. Paralegals Declan Mumford and Cristine Trooien and The Advocates’ intern Maggie Brunk also assisted on the case.

Mr. T is a Hutu citizen of Rwanda. He fled after being persecuted because he refused to join the Rwandan Patriotic Front political party. Emily Good from The Advocates successfully represented him in an affirmative interview and he was granted asylum in September 2012.

Mr. H is an Ethiopian native from the Oromo ethnic group who was imprisoned numerous times and tortured due to his ethnicity and perceived membership in the Oromo Liberation Front. Mr. H was represented by Laura Tricipiano and granted asylum after an interview in July 2012.

Donor Highlight: Jim and Andrea Rubenstein

Five years ago, Andrea Rubenstein was looking for a way to volunteer with The Advocates. Her friends at The Advocates asked her to host a house party to benefit The Advocates’ work with refugees and immigrants. She and her husband, Jim Rubenstein, have graciously opened their home for this event every year since.

Jim and Andrea have lived in the Minneapolis area since 1973. Both attended college on the East Coast but happened to meet in Chicago at the 1968 Democratic National Convention while working...
Mr. S received a grant of asylum in August 2012 with the help of attorney Thomas Gilde from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. Mr. S is a gay man from Uganda who spoke frequently at student meetings about his sexuality and about the need for equal rights. Mr. S became the subject of increased harassment after the Ugandan government’s introduction of anti-homosexuality legislation in 2009, which called for the death penalty for certain homosexual acts and life imprisonment for known gays.

An Ethiopian man who was a pastor and religious leader was granted asylum. He was targeted because he provided food aid and assistance to displaced members of the Anuak people after a 2003 massacre. He was represented by Martha Overby and Jody McGinley at Fredrikson & Byron. Loan Huynh was the consulting attorney on the case.

An Ethiopian man who was arrested and tortured due to his association with the Oromo National Congress party was granted asylum in a defensive asylum case in immigration court. Attorney Sarah McGuire represented the client.

Asylum was granted to man from Cameroon who was tortured due to his political beliefs after a successful appeal to the BIA submitted by Emily Good with the assistance of Joe Schauer and Joe Cabelka. Sarah Brenes represented the client at the Master Calendar Hearing on July 2, 2012.

Ms. S is a citizen of Guinea and fled a forced marriage and sexual assault. The original application was submitted over a decade ago and the case was remanded by the BIA for another removal hearing. She was successfully represented by a volunteer attorney working with The Advocates and granted withholding of removal.

for Eugene McCarthy. Currently, Jim practices law at Moss & Barnett, working in the areas of business and real estate litigation and mediation. Andrea works in employment law at the Schaeffer Law Firm.

In their years of hosting the Refugee and Immigrant House Party, Jim and Andrea have been impressed by the dedication and organization of The Advocates. Jim and Andrea are happy to have this involvement with the organization.

They say they’ve learned a lot more about what The Advocates does on immigrants’ rights issues and other areas of human rights work.

They also enjoy seeing the turnout for the yearly house party and meeting the guests, staff, and clients. “I like to hear the stories of the clients, sometimes told by the clients and sometimes by the staff who work with them,” says Jim. Andrea speaks fondly of a former client of The Advocates, a man originally from China, who attends the house party and was able to translate the poetry in a piece of artwork in their home from ancient Chinese. She remarks, “Seeing him every year is quite a delight.”

The Advocates thanks Jim and Andrea for their contributions to our human rights work and hopes they will continue to be a part of our work for many years to come.
The Advocates would like to recognize and thank the many volunteers who contributed to World Day against the Death Penalty. World Day is an annual day spearheaded by the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, a coalition of 140 organizations around the world. The Advocates chairs the World Day working group, and because of its tremendous volunteer capacity, offered to develop materials for the 2012 day.

Numerous volunteers stepped up to help with World Day. Heather Winter and Robbie Howell of Sutherland law firm researched and wrote the leaflet and fact sheet describing worldwide trends and legal reform toward abolition. They developed a powerful resource for activists on the global movement toward ending the death penalty. The Advocates’ intern, Bassam Khawaja, created colorful charts and graphs to show the statistics and patterns in these materials—the growing numbers of abolitionist countries, the decreasing numbers of executions worldwide, the increasing votes in support of a United Nations resolution for a moratorium, and the growing number of States Parties to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at abolition of the death penalty. Cuong Nguyen, Art Director at Vital Images, created the poster that serves as the face of World Day (shown to the right); Cuong’s aesthetic eye and design skills conveyed a positive message for a grim topic, urging countries to abolish the death penalty. “Humanitarian” Kait Taha used her skills to develop a worldwide map showing the progressive abolition of the death penalty over the past ten years. The map displays the trend toward abolition to give an idea of the world’s progress in a single snapshot. Finally, our local volunteer translators also helped to ensure these important materials could be used by abolitionists around the world. Sarah Spencer (Spanish), Mark Petty (Spanish), Aymen Zaben (Arabic), Reem Zaben (Arabic), and Anoosheh (Farsi) diligently translated the materials into other languages. As a result, The Advocates and its volunteers helped make World Day a reality. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

World Day against the Death Penalty materials are available on the World Coalition’s website at www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.
The Advocates wishes former staff member Ahmed Sirleaf well in his new position with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Monrovia, Liberia.

**INTERNS**

Thank you to our summer interns!

Lindee Balgaard (University of Minnesota Law School), Katie Bell (Drake University), Molly Curtiss (Carleton College), Jayne Discenza (Macalaster College), Eleanor Frisch (University of Minnesota Law School), Regina Garza (University of Michigan Law School), Ted Glasnow (Notre Dame), Barsha Hamal (CUNY School of Law), Elizabeth Hoody (Princeton University), Fatima Jawaid (U of MN Humphrey School of Public Affairs), Bassam Khawaja (Macalaster College, now in Columbia University Law School), Eleanor Lewis (University of Minnesota Law School), Caroline Miller (Northwestern University), Cerisa Obern (Macalaster College), Aviva Oskow (Syracuse University), Victoria Rau (Fordham University), Nicole Rhodes (Carleton College), Andrea Rosner (University of Minnesota), Katie Ross (Bowdoin College), Laura Stecker (William Mitchell School of Law), Ariel Tazkargy (University of Minnesota Law School), and Laura Westerhof (University of Minnesota).

**STAFF**

Sarah Brenes joined The Advocates in May as a staff attorney with the Refugee and Immigrant Program. Prior to joining The Advocates for Human Rights, Sarah was a clinical law fellow at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. She taught and supervised students in the Immigration Law Practice Group representing clients seeking asylum, family reunification benefits and visas as victims of human trafficking and violent crimes. Sarah has worked with several non-profit organizations and private immigration firms serving immigrant clients. Sarah received her J.D. from the University of St. Thomas School of Law where she was awarded the John R. Roach Fellowship for pursuit of a career in public interest.

Emily Lohmeyer, a volunteer with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, joined The Advocates in August 2012 as a Program Assistant in two areas, working with the Refugee and Immigrant Program and the Research, Education, & Advocacy Program. She graduated from the University of San Diego in May 2012 where she majored in International Relations and minored in Peace and Justice.

Briana Okuno, a volunteer with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, joined The Advocates in September 2012 as the Program Assistant in the Refugee & Immigrant Program. She graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where she majored in French and minored in Management Studies and Film Studies.

Like many other nonprofits, The Advocates appreciates its Sustainers, those donors who commit to giving a certain amount each month. And our Sustainers appreciate how easy and flexible monthly giving is—a donation amount can be adjusted or cancelled any time. To become a Sustainer of The Advocates today, visit our website at: theadvocatesforhumanrights.org or contact Ellen Van Iwaarden at evaniwaarden@advrights.org or 612.746.4677.

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR 2012:**

2012 marked the eighth year that The Advocates hosted a booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Every year, The Advocates engages thousands of Minnesotans at the Fair about pressing human rights issues in our communities. This year The Advocates welcomed a record 8,122 visitors to its booth. One young woman said, “This was my favorite booth at the fair! I never expected to learn so much.”

**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!!**
Many Ways to Take Action

Take Action

If You Have

10 Minutes

• Exercise Your Right to Vote. Vote for candidates who protect human rights and support local, state, and national legislators who advocate for human rights.

• Donate to the Cause. Become a sustaining donor on Give to the Max Day, November 15, at GiveMN.org or any day at theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.

• Stay Informed. Sign up to receive The Advocates’ updates and action alerts at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/join_our_listservs.html.

• Join the Online Movement to Defend Human Rights. Follow The Advocates through Facebook, Google+, Twitter, and YouTube. Read The Advocates’ blog at www.theadvocatespost.org.

If You Have

A Few Hours

• Write a Letter. Research and write a personal letter to the editor of your local news media or to your elected officials about a human rights issue.

• Get the Facts. Learn more about human rights issues in the U.S. Read the Discover Human Rights Fact Sheets at www.discoverhumanrights.org/toolkit.

• Watch a Film and Discuss. Watch a film that addresses a human rights issue. Invite friends and neighbors and facilitate a discussion following the film. Some examples include The Visitor, Milk, The Kite Runner, and Born Into Brothels.

If You Have

A Month

• Join The Advocates’ Human Rights Book Club. The Book Club meets to discuss books with human rights themes. For more information, visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/book_club.html.

• Host a Fundraiser. Host a house party or other fundraiser for The Advocates. House parties are a great way to support The Advocates and introduce new people to our work and approach.

• Start a Petition Drive. Petitions are a good way to raise awareness about an issue, a piece of legislation, or a specific organization. For tips on beginning a petition-based campaign, try www.studentpirgs.org/activist-toolkit/petitioning.