Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace and Justice.

(#1 June 8, 2008; #2 Feb. 5, 2012; #3 March 24, 2013) Thanks Marc.

See related newsletters: Human Rights DAY, Civil Liberties/Human Rights, Bill of Rights DAY

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/


For a knowledge-based peace, justice, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change. Informed citizens demanding a constitutional democracy.

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

Blog: http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OMNIPeaceDept

j.dick.bennett@gmail.com

Contents of earlier HR newsletters at end

Contents: Human Rights Newsletter #4, March 31, 2015
Global Human Rights


World Human Rights Report 2014

Vets for Peace, Wars, Human Rights, and Peace 2013

FinnWatch, Corporate Violations of Human Rights

Mauritanian Human Rights Hero

Giraffe Stick Your Neck Out Heroes

USA

Ann Fagan Ginger, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Is the Law*

US Human Rights Network

New York State, Dignity in Schools

GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Universal Periodic Review, Google Search, March 31, 2015

www.ohchr.org/

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for H...

The UPR was created through the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by ... Human Rights Council *Universal Periodic Review* Working Group to Review ...

Basic Facts about the UPR

Basic facts about the UPR. What is the Universal Periodic Review ...

UPR Sessions

UPR Sessions. According to the Human Rights Council's ...

Documentation

Documentation. In accordance with the Human Rights Council ...

NGOs and NHRIs

Through the Universal Periodic Review, the Human Rights ...

More results from ohchr.org »
1. Universal Periodic Review - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Periodic_Review
Wikipedia
Jump to UN-UPR cycle - [edit]. While the first UN-UPR operated on a four-year cycle, the second and current cycle has been extended to four and a half ...
Principles and objectives - Procedure - HRC review process - References

2. What is the UPR ? - UPR Process what is it - UPR Steps ... www.upr-info.org/en/upr-process/what-is-it
The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the Human ... the human rights situation of all UN Member States is reviewed every 4.5 years.

3. UPR Info: Promoting and strengthening the Universal ... www.upr-info.org/en
UPR Info is an NGO dedicated to promote the Universal Periodic Review mechanism since ... How the UPR can support the UN Convention on the Rights of All..

4. Universal Periodic Review - US Department of State
www.state.gov/j/drl/upr/
United States Department of State
The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established by the UN General Assembly in 2006, is a process through which the human rights records of the United ...

5. [PDF]Report of the United States of America Submitted to the U.N. ... www.state.gov/documents/.../146379.p...
United States Department of State
Submitted to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights ... I.2 The United States and the Universal Periodic Review: approach and methodology .......... 3. II.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism was established in 2008 and operates under the auspices of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Next U.S. Government Universal Period Review To Take Place the second week of ... The U.S. Government submitted their report to the UN on February 2, 2015, ...
Searches related to UN Universal Periodic Review
Despite the headlines of human rights violations in such countries as Syria, North Korea, Egypt, Thailand and Burma, there was some progress over the past year according to the annual report of Human Rights Watch. Two new multinational treaties give hope for some of the world's most marginalized people: domestic workers and artisanal miners poisoned by the unregularized use of mercury. And, after a slow and disappointing start, the United Nations Human Rights Council is starting to be effective.

Human rights measures are a good indicator of progress towards a culture of peace in all its aspects. For example, it is not by accident that...
the domestic workers treaty is being signed and put in force by the countries of Latin America rather than the "great powers" which reflects their leadership for a culture of peace.

In the case of women's rights, there is good news in the recent ground-breaking European treaty on violence against women. According to Human Rights Watch, “This is a defining moment for women in Europe for whom the home is a place of danger. This treaty will oblige governments to take concrete steps to help women and girls facing violent attacks."

With regard to the rights of indigenous peoples, Survival International reports that there were significant gains in the past year in Colombia, Brazil, Botswana and India. The rights of native Americans took a step forward with the appointment of the first ever Native American judge in the United States. Meanwhile in Canada a Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been established to bring healing to the suppression of the native peoples in that country. In fact, the rights of indigenous peoples also involves the right to a sustainable environment, as emphasized by Canadian participants at the recent UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

And with regard to the free flow of information, the adoption by Brazil of the "Marco Civil" - an Internet bill of rights - is an important counter to the attacks on free access to the Internet in many countries, including the United States among others.

Unfortunately, most coverage of human rights issues by the mass media are negatively consisting of accusations of human rights violations, often pointed at the "enemy" as a kind of propaganda weapon. This makes human rights coverage more difficult for CPNN, since we insist that our stories concern positive developments. After all, there are plenty of other websites that provide real news!

Often, the violations of human rights are associated with civil wars or threats of civil wars and sometimes as a result of interventions to support what the Americans call "regime change." In these cases, the accusations can be very hypocritical when the intervening countries accuse the targeted countries of human rights violations that are caused directly by the country’s counter measures, but indirectly by the interventions of the foreign powers. Recent examples include Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Libya.

Finally, here is a case where the negative news can be turned into positive action. A number of human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists have called for Palestine to refer the Israeli interventions to the International Criminal Court.

Note: if the photos below do not show up, you may also get the bulletin at http://cpnn-world.org/bulletin/bulletin-14-6.html
Please send us articles about the work of your organization and other culture of peace news. (see http://cpnn-world.org/reporter.html). We look forward to hearing from you.

Peace, through struggle,

The CPNN Team
decade@culture-of-peace.org

VETERANS FOR PEACE

December 2013: Celebrating Accomplishments and Looking Forward

November was an eventful month for Veterans For Peace! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Armistice Day Actions across the country surrounding November 11th. During the weekend of November 22nd, members traveled across the nation to attend the School of Americas Watch event at Fort Benning, GA (view pictures from the vigil). With VFP’s official Thanksgiving Statement, we are positioned to discuss peace and justice topics throughout this holiday season, perhaps with those outside our typical audience.
As 2013 comes to an end, we continue our work of raising awareness of the Costs of War and promoting a Culture of Peace in our communities. As always, the national office offers you opportunities to take action this month. If you do, please let us know so that we can help publicize your local work. Send photos, videos, and reports to Casey at casey@veteransforpeace.org.

December 10th: United Nations Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on December 10th. It commemorates the day in 1948 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many of our current national projects revolve around human rights issues. Drone warfare has been largely discussed as a violation of human rights. (Check out the article). The treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay has also sparked human rights debates (Read more here). We can use this day to spread the VFP message and speak out against war and violence, which by nature, is a violation of human rights.

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”
—Article 1, United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Spread the Message:

- Write An Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor discussing “Human Rights From a Veteran Perspective" or discussing any current projects of VFP related to human rights issues.
- Show a Movie: Invisible Wars and Dirty Wars are two examples. You can also request a copy of Targeting Iran, a film by Andy Norris from the national office for your chapter’s use.

Holiday Fundraiser for Chapters: Sell 2014 Calendars

You've probably seen the beautiful 12 page, 14 "x 11" wall calendar produced each year by the Syracuse Cultural Workers. This year, calendars are available as an educational and fundraising tool for chapters. You can purchase calendars at a discounted rate of $7.50 and sell them at local events for $15 or $20 donations. Contact dik@syracuseculturalworkers.com for information.

SEEKING PEACE FOR JUSTICE

Christmas Truce of 1914

This December 25, 2014, we begin to remember and celebrate the centenary of Christmas Truce of 1914. On Christmas Eve of 1914, ordinary soldiers made temporary peace with their enemies, causing the Western Front to fall silent.
The holiday season is a good time to enjoy the music of the soldiers who laid down their weapons and celebrated Christmas together in the trenches of World War I, and to consider how we can bring this story of hope and humanity to others throughout the coming year. December 2014, with the marking of 100 years since this momentous occasion, is an opportunity to pay homage to the peacemakers of 1914. You can get more information about these efforts at info@veteranspeacecouncil.org.

In the spirit of the Christmas Truce, VFP members have often reached out to our former “enemies.” For example, a few years ago there was a gathering of Viet Nam Veterans in Alaska that included NVA and NLF fighters, along with members of Veterans For Peace. Also, on an ongoing basis, members of the Viet Nam Chapter #160, Suel Jones & Chuck Palazzo work with the Vietnamese people in a variety of healing projects. Woody Powell of St. Louis Chapter #61 has co-authored a book with a Chinese soldier who fought against his unit in Korea. Most recently, former Board Members Ken Mayers and Ellen Barfield and current Board Member Tarak Kauff have met with former Combatants in Israel.

Looking Forward to 2014

In addition to taking action this month, we can look forward at the upcoming year. What are your chapter projects and local initiatives? What are your short and long term goals? How can you achieve these goals? How can national office support your work? In the January e-mail, a short survey will be available to members to provide feedback about the monthly mailers, the calendar, and future plans.

At a national level, we are focused on the strategic plan and building a framework to implement our goals of building peace, seeking justice, and educating the public about the true costs of war. We are also focused on providing support to local chapters and promoting the work of our members. In 2014, action ideas will be sent out to the entire membership nearly one full month in advance. For example, February action ideas will be e-mailed to the entire membership by the first Monday of January. If you have any questions about the calendar, e-mail Casey at casey@veteransforpeace.org.

Address postal inquiries to:
Veterans For Peace
216 South Meramec Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105-3504
NESTE OIL SUPPLIER TAKES STEPS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS

A Finnwatch report on the responsibility of palm oil published in September 2014 has resulted in measures that will improve working conditions.

JOINT THREE YEAR PROJECT COMMENCES TO EMPOWER MIGRANT WORKERS IN THAILAND

Project will empower migrant workers to negotiate better working terms and conditions and improve migrant workers quality of life.

WÄRTSILÄ – MEAGRE SALARIES AND INADEQUATE MONITORING OF SUPPLIERS
NEW FINNWATCH REPORT: IN HIGH-TECH’S BACKYARD – LABOUR RIGHTS AS A PART OF WÄRTSILÄ’S VALUE CHAIN

NEWS

2014-06-18

ANDY HALL WAS FORMALLY DETAINED AND RELEASED ON BAIL

Finnwatch Researcher Andy Hall Detained in Cell by Thai Court on Natural Fruit Charges Prior to Court Approval for Industry Bail Out, Passport Confiscated Today

READ MORE

NEWS

2014-06-16

THAI INDUSTRY COMMITS TO SUPPORT BAIL OUT

Police to Escort Finnwatch Researcher Andy Hall to Public Prosecutor on 18th June.

READ MORE

NEWS

2014-05-19

FINNWATCH RESEARCHER ANDY HALL TO FACE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ON 18TH JUNE 2014

Finnwatch researcher Andy Hall today met criminal investigators at Bangna Police Station in Bangkok.

READ MORE

NEWS

2014-05-17

FINNWATCH RESEARCHER ANDY HALL TO DEFEND LATEST NATURAL FRUIT CHARGES

READ MORE
AFRICA HUMAN RIGHTS HERO
Equality Now

Mauritania: Protect Human Rights Defender Aminetou Mint El-Moctar | Equality Now

www.equalitynow.org

Equality Now and the international human rights community are extremely concerned about death threat...

#4of7 New Heroes--A Brit in Thailand
Ann@Giraffe Heroes <amedlock@giraffe.org> 8:04 AM (3 hours ago) to James

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in The Giraffe Heroes Project. Don't forget to add amedlock@giraffe.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

Dear James,
Here's the fourth of our seven new Giraffes--Andy Hall works for a world-wide nonprofit that spots human abuses around the world, and works to stop them. When Hall called out Thailand's National Fruit Company for the way it treats its workers, he thought he'd be able to work with them on improving their operations. It isn't working out that way. Read on, and know that...
..as long as there are Giraffes, there's hope.

~Ann Medlock, Founder~Giraffe Heroes Project

A newly commended Giraffe Hero

Andy Hall, a Brit, works for **Finnwatch**, a world-wide nonprofit that spots human abuses around the world and works to stop them. When Hall called out Thailand's National Fruit Company for the way it treats its workers, he asked to work with them on improving their operations. The company needed to stop using child labor, taking away foreign workers' passports, and ignoring Thai laws that give workers paid sick days and leave. The company was not interested. Instead they brought a lawsuit against Hall that's going to court soon. In Bangkok. The company's asking millions in "damages" and seven years in prison for each of six "offenses" Hall is charged with. His attorneys are working hard to keep him from being held in this Thai prison for decades.

Some things you can do now

Read [Andy Hall's profile](#) in our [free database of heroes](#).

Forward this to people you know who need to know there are heroes among us.

Go to [www.giraffe.org](http://www.giraffe.org) and fill your day with the inspiration and information you'll find there.

Join us on [Giraffe Heroes Facebook](#).

**Here's to a life lived with meaning--**

**your life.**
Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute (MCLI)
A Unique Think Tank for Human Rights

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The First 34 Years of Meiklejohn

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pgs88-89 re Environmental Racism
Hurricane Katrina
U.S. Held to Account on Human Rights Violations After Hurricane Katrina
MCLI Report on Katrina to HRC 5-31-06
2006 Op-Ed re Katrina
War/Peace
Nuclear Weapons
9/11
Iraq War
Conscientious Objection

Just in time for the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights! This book, published December 10th, 2008, is a useful guide for any activist, law-maker, or citizen concerned with international law.
AS I ENTER THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY, I will carry my pocket “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Is The Law.” It will serve as a critical guide to help me identify the language of treaties ratified by the U.S. that contain specific rights declared in the UDHR.
~ Member, California State Assembly, 27th AD William W. Monning

THIS IMPORTANT BOOK WILL BE A USEFUL TOOL to strengthen enforcement of human rights in the United States. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we can show that these rights are embraced in a treaty the U.S. has ratified, making it enforceable law. It also serves as a clear guide for state and federal officials in our work to secure peace, justice, liberty, equality, and other essential values we hold dear.
~ State Representative, Arkansas General Assembly Lindsley Smith

THE INSPIRING CONCEPTS in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have become the law of the land that we can use in our daily work. That is the message of this handy new book by Ann Fagan Ginger. As we face the problems of 2009 and 2010, we can carry with us this little book and quote the treaty language to declare and enforce our rights.
~ Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Bruce F. Knotts

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS stands alongside the Magna Carta and amendments to the U.S. Constitution as a guidepost for modern civil society in their efforts to treat their citizens as human beings. This book is a must read for anyone who is concerned about the human rights of the people they serve and advocate for.
~ Founding Organizer, People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, and Assoc. Minister, Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, CA. Rev. Daniel A. Buford

THIS BOOKLET PROVIDES A BLUEPRINT for the new Obama Presidential Administration to uphold the commitment of the United States to human rights by practicing at home what it preaches to the nations of the world. Our long-standing principles of domestic civil rights should incorporate more international human rights protocols.
~ Civil Rights Attorney and international Human Rights Advocate; Past President, National Lawyers Guild John C. Brittain

THIS BOOK IS A VERY USEFUL TOOL to strengthen enforcement of human rights in the U.S. 2009. I can use it to encourage colleagues to cite to rights spelled out in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights which are now written into treaties the U.S. has ratified, making them enforceable law.
~ Staff Attorney, Bay Area Legal Aid Stephen Bingham

U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

The Network celebrated its 10th Anniversary with the Advancing Human Rights 2013 Conference, December 6-8, Atlanta, GA. Contact: www.ushrnwework.org/
US Human Rights Network
US Government went before UN review committee on Aug 13-14 to answer questions about racism in the U... More »»
http://www.ushrnetwork.org/

MISSION
The US Human Rights Network is a national network of organizations and individuals working to build and strengthen a people-centered human rights movement in the United States, where leadership is centered on those most directly affected by human rights violations, and the full range of diversity within communities is respected and embraced. MORE »» http://www.ushrnetwork.org/

JOIN THE MOVEMENT DONATE NOW GET EMAIL UPDATES TAKE ACTION JOIN TODAY
http://www.ushrnetwork.org/

OUR WORK
The US Human Rights Network works to build a broad-based and vibrant domestic human rights movement.

ABOUT US
We are made up of members across the U.S. working to ensure that all peoples’ rights are protected and fulfilled. http://www.ushrnetwork.org/

NEWS
U.S. Human Rights Movement Builders Awards 2015

USHRN Announces Call for Nominations - Deadline for Nominations May 8 MORE ABOUT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT BUILDERS AWARDS 2015 »»

CONFERENCE
USHRN announces ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS 2015 theme: Sharpening our Vision, Reclaiming our Dreams
March 27th - Civil Society Sponsored Constructive Dialogue in Advance of the May 2015 Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

TRAINING

How to Advocate Effectively in Geneva and Stateside for the UPR

RESOURCES AND MEDIA

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Resource on NGO engagement with the UPR

Learn ways to engage in continuous advocacy built around the UPR MORE ABOUT RESOURCE ON NGO ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UPR »»

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Now Available! US Government UPR Report


VIDEO

New Documentary Featuring US Civil Society During the CAT Review (Nov 2014)

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250 Georgia Avenue SE, Suite 330, Atlanta GA 30312

Telephone: 404-588-9761 Fax: 404-588-9763 Email: info@ushrnetwork.org
DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN, NEW YORK STATE

Sponsored a workshop on the DSC “Model Code on Education and Dignity: Presenting a Human Rights Framework for Schools” at the Mid-Hudson Region NY State Leadership Summit on School Justice Partnerships, Dec. 11, White Plains, NY. Contact:
http://www.dignityinschools.org/

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Death Penalty: NWA, John Threet

Human Rights Week 2008 at UA

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