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HUMAN RIGHTS NOW!
*Newsletter of the
 Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute*



March 2011

**Three U.N. Human Rights Treaties Are
 the Law in California Today**

MCLI has produced a beautiful poster – the first of its kind – quoting all of the important provisions on human rights that became the law of California when the U.S. ratified the treaties in 1992 and 1994.



Ann F. Ginger with the ACR 129 Poster

"The plan is to submit the poster to the California Attorney General to use in carrying out ACR 129, adopted by the California legislature in August 2010," Ann Fagan Ginger explained. "ACR 129 requests the A.G. to:

"1) **publicize the text** of the International Convention on Elimination

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**Biggest Union Busting Effort in Years:
 Workers and Activists Fight Back!**

Union members and supporters all over the U.S. are taking steps to defeat these union-busting efforts in the Midwest before they spread across the country.



Crowds Rally in Wisconsin's Reclaimed Capitol Building

WISCONSIN:

GOP Gov. Scott Walker introduced a budget that would strip public employees of their right to collective bargaining. It would also use "emergency powers" to allow the Department of Human

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**Prominent Anti-Apartheid Movement
 Veterans Call on South African
 Government To Assist Aristide in
 Returning to Haiti Now**

Feb. 24 - Several prominent figures from the International Anti-Apartheid movement have sent South African President Jacob Zuma an open letter "in the hopes that he can assist" former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his family in returning to Haiti "as soon as possible." Signers include Randall Robinson, the founder of Trans Africa Forum; the Reverend Jesse Jackson; actor and activist Danny Glover; British MP John McDonnell; activist and comedian Dick Gregory (who was outspoken against the apartheid regime); Jack Healey, founder and director of the Human Rights Action Center; Jack Heyman of the San Francisco International Longshore and Warehouse Union (which famously refused to unload ships carrying goods from apartheid South Africa); Walter Riley (MCLI treasurer), and Selma James, the widow of famed writer C. L. R. James, author of one of the most influential books on Haiti's revolution, "The Black Jacobins."

The letter expresses gratitude to the South African government, and people of South Africa, for hosting the Aristides. "We also heartily support the efforts of the South African government to assist President Aristide and his family in quickly returning home," the signers state, noting that "Any delays to the Aristides' prompt travel to Haiti would be yet another disappointment to a people that have already experienced a long list of tragedies, disasters, and heartbreak."

Maryland Legal Aid
 by Josephine Weinberg

Maryland Legal Aid has recently broken new ground in the domestic use of international law by adopting a human rights framework to guide their legal advocacy and policy work. They are the first legal aid organization in the U.S. to formally incorporate international human rights law as their mission. Shawn Boehringer, chief counsel of Maryland Legal Aid, described this change to me.

What Spurred the Decision to Change the Mission of Legal Aid?

The change began in 2006 when the organization did a needs assessment evaluation required by the legal aid corporation. The responsible committee determined that some of the biggest client concerns were affordable housing, healthcare and jobs that pay a living wage. The committee decided to examine these client needs by looking at what the international human rights standards are in these areas. One example is the issue of affordable and adequate housing. To define an adequate housing standard they looked at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In particular, the CESCR Committee defines "adequate" housing as including: legal security of tenure; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; affordability; habitability; accessibility; location, [access

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**MCLI Welcoming New Interns this
 Spring!**

Four students so far are set to join the MCLI staff this spring to work on many human rights projects:

*Daven Rajan, a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire will be our first intern, beginning in early March.

*Lupin Zhang will be coming from Shanghai to join us in May.

*Ursula Wylan will work afternoons starting in late May after finishing her Master's Degree work this semester at University of San Francisco.

*Elizabeth McCaman, a law student at UC Hastings, will be joining us in May.

We are still in the process of interviewing and hiring more interns. If you or someone you know is interested in an unpaid spring or summer internship with MCLI please contact us by emailing laura@mcli.org

**Please Join us for an International Women's
 Day Lunch at MCLI!**

Meiklejohn members, interns and staff will be celebrating **International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8th** on the deck of Executive Director, Emerita Ann Fagan Ginger's Berkeley home. If you are in the area, please join us around noon:
1715 Francisco Street, Berkeley (between McGee and Grant)

**Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute Wants to
 Host a Kaffeeklatschs With You!**

*If interested, please contact MCLI
 (510)848-0599 or laura@mcli.org*

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 "The United States and Torture:
 Interrogation, Incarceration, and Abuse"
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Three U.N. Human Rights Treaties

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of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ICAT), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and

"2) To ask every State agency, and every city and county, and Board of Education, to prepare the required periodic reports to the U.N. Committees that administer the treaties.

The most basic right set forth in the treaties is the right to human dignity. The treaties state that this right specifically applies to immigrants, to people serving time in prisons, to youth, to people with low incomes, and to people of all races, religions, national or social origins, to LGBTQ, and disabled.

The MCLI poster is the same size as the many state posters setting forth state law on wages and hours and working conditions: 17" by 27".

The main headings are:

- Basic rights of people/Duties of government
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights
- Economic Rights
- Rights and Duties in Criminal Cases
 - At arrest and before trial
 - Rights at trial
 - Rights after conviction
- Prisoners' Rights/Government Duties
- Rights of Youth
- Rights of the Family

MCLI is also preparing a Human Rights Treaty Poster that can be used in every state other than California. It will be entitled:

THREE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES
ARE THE LAW IN THIS STATE TODAY

The text of the three ratified treaties will be the same in these posters. All references to California and ACR 129 will be deleted.

Since the treaties themselves contain the two commitments listed above, the treaties apply whether or not a state has taken the step of passing a resolution specifically mentioning them.

Berkeley Citizens Action Supporting ACR 129

At its February membership meeting, Berkeley Citizens Action (BCA) heard Ann Ginger of MCLI report on ACR 129 and then passed the following resolution unanimously:

BCA supports ACR 129 pertaining to treaties and protocols ratified by the U.S. regarding the rights of all human beings.

BCA will attempt to ensure that copies of ACR 129 posters are displayed in all Berkeley city government offices, schools and libraries.

HUMAN RIGHTS NOW! Jim Syfers, *Book Review Editor*
MCLI, P.O. Box 673, Berkeley, CA 94701-0673
Telephone: 510-848-0599, Fax: 510-848-6008
E-mail: mcli@mcli.org Web site: www.mcli.org
MCLI human rights case histories at UC-Bancroft:

Biggest Union Busting Effort In Years

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Services to restrict eligibility, raise premiums and change reimbursements, all traditionally controlled by the legislature. Protestors have taken over the Capitol!

OHIO: GOP Gov. John Kasich is pushing SB 5, which would strip collective bargaining rights from Ohio public employees. He says if this bill does not pass, he will put the same provisions in his proposed budget, or, if necessary, put this on the ballot as a constitutional amendment.



A large rally was called on Feb. 22 in Columbus against SB 5. INDIANA: House Bill 1468 would turn Indiana into a right-to-work state. It would prohibit employers from requiring workers to join the union or pay union dues to work at their jobs. It would exempt the large construction industry.

Protesters have taken over the Capitol buildings in Wisconsin and Indiana.

What Does the Law State?

MCLI strongly supports opposition to each of these bills and presents the following quotations from the Constitution on which to base its position.

U.S. CONSTITUTION:

FIRST AMENDMENT:

"Congress shall make no law respecting ... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, ..."

The constitutional right peaceably to assemble, added to the rights to freedom of speech and of the press, has long been characterized as the right to freedom of association. Joining a labor union involves the right to make a contract between the member and the union, the right to go to union meetings, to pay union dues, to vote to accept or reject proposed contracts between the union and the employer.

Article I, Section 10:

"No State shall ... pass any ... Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, ..."

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER:

Art. 55:

"... the United Nations shall promote:

" a. Higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;

" b. solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems, and international cultural and educational cooperation; and

" c. universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and

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Reverend Daniel Buford, Board President
Ann Fagan Ginger, Executive Director Emerita
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 - Recording of MCLI CLE on Using Intl. Human Rights (Jan. 2010 / 4 Audio CDs).....\$15.____
 - "Hollywood Red" by Lester Cole.....\$10.____
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*Monthly Contributor

Maryland Legal Aid Continued from p. 5 col. 1

law and one judge in particular has stated that she would welcome these kind of arguments in her courtroom (Prince George's Co. Circuit Court Judge Cathy M. Serrette said she would welcome attorneys raising human rights issues and citing human rights law). While there has yet to be rulings citing international law coming out of legal aid's work in the courtroom, the organization recognizes that implementing this new mission will be a long process and that the organization is in the beginning phases of inventing a new wheel.

Looking Forward

The key leadership in legal services organizations are aging and there needs to be opportunities for a new generation of advocates to stay engaged and to take on leadership roles. The new generation of advocates and attorneys has new kinds of experience with human rights law; be it in their law school training, holding jobs over seas or being involved with organizations like the National Lawyers Guild. In an effort to connect the new generation of legal services workers with the old generation, one of the trainings paired a person from the "new generation" with the "old generation" to combine ideas and talk about strategies to implement the new framework.

Maryland Legal Aid rings in its 100th anniversary with the timely theme of Advancing Human Rights and Justice for All. Meiklejohn applauds their work!

MCLI is excited about this decision and will follow closely all the steps the Maryland legal aid takes under it.

MCLI has the following additional thoughts

1. The ratified International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) includes protection of the family (Art. 23(1)). That means that the state has a duty to: publicize the text of this treaty in the state, and to make periodic reports to the UN human rights committee on how this is being carried out, and violated, in the state.

2. The ratified International Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) specifically lists the right to housing (ICERD, Art. 5(E) (III)), the right to medical care, and social services (ICERD Art. 5(E) (IV)), and the right to equal pay and fair working conditions (ICERD Art. 5(E)). Again, that means that the state has a duty to: publicize the text of this treaty in the state, and to make periodic reports to the UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination on how this is being carried out, and violated, in the state.

3. MCLI is encouraging every state to take the step taken by California when the legislature adopted ACR 129, asking the state Attorney General to publicize the text of the three ratified U.N. human rights treaties, and to make the required reports at the state, county and city levels.

4. Since the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) spells out these rights of particular concern to legal services clients more specifically, MCLI is encouraging everyone to work for ratification of this treaty by the U.S. Senate.

To see more on Maryland Legal Aid go to <http://www.mdlab.org/>.



Josephine Weinberg

Biggest Union Busting Effort In Years

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fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion."

Art. 56:

"All members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55. "

The U.S. made specific commitments to protect labor rights when it ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1992, which provides, in Article 2:

"1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

"2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those which are prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (order public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on members of the armed forces and of the police in their exercise of this right.

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Update

Victoria Sawicki, active member of CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women) recently attended their executive Board meeting. As a Union Womens Organization, CLUW recognizes the importance of the ratification of CEDAW. CLUW is partnering with The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on a postcard sign up campaign urging passage of CEDAW.

FYI. In November, the Senate voted on the Paycheck Fairness Act. This Bill, would have deterred wage discrimination by closing loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and would have barred retaliation against workers who disclose their wages to coworkers. It failed by 2 votes. PASS CEDAW NOW.

Performance of the Human Rights Cantata in 2011!

If you would like to participate in a large performance of the Human Rights Cantata, based on the words in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Nuremberg Principle, and the UN Charter--music by James F. Wood, words selected by Ann Fagan Ginger--please email: clairbooks@mac.com

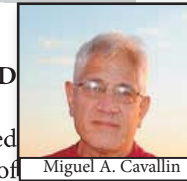


A Sloooooow Victory in Argentina

by Miguel A. Cavallin

1976: ARGENTINA V. CAVALLIN

2010: CAVALLIN V. AZAR, GARBY AND LOPEZ



Miguel A. Cavallin

In 1976 a military coup in Argentina ousted the constitutionally elected government of Maria M. de Peron. The military's alleged purpose was to create a free market society, opening the national resources and market to foreign holdings, private national enterprises and social services. In order to achieve these goals, the military found it necessary to eliminate the unions, intellectuals and students, political parties and social organizations.

From day one it was clear that the military had only one thing in mind—consolidating power and eliminating any dissenting voices through violence. As a result the population lived in a state of collective terror.

Within months, close to 500 concentration camps were set up throughout the country. In these camps, the Argentine military and police applied a widespread and systematic practice of physical and psychological torture, much of which they had learned at the U.S. School of the Americas in Georgia.

In all, 30,000 men and women "disappeared". Hundreds of babies were removed from detained mothers; some of them were "adopted" by military families or powerful people who supported the regime. Nine thousand other Argentinians were jailed and subject to various methods of torture. Others were simply executed without ever getting their day in court.

By 1982 the people of Argentina had seen enough. Not only were thousands dead, but the Argentine military regime had engaged the country in a war with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas (Falklands) Islands, a group of wind-swept islands, over which both countries claimed ownership. The end of the war resulted in thousands dead and the Argentine population calling for general elections.

The elections resulted in a new president, as well as an entirely new legislature. The new government set up a tribunal to investigate the possible crimes against humanity committed by the disposed military dictatorship. The tribunal found the three principal members of the army—Videla, Massera, Agosti—guilty of torture, murder and crimes against humanity. They were sentenced to life in prison.

To make things easy and end the investigation quickly, the newly-elected government decided not to prosecute the other military and police involved in human rights violations. In 1989, Argentine president Carlos Menen gave amnesty to the military leaders sentenced to life in prison.

In 2003, a new mind set and political pressure saw newly-elected Argentine president Nestor Kitchner reopen the investigation against the military regime and called for new trials for those suspected of human rights violations. The Argentine Supreme Court ruled there is no statute of limitations on trying crimes against humanity, and reversed the amnesty granted by Menen.

From 2006 to the present day, thirty-two judicial trials were completed and hundreds of those responsible for human rights violations were investigated and sentenced to various prison terms.

You may be asking how and why I'm so familiar with this dark chapter of Argentina's history. The fact is that I was one of the

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Professor Marjorie Cohn Discusses Her New Book: "United States and Torture"



Professor Marjorie Cohn Speaking at an MCLI Event on February 26, 2011

Feb. 26: Prof. Marjorie Cohn of Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, recent president of the National Lawyers Guild, and a U.S. representative to the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, introduced her new book, "The United States and Torture," to friends of MCLI gathered at the home of MCLI Treasurer Walter Riley and his wife, Barbara Rhine.

Prof. Cohn began by reporting on the exciting/disturbing events from Egypt to Wisconsin. People all over the world are using their credit cards to send pizzas to the protesters in Wisconsin State Capitol. And she reported that the UN Security Council voted to condemn human rights violations in Libya and to hold accountable and bring to justice those responsible for these violations.

She reminded everyone that the massive U.S. military budget for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and U.S. military bases all over the world, and the basic DOD budget at home, are the cause of the hatred of the U.S. leading to some attacks on U.S. personnel, and leading to the U.S. budget crisis that is also hitting states like Wisconsin and Ohio and Indiana.

Collective bargaining rights of workers are set forth in the International Labor Organization Charter and in U.S. Supreme Court opinions (see NAACP v. Alabama on right to freedom of association under the First and Fourteenth Amendments (19)) and of course the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

And she reported that Iraqi Veterans Against War have specifically told the Wisconsin Governor that they, as veterans, were public employees, too, and oppose his proposals. And the unemployment rate among veterans and people of color is much higher than in the general population, which is officially over 11 per cent.

Prof. Richard Falk, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, reports in the book that the U.S. used techniques at Guantanamo that tortured the victims. And Sister Dianna Ortiz reported, in the Introduction to Cohn's book, that the CIA under Bush took torture of prisoners to a new level, violating four Geneva Con-

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A Slow Victory in Argentina

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blows to the head, kicks, water boarding and even mock executions. I was held in an interrogation center in Santiago del Estero, and various other high security camps.

They said I was imprisoned due to my membership as part of the local university student union and that I was reading "subversive" magazines -- all illegal under military rule. Other friends and my girlfriend (now my wife of 30 years) suffered the same fate.

My wife and I were held in separate military prisons until 1980, when the government accepted a refugee status granted by the U.S. Government. By April 1980, I was stepping foot onto American soil and reunited with my wife, who had been released a few months earlier.

Since then our lives have been what many would call "The American Dream." We became citizens, settled in the Bay Area, bought a home, paid our taxes, involved ourselves in the local community and raised two children who later went to college.

While my current life is ideal, I have always known that I would eventually have to face my demons. That chance came in October 2010 when summoned as a witness to one of the human rights violation judicial trials in Santiago del Estero.

It was "Case Kamenetzky." The defendants were former Argentine police and military officers Musa Azar, Tomas Garby and Ramiro Lopez. They were charged with the murder of Cecilio Kamenetzky, who at the time of his death was only 19. He was a fellow activist in the same student union I belonged to.

Cecilio and another associate, Mario Giribaldi, were detained during the 1976 coup and savagely tortured. They were sent to the prison where I was held, in miserable physical conditions.

Due to the fact that Cecilio was of the Jewish faith, he received "special" attention from the military officers, many of whom were of Nazi descent and fascist sympathizers.

Sharing a cell, Cecilio often told me about the electric shocks that was applied to his body, the blows to his ears causing him to lose his equilibrium, and other tortures. A couple of months later, Cecilio Kamenetzky and Mario Giribaldi were removed from the jail we shared, by Ramiro Lopez, a man well-known at the jail for inflicting the worst of tortures.

I received word that Cecilio was killed in a failed prison escape attempt. It was said that Mario Giribaldi also escaped, but his whereabouts are still unknown and many presume he was also killed. I knew it was impossible for him to try to escape due to his deteriorated physical conditions. To this day I, and many others, suspect that he was killed simply for being Jewish.

I testified to these facts during the trial. Other witnesses reinforced the presumption that Cecilio was executed. Ballistic expert and anthropologist forensics demonstrated that he was shot in the back at a short distance.

The three police officials on trial denied the charges. They said I was intimidating them, when in my testimony I turned around and talked to them about their crimes. Listening to them complaining of mistreatment was ironic, to say the least.

On October 12, 2010, after three decades, Cecilio and Mario finally saw justice brought on their behalf. The three accused policemen, now in their late 70s, were sentenced to life in prison.

Looking back on my testimony, I didn't do this for myself. I did it for Cecilio; I did it as a reminder for the younger generations. Most of all, I did it for the human race.

Professor Marjorie Cohn

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ventions, the U.S. War Crimes Act, the Torture Act, and the U.S. Army Field Manual.

Prof. Cohn also reminded folks about the Prof. Yoo/Judge Bybee Memos of 2002 that have been used to justify torture techniques used by the U.S., causing the deaths of more than 100 U.S. detainees. Prof. Yoo has said he is proud of the torture memos and would do it again.

So, Prof. Cohn asked, how many have been charged under the War Crimes Act? None. The UN Security Council has said that the torturers must be held accountable.

The U.S. under Bush transferred 9,000 prisoners to Iraq, where they would be tortured. Obama stopped this, and Attorney General Holder is investigating 12 charges of torture.

If the U.S. won't prosecute, other countries will. Belgium threatened to arrest and try Bush and Rumsfeld, but gave in when the U.S. said this would lead to financial loss for Belgium.

Spain has given Obama until March 1 to respond to its charges against Yoo/Bybee and four other U.S. government lawyers.

Prof. Cohn also described torture and other cruel treatment of U.S. prisoners in federal and state prisons in the U.S. that has led to much litigation, but has not stopped the practices.

Professor Cohn concluded by saying, "Given all of these circumstances, we need a peaceful economic revolution in this country."

An interesting discussion followed with folks at the event describing some of their experiences with U.S. policies including attacks on Left unionists in the Cold War.

Community Organizing, Leadership, and Empowerment: Is it in you?

Rev. Daniel A. Buford, Instructor Leadership Institute at Allen Temple

This course is an introduction to common issues of modern community organizing. Particular emphasis will be given to the importance of history, culture, and the lingering impact of racism and how they create the need for strong leadership. The lesson plan will examine the general topics of community organizing, leadership, and empowerment.

Students will learn to examine and analyze their community in relation to the power dynamics of systems and institutions and the role of gatekeepers. Ethical issues in community organizing such as the content of the organizer's character and accountability will also be explored.

Students will learn about mobilizing, organizing, strategy, tactics, and timing regarding issues of community self interest and social change. Students will gain a greater benefit from each session by reading a chapter a week from the following texts-

Main Text Book:

Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11
by Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, Edited By Ann Fagan
Ginger. Prometheus Books, 2005 \$24.00

ISBN# 1-59102-279-7

*For more information on the class, please contact Allen Temple Baptist Church



MCLI Board President,
Rev. Daniel Buford

Maryland Legal Aid

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to employment options, health-care services, schools, child-care centers and other social facilities] and cultural adequacy.

These are set forth in the General Comment 4 of ICESCR Committee on The Right to Adequate Housing, Art.11 (1) of the Covenant). With these kinds of standards in mind, the legal aid committee wanted to design and target their legal aid work to address these standards. With 13 legal aid offices across Maryland, ranging from very urban to very rural, the needs of clients vary. Each office was asked to assess the greatest needs of their clients and to look at international human rights law to address those needs. In 2009 trainings began.

What do the trainings look like?

On December 10, 2010, Human Rights Day, over 150 Maryland Legal Aid staff participated in a state-wide conference on how to integrate this new human rights framework into their work. One presentation laid out a toolkit for legal advocates on how to practically apply international treaties, the effect of ratification by the U.S. or lack thereof, and how to incorporate the texts of these treaties into legal work. One presentation framed legal aid's use of human rights law as a movement because, with increased globalization, a human rights framework is becoming more necessary. And it is increasingly important for the U.S. to examine what moves other countries are making in the area of protection of human rights.

Using an international human rights framework in legal services is not a new concept, however. Two articles in particular guided Maryland Legal Aid in their trainings; "Using International Human Rights Law in Legal Services Cases" by Connie de la Vega and "Human Rights in the Trenches: Using International Human Rights Law in 'Everyday' Legal Aid Cases" by Martha Davis (see Clearinghouse Review March 1989 and Nov.-Dec. 2007 respectively). <http://www.povertylaw.org>

These articles in particular focused on the unique legal problems dealt with by legal aid organizations, issues facing families and children, issues with unemployment insurance and access to public benefits, to name a few. These articles provided useful hypotheticals for working groups during the trainings to practice framing every day problems through the lens of human rights law.

Day to day - how do you incorporate this human rights framework?

The human rights framework is being implemented through legal aid's policy work as well as their work in the courtroom. As to policy work, advocates seek to weave the broader concepts of what is acceptable in human rights law into issues ranging from family law to healthcare reform. Mr. Boehringer gave the example of the drastic increase in the rate of unemployment insurance denials. Maryland's approach was to examine the text of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which has been ratified by the U.S., in conjunction with local law to formulate why this trend in denials is a violation of human rights.

In the courtroom, using international law as a complimentary or supplementary argument to existing legal strategies adds value and strength to the presentation of a legal aid cases. No judge in Maryland has yet to preclude arguments based in international

Stop the Oakland Gang Injunctions!

Earlier this year, Oakland city attorney, John Russo, placed the first gang injunctions in Oakland's history on the neighborhoods of North Oakland and the Fruitvale. Russo and OPD claim the injunctions as part of an effort to reduce the



violence occurring in these neighborhoods; however, the ways in which the injunctions are materializing are just as violent for the communities they are affecting.

OPD has created a list of suspects who have been put on a mandatory curfew. If found walking home from BART, or going to the grocery store past their curfew, those on the list are arrested immediately. Moreover, many of the people on the list were charged with minor offenses when they were under the age of 17.

The Coalition to Stop the Gang Injunctions is a group of activists, community members, and lawyers who have come together to organize against the injunctions. They have visited Oakland city hall meetings, court hearings, held rallies, press conferences, vigils, and community bike rides around the neighborhoods to spread awareness. In addition, they put on a very successful week of action during the first week of March. They cite the perpetuation of racial profiling, the \$430,000 proposed Oakland spending, and the fact that the gang injunctions fail to address root problems in Oakland communities as reasons to be opposed to them. For more information on the Coalition to Stop the Injunctions, please go to:

<http://stoptheinjunction.wordpress.com/>

MCLI Has Made Many Presentations Lately

Jan. 12: Walter Riley and Ann Ginger spoke at Berkeley City Hall rally to support Julian Assange of WikiLeaks and closing Guantanamo.

Feb. 3: Susan Scott talked about her current campaigns in Sacramento and in the National Lawyers Guild International Committee to strengthen human rights treaty enforcement at an MCLI Board luncheon in Berkeley.

Feb. 5: Ann Ginger shouted to passing pedestrians and drivers at a rally to support the Egyptian revolutionaries at Moe's Bookstore in Berkeley.

Feb. 12: At the Norcal Regional Conference of the Committee to Stop FBI Repression meeting protesting recent FBI raids in Minnesota and Chicago, Ann Ginger added information on how these actions not only violate the U.S. Bill of Rights but also 3 U.N. human rights treaties ratified by the U.S. and the law of California under ACR 129.

Feb. 15: Ann Ginger urged the Berkeley City Council to adopt the resolution prepared by the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission to Obtain Humane Treatment and Conditions of Pre-Trial Confinement and Human Rights for Pfc. Bradley Manning.

Manning has yet to be charged for alleged criminal conduct in allegedly leaking video of U.S. helicopter pilots shooting civilians in Baghdad to Wikileaks. *The resolution did pass.*

Feb. 19: Walter Riley described the human rights violations going on in Haiti and what people can do about U.S. actions there at a meeting of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism in Berkeley.

Feb. 19: Walter Riley made a presentation in the two day sessions for the People's Tribunal in Oakland on recent killings of youth of color by Oakland Police.