

**KATRINA's "INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS"**

March 31: MCLI's Rev. Daniel Buford traveled frequently to and from New Orleans, Gulfport-Biloxi, Mobile, and Houston to meet with community leaders about environmental issues and with local residents who have moved back to their homes -- or tried to, but need much help to shore up, clean, etc. The groups agreed that Congress must be asked to amend the Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Act to bring it in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Buford has also been holding workshops on Undoing Racism, pointing out aspects of racism and human rights violations in the treatment of Katrina/Rita victims.

MCLI is also represented at meetings of the Bay Area Labor Committee for Peace & Justice that is planning a large event to bring more labor unions, teachers, and activists who are busy with other issues into the movement to help the Katrina/Rita victims get their human rights funded by the federal government AND to consider how to prepare for natural disasters elsewhere.

Rev. Buford is also participating in follow-up teach-ins on Katrina and violations of human rights under Rockefeller Drug Laws at Fordham University on April 17, and at Columbia University on April 18.

**U.S. Must Report within One Year**

The U.N. Human Rights Committee also indicated that the U.S. government should make a report within one year on steps it takes to deal with the Katrina issues and other issues raised in the Concluding Observations of the Committee, including providing detailed statistical data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, and conduct, on complaints related to torture or ill-treatment by

*cont. on page 5*

**PRES. GEORGE W. BUSH:  
MEET ARTICLE 2.4**

The U.S. helped write, and then ratified, the treaty, UN Charter, making it "the supreme law of the land," including Art. 2.4:

"All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

**MCLI HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING  
PROJECT IN SAN FRANCISCO**

Apr. 4: MCLI launched the Human Rights Reporting Project in San Francisco to convince the SF Board of Supervisors and SF Board of Education to join the City of Berkeley in agreeing to file reports with the U.N. Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and, later, with the U.N. Committee Against Torture and the U.N. Human Rights Committee.

President Barbara Blong assisted MCLI in applying for a grant from an S.F. foundation and MCLI made a presentation to the Bay Area National Lawyers Guild Executive Board. Other San Francisco NGOs will be approached seeking participation and interns leading to their general support, to be spelled out in May.

**Goals of this Human Rights Project:**

1. To involve students, faculty, lawyers and legal workers, and activists from many Non-Governmental Organizations, and the media, in convincing the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Education to make San Francisco reports, to send them to the State Attorney General and U.S. Department of State for inclusion in their reports, and to send them directly to the U.N. committees. Also, if possible, to send representatives to attend sessions where the U.S. reports will be discussed by the U.N. Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the U.N. Committee Against Torture, and the U.N. Human Rights Committee.

2. To involve San Francisco government officials and civil servants in improving their work on the elimination of racial discrimination, on prohibiting cruel and inhuman treatment of arrestees and prisoners, and on other violations of civil and political rights by using the mobiliza-

*cont. on page 4*

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## Global Warming: Nuclear Power Is Not the Answer

As the probable consequences of continued global warming become clearer, so does the need for action to mitigate them as much as possible. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) estimates that 38% of the greenhouse gas responsible for global warming is produced by coal-fired power plants generating electricity. So it would seem reasonable to consider replacing them as our source of electricity with "clean" nuclear power plants.

But is it reasonable ? There are five principal reasons why it is not.

1. The world currently uses 67,000 tons of uranium a year to fuel its 435 nuclear reactors, of which 103 are in the United States. The IAEA estimates that there are economically viable world reserves of 3.5 million tons. So if we did no more than replace old nuclear power plants as they went offline, we would have no more than around 50 years of fuel remaining.

In this situation it would not make sense to try to substitute nuclear plants for the existing coal-fired plants. The U.S. National Commission on Energy estimated that for the U.S. alone this would require 300 to 400 new reactors. World wide it would require around 1000, leaving us with a usable uranium supply of around 20 years. Proposals for extracting uranium from granite or seawater, as suggested by some proponents of nuclear power, appear to be economically prohibitive.

The nuclear power industry offers "fast breeder reactors" as a possible solution to the problem of limited reserves. These are reactors that use plutonium extracted from "spent" uranium fuel rods. So far, however, the experimental fast breeder reactors in the UK, France, and Japan have all been shut down for safety reasons.

2. And that brings us to the second of the five reasons why nuclear power is not an acceptable part of any solution. Nuclear reactors boil water and use the steam to run turbines to generate electricity. But a nuclear reactor is in essence a controlled nuclear bomb; if the controls fail it "melts down" and can then explode. The Chernobyl reactor, which melted down and released an enormous cloud of radionuclides over much of Europe, came very close to exploding. A very dangerous way to boil water! One can be forgiven for thinking that having 103 of these things scattered around the United States is 103 too many.

3. The third reason for building no more nuclear power plants is that they routinely emit radio-nuclides and are a major factor in the cancer epidemic we are experiencing in the United States, where we are losing around 500,000 people a year from the disease.

4. The fourth reason is that we have been unable to determine what to do with the high-level radioactive waste produced by power plants (around 30 tons per year from a 1000 watt power plant).

5. And the fifth reason is that a nuclear power plant is a target for terrorists that could make whole areas of the country uninhabitable.

If there are any other ways of dealing with the climate problem, and there certainly are some, then let's forget about this one.

-Jim Syfers

Sources for this article: IAEA, Nuclear Information and Research Service, Uranium Information Center, U.S. National Commission on Energy.

**HUMAN RIGHTS NOW! Jim Syfers, Editor**  
**MCLI, P.O. Box 673, Berkeley, CA 94701-0673**  
**E-mail: [mcli@mcli.org](mailto:mcli@mcli.org) Web site: [www.mcli.org](http://www.mcli.org)**  
**MCLI human rights case histories at UC-Bancroft:**  
**<http://Bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/meiklejohn/project.html>**

**J. Richard Challacombe, Photo Editor**  
**Telephone: 510-848-0599, Fax: 510-848-6008**  
**Jennifer Smith, Coordinator**  
**in-house publication**



**JENNIFER SMITH  
OFFICE COORDINATOR**

A new addition to the MCLI staff, Ms. Smith has an interest in women's studies, rock music, and her kitten, Yoshimi. A resident of Oakland, she values diversity, equality, and sunny afternoons in her garden. Ms. Smith is an aspiring lawyer and activist.

**A SALUTE TO  
SOULA CULVER**

In early March, Soula Culver left her position as Office Coordinator at MCLI after more than three years. She and her sister, Sarah Kotzamani, went to Greece to care for their parents. Soula's great gifts as a computer networker/web pager/organizer will be long remembered.



**REPORT TO U.N. COMMITTEES ON  
TORTURE BEFORE EXECUTIONS**

San Quentin State Prison, Dec, 2005: Until the last five days of Stanley Tookie Williams' life, he was allowed to see his visitors without handcuffs and was free to move about within a randomly assigned visiting space. Five day before his execution, the rules changed. As a "pre-execution watch prisoner," he could no longer experience one minute alone. A chain was wrapped around his waist and handcuffs placed on each wrist, then those handcuffs were connected to the right and left sides of the chain so he was positioned in a penguin-like stance, his elbows forced to bend. Shackles were placed on his ankles, causing him to walk without being able to raise a foot; he had to shuffle along, dragging his feet to keep from falling.

In the middle of his newly-assigned visiting room was a steel chair that had been bolted to the floor. He was chained to that chair in a Hannibal-Lecter-like way so he could barely move in any direction during our visits. An officer was in the room throughout those visits because the assumption by prison authorities was that Stanley Tookie Williams--like any prisoner soon to be executed--had to be watched 24 hours a day to stop him from committing suicide, which was unacceptable to the State. California wanted to be the entity responsible for killing him.

--excerpt from Barbara Becnel report to U.S. Dept. of State and U.N. CERD Committee.

**For a copy of the full report, contact MCLI.**

**TAKING NEW PATHS FOR ACTION TO  
SACRAMENTO**

March 31, Sacramento: "The majority of U.S. Supreme Court Justices will decide against almost every class action suit for human rights for the next 30 years. As a result, almost every lower court will also deny relief.

"Given these odds, human rights lawyers in the 21st century are finding new paths for action to represent their clients' rights in cases that could be won before the Earl Warren Supreme Court in the 1950s and '60s."

That is the message MCLI brought to Sacramento March 31 to the Forum on Radical Law Practice in California called by the National Lawyers Guild for its Far West Regional Conference.

The two paths are filing OIG complaints and filing reports with U.N. human rights reporting committees.

The MCLI rant continues:

"Clients need Attorneys to write ~~complaints or petitions~~ [reports], to file them with the proper ~~Courts~~ [U.N. Committees and U.S. Government officials]. The attorneys need to attend ~~court and argue the cases~~ [Committee hearings and make oral presentations], and be sure the Media covers the ~~trials~~ [hearings]."

For more information, order the expanded article: "What's New at MCLI."

**[Order your copy on page 7]**

**NEWS FLASH!**

April 2: U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 vote, refused to hear the appeal of Guantanamo prisoners for consideration of their detention until they go through the appellate procedure established for Combatant Status Review Tribunals (CSRT's). This means that prisoners held for four years must now appeal from a trial that takes place before a military commission without the due process or defense attorneys or "beyond a reasonable doubt" standards of proof that all criminal defendants get in the U.S., and they must appeal to a body that is not part of the U.S. judicial system in a procedure that does not grant the basic due process rights set forth in the U.S. Constitution for all criminal trials. Justices Stevens and Kennedy did not join Justices Ginsburg, Souter and Breyer as they have done in previous Guantanamo cases. See Boumediene v. Bush and Al Odah v. United States

**HOUSING  
FOR CALIFORNIA'S HOMELESS**

Steve Bingham urges support for stopping Governor Schwarzenegger's plan to cut funding for the AB 2034 program. The \$55 million in funding provides services that include housing to previously homeless mentally ill individuals. If this should pass, 5,000 people will become homeless over night.

**PETITION FOR  
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE**

Mar. 24, Berkeley: At the latest in a series of drafting sessions in Berkeley attended by 60-plus representatives of many concerned organizations and viewpoints, the following Resolved clause was proposed:

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Congress of the United States of America ask the Secretary General of the United Nations to convene an international Middle East peace conference to address, negotiate and resolve the outstanding grievances and issues between Israelis and Palestinians in accordance with international law;..."

**For the final Petition, contact MCLI in May.**

**Reporting Project S.F. *cont. from p. 1***

tion of shame arising from making government reports to U.S. and U.N. bodies.

"The City/County are actually required to make periodic reports on these issues under three treaties ratified by the U.S. in 1992 and 1994, and the City of Berkeley has made such reports and found that this process improved their enforcement of human rights," according to MCLI's Ann Fagan Ginger.

One helpful fact: To be useful, all reports to U.N. committees must be short because the reports must be translated into six languages. So, after government bodies decide to make the reports, the Project can assure government departments that relevant statistics on one or two pages will be more effective than long reports for which they do not have staff time.



*Helen M.  
Callbeck  
Presenté*



It was always a joy to visit Helen Callbeck and Louise Aldrich on Gallinness Creek in San Rafael!

There was a directness and a simplicity in her style, and a wonderful view of the water that she carefully preserved.

Her testamentary gift to MCLI will be used to the full in her spirit.

**BERKELEY IS SETTING AN EXAMPLE  
ALL OTHER CITIES/COUNTIES/STATE  
CAN DUPLICATE**

Feb. 27, Berkeley: The Berkeley City Council unanimously adopted the resolution of its Commission on Peace & Justice to have the City submit a report to go to the U.N. Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) after March 15th. The report will go to the State Attorney General and to the U.S. Department of State for inclusion in the report it says it will make to the CERD Committee. (See draft Resolution in last *Human Rights Now!*, page 2) The City Manager designated the Senior Management Analyst of the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare the template departments should use in making their reports, including:

Department policies and practices in dealing with allegations of discrimination in access to a City program and services; Number of such complaints; Outcomes; Current Department programs dealing with discrimination and its effects; Number of persons served in City programs including racial and economic disparities; New programs under development.

The Berkeley HHS template did not directly include the Committee's list of concerns:

racial profiling, treatment of immigrant workers; discrimination in police practices and sentencing, death penalty sentences, discrimination in public education funding, discrimination in housing and other public services, treatment of Muslims/Arabs, Native Americans, etc.

**U.N. CONVENTION on RIGHTS OF  
PERSONS with DISABILITIES**

Mar. 30, New York: The new UN treaty on rights of persons with disabilities opened for signatures. 40 nations were expected to sign immediately. That did not happen. EIGHTY nations signed.

The U.S. Government has said repeatedly that it will not sign or ratify this treaty.

A conference call is scheduled for April 9 at American University Washington College of Law.

**News Flash!**

A bill has been introduced in the California Assembly (AB 719) to repeal the section of the Public Resources Code that prohibits the construction of any nuclear power plant in California unless and until the Federal Government has figured out a way of disposing of high level nuclear waste. The justification for this proposed repeal is the need to combat global warming.

*See article on p. 2*

**KATRINA's "INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS"**

*cont. from page 1*

law enforcement, disproportionate homelessness among African Americans, de facto racial segregation in public schools, police brutality and improper questioning techniques, use of "non-lethal" devices, harsh sentencing of children, treatment of women and children in detention facilities, racial profiling, and rights of indigenous peoples.

"Human rights violations and Katrina and Rita have not been forgotten at the grassroots level. People are working on the environmental aspects, on housing, human rights and law enforcement," Buford reports.

**"Internally Displaced Persons"**

The U.S. Government has not accepted the U.N. Human Rights Committee's Concluding Observation that the Katrina victims are "Internally Displaced Persons" entitled to the protections afforded by the ICCPR and the Guidelines on Internally Displace Persons.

**For the latest updates on Katrina, go to:** [www.katrinaaction.org](http://www.katrinaaction.org) and [www.ushrnetwork.org](http://www.ushrnetwork.org)

**NEWS FLASH!**

St. Paul, MN, Apr. 2: The Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has just taken up the investigation of the death of Maria Inamagua while in the Ramsey County Jail. The OIG will investigate whether all applicable detention standards were met in her case, and to see that they are currently being met at this jail.

For more information about this case:  
Contact Silvia Ibanez at (612)874-9104.

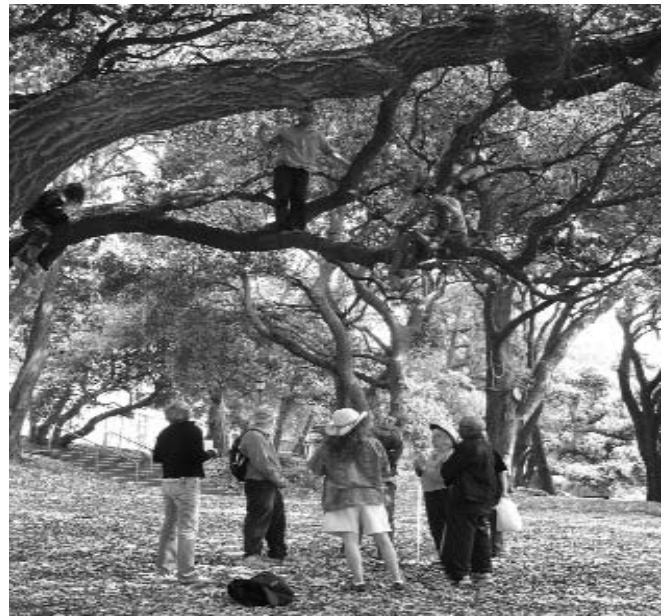


BE SURE your organizations are included in the 12th edition of MCLI's **HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS & PERIODICALS DIRECTORY** that will be utilized at many Career Centers and libraries.

**Send short email to: [op2007@mcli.org](mailto:op2007@mcli.org)** with the following up-to-date information:

- Name of organization or periodical
- Publication: name, frequency, and price
- Street Address
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*Publication date: Fall 2007*



**SAVE THE OAKS - BUCK THE FENCE**

April Fool's Day, Berkeley: MCLI participated in "A Salon in the Grove" with Laura K. Brown, Ph.D., and Jean Mudge, Ph.D. and many young men and women who climbed trees across from the UC Berkeley campus and won't come down until the trees are safe from the planned destruction to build a second stadium for U.C.

"Play, entertainment and joy are key aspects of the tree-sitting effort," according to the flyer. "MCLI became acquainted with Jess, a tree-sitter. "When she is in the trees, she laughs. She giggles for all occasions. Police raids, she chortles. Press Conferences, she chuckles. Political rallies, she hoots."

Kim Beavers, a UC-B graduate of the Free Speech Movement days, informed Salon participants that the National Park Service has placed the disputed UC-B trees in the National Registry of Historic Place Sites. He is urging complaints to Mr. Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, because UC did not follow the required procedure at the required time for permission to cut down these trees, which came after they had been placed in the National Registry.

MCLI suggested that a complaint be filed with the OIG of the Department of Interior on this matter.

Pictured above/below: participants at Save the Oaks



## Helping MCLI Enforce Human Rights and Peace Law:

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~ David Gassman & Patricia Seffens ~

**CONGRESS DID IT IN 1936; 2007 CONGRESS COULD DO IT NOW!**

(Exerpts from "Landmark Cases Left Out of Your Textbooks")

### 70 Years Ago...

#### **LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee v. Republic Steel**

... The LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee, chaired by Senator Robert M. LaFollette Jr. of Wisconsin, began in 1936 "to investigate violations of the rights of free speech and assembly and undue interference with the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively." ...

One of the worst cases to come before the LaFollette Committee began May 30, 1937. 1,000 striking steel workers and family members were marching towards Republic Steel's South Chicago Plant when they were met in an open field by 200 Chicago Police Officers. The police were equipped with revolvers, clubs, and tear-gas, the latter two items were provided by Republic Steel. The LaFollette Committee's report found that from 1933 to June 1937 Republic Steel spent \$79,712.42 on gas munitions alone. This was ... four times as much as the Ohio National Guard, the largest law-enforcement purchaser.

... Without orders, police fired 200 shots in 15 seconds, .... [then] the police marched forward, beating any man or woman in their path, even those who were lying on the ground. Ten marchers were killed ... ninety more were hospitalized ...

The Committee questioned 33 witnesses from the Chicago Police Department, the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, and "a doctor, a newspaper reporter, several

ministers, and a newsreel photographer, and committee representatives." The Committee concluded that the police used excessive force, should have avoided the massacre.

... In its first 2 1/2 years, the Committee subpoenaed representatives of detective agencies, munitions suppliers, police departments, corporations, workers, and observers as witnesses to testify about the strikebreaking services and techniques used from 1933 into 1937. They concluded that labor espionage was "serving thousands of clients, employing thousands of men, and costing millions of dollars each year," and maintaining a network of labor spies who specialized in industrial espionage, violent strikebreaking, and munitions. (Sen. Rpt. 76-901 at 3-5)

In July, 1939, Senator LaFollette introduced a bill into the 76th Congress "To eliminate certain oppressive labor practices affecting interstate and foreign commerce, and for other purposes." The bill criminalized the employment of labor spies, the use of strikebreakers, and the possession of munitions. It was not approved by Congress.

In 1941, as the U.S. moved from the New Deal into preparations for participation in World War II, the new large industrial unions at Republic Steel and GM and Ford negotiated contracts with employers who could give pay increases based on their defense contracts with the Government. The Committee went out of existence, but the lessons it taught workers, and their lawyers, live on.

**[Order your copy of "Landmark..." on page 7]**

### ANNOUNCING:

6 "New Paths for Action Against Racism and Poverty in the United States and all its Territories" describes in detail how activists can use U.N. human rights reporting committees to overcome problems in communities. In *Poverty & Race* issue for Mar.-Apr. 2007 by Ann Fagan Ginger for the Poverty & Race Research Action Council. (Cc. available from MCLI)

# MCLI PUBLICATIONS THAT I WANT TO ORDER

qty. amt.

- **Landmark Cases Left Out of Your Textbooks.** MCLI's book of 43 cases -- *Haymarket to Lawyers Guild v. Atty. Genl. to Angela Davis to Katrina Victims*, w/ cites & pix (2006) \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Contact MCLI for bulk orders for classes; for copies to write review)
- **Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11.** Paths for action against PATRIOT Act, Iraq war, censorship, deportations, detentions, library checks, budget cuts -- 180 Reports w/text of U.S. & UN laws violated. (574 pp., Prometheus Books, 2005)• \$24.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- **How To Use 'New' Civil Rights Laws After 9-11.** The basic book on Exec. Orders, PATRIOT Act, FBI/CIA actions. For activists, lawyers, teachers, media. Full texts of U.S. Const., UN Carter, 6 ratified treaties, sample complaint, ordinance. (320 pp., MCLI., 2003) \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Human Rights Protection: A Guide to United Nations Treaties & Their Application in the U.S.** basic documents with descriptions \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Socially Responsible Cities.** Resolutions against PATRIOT Act and war in Iraq, Human Rights Ordinance, Precautionary Principle. (2004 Edition Updated, 2005). \$22.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- **The Cold War Against Labor.** A rich anthology. (MCLI, reissued, 2 vols.) \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Carol Weiss King: Human Rights Lawyer (1895-1952).** By A.F. Ginger. (1993) \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Nuclear Weapons Are Illegal: The Historic Opinion of the World Court & How It Will Be Enforced.** (14 judges' opinions) A.F. Ginger, Editor. (1998) \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Alexander Meiklejohn: Teacher of Freedom.** Cynthia Stokes Brown. MCLI (1981) \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- **What's New at MCLI:** A bundle with 3 new articles from MCLI. (2007) \$7.00 \_\_\_\_\_
  - **"If You Can't Win in the Supreme Court for the next 30 Years, Where Can You Go To Win for Your Clients?"** UN Human Rights Committees and OIG Complaints. Includes complaint of MCLI, NLG, et al. to DOJ Civil Rights Division re: U.S. failure to submit required reports to UN Committees.
  - **"San Francisco Human Rights Reporting Project of MCLI"**
  - **"City of Berkeley Resolutions on Filing Reports with U.N. Committees"** on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Against Torture, and more.

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**The PATRIOT Act hits  
Alameda**

Ann Fagan Ginger to speak on local artist Michael McDonald's Bush poster and subsequent visit from the Secret Service at the City of Alameda Democratic Club General Meeting

**Wednesday April 11 ~ 7pm**

Alameda Hospital ~ 2070 Clinton Ave.  
Dal Cielo Conference Room ~ 2nd Floor

**BOOK PARTY!  
"Feminists Who Changed  
America: 1964 to 1975"**

Organized by: Tracy O'Kates

**Hear these women speak:**

Candace Falk ~ Ann Fagan Ginger  
Helene Goodwin ~ Candace Hunger  
Kathy Johnson ~ PhoeBe ANNE sorgen  
Andrea Turner ~ Alice Walker  
**Saturday April 28 ~ 7-9pm**  
Black Oaks Books ~ 1491 Shattuck Ave.  
Berkeley ~ CA

**MCLI National Workshop on New Paths For Action  
For Peace and Democracy**

Washington, D.C. ~ (during Nat'l Lawyers Guild Convention: Nov 1 - Nov 5)

- ~How to help Katrina Victims be recognized as Internally Displaced Persons:  
What laws can be used to protect their rights and obtain financial assistance
- ~How to file complaints with Office of Inspector General:  
What kind of complaints to make ~ Who to complain to ~ How to make it work
- ~How to get Cities, Counties, and States to fill reports with:  
UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
UN Committee Against Torture  
UN Human Rights Committee  
UN Special Rapporteur on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism
- ~New/old effective lobbying:  
Incl. visits to Congress members and Senators

~~HELP US PLAN AND PUBLICIZE THE WORKSHOP ~ INVITE OTHER NGOs AND UNIONS~~