

HUMAN RIGHTS NOW!



Newsletter of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute

FALL 2003

MCLI Challenges DOS to File Delinquent Reports on Human Rights Violations

Washington, D.C., July 30: Kathrine Grove, Attorney Advisor to the Office of Legal Advisor on Human Rights and Refugees at the U.S. Department of State, received a registered letter from MCLI asking when the U.S. will file the past due reports on discrimination and registrations based on race, religion, or national origin since 9/11, and on other misconduct by police and prison guards, immigrant bashing, deportations, denials of asylum status, and detentions.

MCLI reminded the DOS that the U.S. made a commitment to file reports with three UN Committees when it ratified three human rights treaties in 1992 and 1994 – against racism, against torture and degrading treatment, and guaranteeing civil and political rights. The reports are now five years overdue at a time when the U.S. is complaining in the IMF, World Bank, and FTAA that poor nations are not promptly filing detailed financial reports on their loans and interest payments.

Since 9/11, Only an Outline

First MCLI intern Kevin Cunningham called and spoke with Ms. Grove, who indicated that the DOS had no budget to make the reports, and so much had happened since 9/11 that all they had prepared so far is an outline, and even that had to be revised.

She also said the DOS had no authority to cause cities and states to make the reports required under the treaties. Actually they are similar to reports the U.S. must make under international agreements on other issues including health and safety and trade.

The Mobilization of Shame

MCLI sent copies of the letter to Congressmembers Conyers, Lee, Cummings and Kucinich; UN Sec'y General Kofi Annan, Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, members of the three UN Committees, Jimmy Carter, Mary Robinson, and 21 U.S. NGOs working on civil rights issues, and to the media.

MCLI will keep everyone informed when we receive a reply.

For a copy of the letter, go to MCLI's website or Portside listserv or Indy Media, or see order form on page 11.

**WE NEED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2003!
\$10 ! Use order form on p. 11.**

UN Human Rights Subcommittee Hears Report by MCLI Intern

Geneva, Aug. 1: MCLI intern Jeanna Steele made an oral report for MCLI and Human Rights Advocates during the UN Human Rights Commission meeting to the Subcommittee on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights concerning the massive violations of rights since 9/11 in the U.S., focusing on Guantanamo Bay detentions.

Jeanna also submitted our joint 25-page report discussing: 1) U.S. Responses to Terrorist Attacks Violate Basic Human Rights Law; 2) U.S. Military Commission for Unlawful Combatants at Guantanamo Bay; 3) Enemy Combatants; 4) U.S. Detainees and Special Registrants; 5) PATRIOT Act; 6) U.S. Government Attacks on Labor.

The report was very well received by the experts: Francois Hampson, David Weissbrodt, the Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detention: Antoanella-Iulia Motoc and Mr. Emmanuel Decaux

For a copy of the Report, see order form on page 11.

CHALLENGING U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS SINCE 9/11

Injuries and deaths in the U.S. and abroad, disappearances, detentions, registrations, firings, and censorship – caused by actions and inactions of government agencies – are being reported every day in the papers, radio, TV, and internet.

The result is pervasive fear in many communities in the U.S. Frightened people often behave brutally toward strangers. Since 9/11, prison guards, police officers, FBI and other government agents have behaved brutally toward immigrants who have become U.S. citizens, toward U.S.-born

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SAN FRANCISCO FIRST IN U.S. TO ADOPT A PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE ORDINANCE

Every city, township, county, and state governing body is bombarded with requests for permits to change, enlarge, destroy, or rebuild something: housing, schools, water pipes, roads, sewers, telephone lines ... Many decisions require a change or stretching of existing standards for quality control of air, water, sound, forests ...

The City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors has just voted to change the basis for making these decisions. Each decision on whether to change existing standards from now on will assume that larger is not better and that precaution is in order.

Read this delightful exercise in civic responsibility and let us know what you think, and do, about it.

SAN FRANCISCO PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE ORDINANCE

adopted June 17, 2003

Chapter 1 Precautionary Principle Policy Statement

Sec. 100. FINDINGS.

The Board of Supervisors finds and declares that:

Every San Franciscan has an equal right to a healthy and safe environment. This requires that our air, water, earth, and food be of a sufficiently high standard that individuals and communities can live healthy, fulfilling, and dignified lives. The duty to enhance, protect and preserve San Francisco's environment rests on the shoulders of government, residents, citizen groups and businesses alike.

Historically, environmentally harmful activities have only been stopped after they have manifested extreme environmental degradation or exposed people to harm. In the case of DDT, lead, and asbestos, for instance, regulatory action took place only after disaster had struck. The delay between first knowledge of harm and appropriate action to deal with it can be measured in human lives cut short.

San Francisco is a leader in making choices based on the least environmentally harmful alternatives, thereby challenging traditional assumptions about risk management. Numerous City ordinances including: the Integrated Pest Management Ordinance, the Resource Efficient Building Ordinance, the Healthy Air Ordinance, the Resource Conservation Ordinance, and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Ordinance apply a precautionary approach to specific City purchases and activities. Internationally, this model is called the Precautionary Principle.

As the City consolidates existing environmental laws into a single Environment Code, and builds a framework for new legislation, the City sees the Precautionary Principle approach as its policy framework to develop laws for a healthier and more just San Francisco. By doing so, the City will create and maintain a healthy, viable Bay Area environment for current and future generations, and will become a model of sustainability.

Science and technology are creating new solutions to prevent or mitigate environmental problems. However, science is also creating new compounds and chemicals that are already finding their way into mother's milk and causing other new problems. New legislation may be required to address these situations, and the Precautionary Principle is intended as a tool to help promote environmentally healthy alternatives while weeding out the negative and often unintended consequences of new technologies.

A central element of the precautionary approach is the careful assessment of available alternatives using the best available science. An alternatives assessment examines a broad range of options in order to present the public with different effects of different options considering short-term versus long-term effects or costs, and evaluating and comparing the adverse or

HUMAN RIGHTS NOW! Jim Syfers, 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:

<http://Bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/meiklejohn/project.html>

potentially adverse effects of each option, noting options with fewer potential hazards. This process allows fundamental questions to be asked: "Is this potentially hazardous activity necessary?" "What less hazardous options are available?" and "How little damage is possible?"

The alternatives assessment is also a public process because, locally or internationally, the public bears the ecological and health consequences of environmental decisions. **A government's course of action is necessarily enriched by broadly based public participation when a full range of alternatives is considered based on input from diverse individuals and groups.** The public should be able to determine the range of specific reasonable alternatives to be examined. For each alternative the public should consider both immediate and long-term consequences, as well as possible impacts to the local economy. **This form of open decision-making is in line with San Francisco's historic Sunshine Act, which allows citizens to have full view of the legislative process. One of the goals of the Precautionary Principle is to include citizens as equal partners in decisions affecting their environment.**

San Francisco looks forward to the time when the City's power is generated from renewable sources, when all our waste is recycled, when our vehicles produce only potable water as emissions, when the Bay is free from toxins, and the oceans are free from pollutants. The Precautionary Principle provides a means to help us attain these goals as we evaluate future laws and policies in such areas as transportation, construction, land use, planning, water, energy, health care, recreation, purchasing, and public expenditure.

Transforming our society to realize these goals and achieving a society living respectfully within the bounds of nature will take a behavioral as well as technological revolution. The Precautionary approach to decision-making will help San Francisco speed this process of change by moving beyond finding cures for environmental ills to preventing the ills before they can do harm.

Sec. 101. THE SAN FRANCISCO PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE.

The following shall constitute the City and County of San Francisco's Precautionary Principle policy. All officers, boards, commissions, and departments of the City and County shall implement the Precautionary Principle in conducting the City and County's affairs:

The Precautionary Principle requires a thorough exploration and a careful analysis of a wide range of alternatives. **Based on the best available science, the Precautionary Principle requires the selection of the alternative that presents the least potential threat to human health and the City's natural systems. Public participation and an open and transparent decision making process are critical to finding and selecting alternatives.**

Where threats of serious or irreversible damage to people or nature exist, lack of full scientific certainty about cause and effect shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City to postpone cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment or protect the health of its citizens. Any gaps in scientific data uncovered by the examination of alternatives will provide a guidepost for future research, but will not prevent protective action being taken by the City. As new scientific data become available, the City will review its decisions and make adjustments when warranted.

Where there are reasonable grounds for concern, the precautionary approach to decision-making is meant to help reduce harm by triggering a process to select the least potential threat. The essential elements of the Precautionary Principle approach to decision-making include:

Anticipatory Action: There is a duty to take anticipatory action to prevent harm. Government, business, and community groups, as well as the general public, share this responsibility.

Right to Know: The community has a right to know complete and accurate information on potential human health and environmental impacts associated with the selection of products, services, operations or plans. The burden to supply this information lies with the proponent, not with the general public.

Alternatives Assessment: An obligation exists to examine a full range of alternatives and select the alternative with the least potential impact on human health and the environment including the alternative of doing nothing.

Full Cost Accounting: When evaluating potential alternatives, there is a duty to consider all the reasonably foreseeable costs, including raw materials, manufacturing, transportation, use, cleanup, eventual disposal, and health costs even if such costs are not reflected in the initial price. Short-and long-term benefits and time thresholds should be considered when making decisions.

Participatory Decision Process: Decisions applying the Precautionary Principle must be transparent, participatory, and informed by the best available information.

Sec.102. THREE YEAR REVIEW.

No later than three years from the effective date of this ordinance, and after a public hearing, the Commission on the Environment shall submit a report to the Board of Supervisors on the effectiveness of the Precautionary Principle policy.

Sec. 103. LIST OF ALL ENVIRONMENTAL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

The Director of the Department of the Environment shall produce and maintain a list of all City and County of San Francisco ordinances and resolutions which affect or relate to the environment and shall post this list on the Department of the Environment's website.

Sec. 104. CITY UNDERTAKING LIMITED TO PROMOTION OF GENERAL WELFARE.

The Board of Supervisors encourages all City employees and officials to take the precautionary principle into consideration and evaluate alternatives when taking actions that could impact health and the environment, especially where those actions could pose threats of serious harm or irreversible damage. This ordinance does not impose specific duties upon any City employee or official to take specific actions. In adopting and undertaking the enforcement of this ordinance, the City and County of San Francisco is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. It is not assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers and employees, an obligation for breach of which it is liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach proximately caused injury nor may this ordinance provide any basis for any other judicial relief including, but not limited to a writ of mandamus or an injunction. In adopting this Chapter, the Board of Supervisors does not intend to authorize or require the disclosure to the public of any proprietary information protected under the laws of the State of California.

**FINNISH PRISONS:
NO GATES OR ARMED GUARDS POLICY CUT PRISON RATE SHARPLY**

Finland, a relatively classless culture with a Scandinavian belief in the benevolence of the state and a trust in its civic institutions, is something of a laboratory for gentle justice. In polls measuring what national institutions they admire the most, Finns put their criminal-coddling police in the No. 1 position.

Thirty years ago, Finland had a rigid model of law enforcement, inherited from neighboring Russia, and one of the highest rates of imprisonment in Europe. But then academics provoked a thoroughgoing rethinking of penal policy, with their argument that it ought to reflect the region's liberal theories of social organization. The men and women who work in the prisons also back the softer approach. "There are officers who were here 20 and 30 years ago, and they say it was much tougher to work then, with more people trying to escape and more prison violence," said Kaisa Tammi-Moilanen, 32, governor of the open ward at the Hameenlinna penitentiary.

Walls and fences have been removed in favor of unobtrusive camera surveillance and electronic alert networks. Instead of clanging iron gates, metal passageways and grim cells, there are linoleum-floored hallways lined with living space for inmates that resemble dormitory rooms more than lock-ups in a slammer. **Guards are unarmed** and wear either civilian clothes or uniforms free of emblems like chevrons and epaulettes. "There are ten guns in this prison, and they are all in my safe," said Esko Aaltonen, warden at Hameenlinna.

At the "open" prisons, inmates and guards address each other by first name. Prison superintendents go by nonmilitary titles and prisoners are sometimes referred to as "clients" or "pupils."

... **"Our newspapers are not full of sex and crime,"** said Markku Salminen, a former beat patrolman and homicide detective, now the director general of the prison service in charge of punishments. "And there is no pressure on me to get tough on criminals from populist-issue politicians."

According to the Ministry of Justice ... there are few more than 2,700 prisoners in Finland, with 5.2 million people. ... The comparable rate is **702 per 100,000 in the U.S.**, 664 in Russia. The highest in the European Union was Portugal, with 131 per 100,000, and the lowest were **Finland at 52, Denmark at 62 and Sweden at 64.**

(*NY Times*, 1/29/03, sent by Everett Anttila)

HOW ARE YOU FEELING THESE DAYS? A German's Story

Editor's Note:

Everyone who did not live in Germany in the Hitler years of the 1930s and '40s wonders what happened to people like themselves who were Germans at that time. We know that many fled Germany successfully; some died in the process. Many were killed openly, and many died quietly.

But what happened to those who did not flee in time? What happened to those good people who were not Nazis but lived in a country ruled absolutely by Nazi leaders and followers?

We learned something from a recently released film on the student opponents of Hitler during World War Two, "The White Rose."

Now we can read a careful analysis by one of the adults who lived through that time and wrote it in a manuscript he kept well hidden: Sebastian Haffner. After his son discovered the text, he published it in German in 2000 and in English in 2002 as "Defying Hitler."



One temptation, often favored by older people, was the withdrawal into an illusion: preferably the illusion of superiority. Those that surrendered to this clung to the amateurish, dilettantish aspects that Nazi politics undoubtedly exhibited at first. Every day they tried to convince themselves and others that **this could not continue for long**, and maintained an attitude of amused criticism... They formed the majority of the late converts to Nazism in the years from 1935 to 1938. Once their strenuously maintained pose of superiority had been rendered untenable, great numbers of these people yielded.

The second danger was embitterment -- masochistically surrendering oneself to hate, suffering and unrelieved pessimism... It looks very heroic: all consolation is utterly rejected -- but the sufferer fails to see that this is itself the most poisonous, dangerous, vicious form of consolation. **I encountered it so often myself that I am convinced that the number of those affected in this way must run into millions.**

It is difficult to assess the external consequences of such an internal attitude. **Occasionally it leads to suicide. Much more commonly, however, people adapt to living with clenched teeth**, in a manner of

speaking. **Unfortunately they formed the majority of the representatives of a visible 'opposition' in Germany. So it is no wonder that the opposition has never developed any goals, methods, plans or expectations.**

There is a third temptation I need to mention. It is the one I had to fight against myself, and I was certainly not the only one. Its starting point is the recognition of the danger of succumbing to the previous temptation. You do not want to let yourself be morally corrupted by hate and suffering, you want to remain good-natured, peaceful, amiable and 'nice'. **But how to avoid hate and suffering if you are daily bombarded with things that cause them? You must ignore everything, look away, block your ears, seal yourself off.** That leads to a hardening through softness and finally also to **a form of madness**: the loss of a sense of reality.

...In contrast to the first two ways of evading the Nazis, this third way did find a kind of public expression in Germany in the following years. **Literary idylls suddenly sprang up and flourished everywhere.** In the outside world, even in literary circles, it has gone unnoticed that, as never before, so many recollections of childhood, family novels, books on the countryside, nature poems, **so many delicate and tender little baubles were written in Germany in the years 1934-38.** Apart from open Nazi propaganda literature, almost everything that was published in Germany belongs to the genre.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

What do the following words have in common:

exhaustion	discourage
evolutionary	boundaries
education	encouraging
insupportable	gregarious
unorganized	tenacious
outpatient	precaution

How does the following word differ from all of them?

abstemious

Answer at bottom of page 6.

citizens who disagree, and toward legal residents.

These are some of the conclusions of six MCLI summer law school interns after taking on the daunting task of describing what has happened to the U.S. legal system since 9/11.

Rebecca Tennant says, "The worst case I have come across was a prison guard in Bristol, Massachusetts forcing a man awaiting deportation to get up in the middle of the night and get in a dentist chair. When the prisoner refused, the guard placed metal retainers on his body and the dentist extracted four good teeth."

The victim is a Canadian citizen born in Palestine named Jaoudat Abouazza, active in the peace movement. His criminal record? Driving without a license in a car without registration and illegal license plates.

"The FBI caused him to miss his court appearance on the traffic violations, and deported him with no possibility of returning legally to the U.S. because of the violations."

Keeping Foreign Students from Their Studies

Many students from countries in the Middle East, as well as Pakistan, Malaysia and Indonesia, faced delays of three to six month or outright denials of their visa applications.

Over the past year, mandatory security checks caused severe delays in the issuance of visas to students from countries on the Department of State's "watch list."

According to a survey released by the Association of American Universities and the Association of International Educators, hundreds of students and scholars missed their program start dates due to delays in visa issuance. The survey also said that most institutions reported that delays and denials were higher for students from predominantly Muslim and Arab countries for Fall 2002.

New Laws Create Problems

The climate that caused these incidents is spelled out in the PATRIOT Act, new Executive Orders, National Security Presidential Directives, Homeland Security Department Act, Attorney General's directives and guidelines on information sharing under the PATRIOT Act, Operation Tarmac, Operation Liberty Shield, and Military Order of 11/13/01.

Kevin Cunningham, Anastasia Bessey, Joanne Gonzalez, Rupneet Sidhu, Ross Pytlik, and Rebecca Tennant are researching and writing up each alleged case of violation of human rights.

Rebecca is then finding the precise language in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights that is being violated, and the exact commitment in the UN Charter Article 55 and in the three ratified human rights reporting treaties that is being broken.

If the Inspector General Is Upset, You Should Be Too!

Section 1001 of the PATRIOT Act, like other legislation, established an official in the Inspector General's office to receive complaints about violations of civil rights and civil liberties by employees of the DOJ, and report to Congress every six months. By March 6, 2003, the DOJ's own Inspector General found serious illegal actions by government officials in the two Eastern prisons he had studied. His appointee has listed many more violations in his first three reports.

So What Is MCLI Doing About All This?

MCLI is looking at tactics the embattled people of South Africa and East Timor used in what seemed impossible situations. In addition to their heroic marches, rallies, boycotts, they turned to the UN – and that focused world attention on their struggle, and in the end shamed the illegal rulers to step aside.

Rebecca says, after a summer of work: "We are writing a report in order to inform the UN, scholars, attorneys, and the public about U.S. government actions since 9/11. Many of the new laws are enabling various branches of the federal and local governments to violate human rights guaranteed to all people by the U.S. Constitution, the U.N. Charter, and three of the UN human rights treaties. We are attempting to raise consciousness about these actions by questioning why this is being allowed to occur and what if anything is being done about it."

You can order a prepublication copy of the Report on the order form, page 11. Publication date: Nov. 1 +/-

WHAT'S THE ANSWER

to the puzzle on page 5

All of the words in the list contain one of each of the vowels: a e i o u, in no particular order.

The word abstemious contains all of the vowels in alphabetical order: a e i o u.

FROM OUR READERS

John Newell sent information on a **scientific method of selecting candidates** for political office, dubbed Psycheocracy. Check it out at: www.home.earthlink.net/~jnewell957

Oral arguments were recently heard before the Supreme Court in *Drouet v. Superior Court*. Reporting on the proceedings **Peter Mutnick** had the impression that given the right case, the California Supreme Court may well settle the issue in favor of rent control. saint9peter@hotmail.com

Eva Patterson called attention to the need to combat the "**Racial Privacy Initiative**" promoted by Ward Connerly in California and backed by the **Federalist Society** on the **Oct. 8 ballot**. This Act would prohibit collection of any racial/ethnic data, crippling the ability to detect or compile evidence on discrimination. Contact Maria Blanco at: mblanco@maldef.org

Celia Lighthill sent the stirring **A Declaration for Extraordinary Times**, which begins: "When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for the people of a Nation to demand an alteration and transformation of their Government, a decent Respect for the Opinions of Mankind requires that they declare the causes which impel them to this Resolution..." For the document, contact scarletflicker@earthlink.net.

Pax Christi is the national peace organization of the Catholic church. **Merle Ratner** provided the response by Pax Christi USA's National Council to "An Open Letter to Activists Concerning **Racism in the Anti-War Movement**". The letter is available on the WBAI site and on the Pax Christi site. www.wbai.org, www.paxchristiusa.org.

The **Danish Institute of Human Rights** is developing an instrument for assessing the impact of business operations on human rights, similar to an environmental impact report, called a **Human Rights Compliance Assessment**. Contact Mr. Reed Addis, www.humanrightsbusiness.org.

Leroy Rockwell has done extensive research on the problems involved in **touch screen voting machines**, detailing them in a letter to the California Secretary of State. He notes that under current law the loser in an election cannot challenge the results unless the difference between candidates was 2-3 percent. Computers can easily be (illegally) programmed to make the difference more than that. Leroy can be reached at 510-653-7658.

BOOK NOTES FROM READERS

Barbara Beecher reports that New South Books has published **One More River to Cross: The Selected Poems of John Beecher**, ed. by Steven Brown, with a foreword by Studs Terkel.

John Beecher has been called "the best poet the South ever produced" by the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and "a product, and a proponent, of the great, unfinished American Revolution" by *Time*.

Americans for UNESCO has published a 16 page pamphlet, **UNESCO - A User's Manual**, explaining what the organization is and what it does, as part of the effort to get the United States to rejoin. It is available from them at 202-326-7784 or by email at amunesco@sc.edu.

Xlibris has reissued James D. Bilotta's **Race and the Rise of the Republican Party, 1848-1865**, documenting the racism in the Free Soil and Republican parties of that period.

Reader **Roger Burkholder** has published a novel, **How Did That Sun Get Out**, available from his web site, www.rogerburkholder.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

I have just finished reading the newsletter for Summer '03. Congratulations for all your good work. ... The article concerning "Reparations" was particularly informative. But I do have a question: Please clarify for me the asterisk next to the name David Horowitz and what is the significance of the phrase "Jewish author." – **Don Shaffer**

Ed Yellin sent the same two questions.

Editor: The asterisk originally marked a footnote reference that was put into the text without removing the * and inserting a comma. ... David Horowitz was included in a paragraph about African Americans and their various views. He was identified as a Jewish author because he didn't fit under that heading. On second thought, it would have been wiser to put him into a different paragraph where no description would have been necessary. The following paragraph listed five churches that support reparations.

Emma Dawley, MCLI Board Member, took copies of the article to the annual meeting of the **Union of Black Episcopalians** in Minneapolis July 25th, where several delegates welcomed the report.

DIRECTOR'S DIARY

June 6-7: In Chicago, enjoyed talking with Steve Saltzman and new friends brought together by **Janet Sondin** about MCLI and its work at North Chicago **Two U Church**.

At national committee of **Committees of Correspondence for Democracy & Socialism** heard many stories of heroic refusals to give in to new Bush dogma and repression, huge layoffs and budget cuts. After national conference of **United for Peace & Justice**, talked with strong supporters of **Excess Profits Tax**.

June 26: Social Responsibility Network of **Alameda Co. Supervisor Keith Carson** met to talk about **nuclear weapons** with 50 community activists and local government officials. Many liked what I said about the **major role of the UN** and how we can work directly with UN organs -- e.g., by reporting.

June 28: Made a short presentation at memorial services honoring **Kevin Lee Freeman** and **Charles Thomas**, **homeless men** murdered on the streets of Berkeley, as my sister Ruth and her husband were murdered in New York in 1954 when they were homeless.

Jy. 10: Videotaped for **documentary** on **Charles Garry**, the great SF trial lawyer featured in "Minimizing Racism in Jury Trials" based on the **Huey Newton** case. **And see page 12.**

Jy. 11: Long-time friend of MCLI, a Conscientious Objector in **Vietnam War**, brought young relative to talk about why he should **register now for the draft as a C.O.** rather than not registering and, if the time comes, leaving the U.S. Then I typed a very short statement that could be **taped onto the draft registration form when it is sent in.**

Jy. 11: **Bob Damron**, retired Postal Worker with SF Labor Council, called for help to defeat **PATRIOT Act II**. He said description in MCLI's "Cold War Against Labor" on how much \$ went to military was great.

Jy. 25: Interesting, warm conversation with old friend from Detroit, **Cong. John Conyers**, busy fund-raising to win in new district. There's a new good spirit in Washington, he says. **He is hopeful** -- though it won't be easy!

Jy. 26: Attended enthusiastic union organizing rally for 250 workers at **Berkeley Bowl**, popular (anti-labor) fruit/vegetable market.

Aug. 4: Learned of **Cong. Kucinich's Benjamin Franklin True Patriot Act** to repeal some of the worst sections of **PATRIOT I**. He will introduce it in early Sept. when he has enough co-sponsors.

Aug. 8: MCLI '02 summer intern **Dean Royer** called re using ILO conventions on **Clear Channel's** treatment of workers in charter revocation project with National Lawyers Guild and Media Alliance.

Mar. & Aug. 11: Long talks with attorneys **Aubra Fletcher** and **Joe Pemberton** about the wisdom, and problems, in using the **Necessity Defense in recent protest arrests**. I urged the First Amdment + UN Charter defense instead or in addition, and was thoroughly thanked.

Aug. 14: Talked with **Sue Supriano** for **Radio for Peace**, and **The Planet**, accessible at www.Radio4All.net

Aug. 14: Got a call from **Nat Hentoff**, of **Village Voice** and other publications, interested in our letter to the State Department and curious whether the media had picked up on it. Had to say "Sorry, but so far, No."

Aug. 15: The International Diplomacy Council brought **Chen Guangchen** and **Yuan Waiing** to MCLI during their trip as guests of the U.S. Government. The Chinese visitors are studying problems and rights of the **blind and other disabled people**. We had an interesting conversation comparing the difficulties of getting local and federal governments to carry out good policies they have enunciated but not funded or staffed.

Aug. 19: The **Int'l. Diplomacy Council** brought a large delegation from the **Visitor Project for Haiti** to MCLI to discuss **Human Rights Issues**, including **Viles Alizar**, Program Coordinator for **National Coalition for Human Rights; from Port-au-Prince:** **Marie Francoise Bouzi-Bonhomme**, Co-director of Cabinet de Consultation de Formation et d'Assistance Legale; **Mytch Lormil Exume**, **journalist** with **Radio Signal FM**; **Lisa Francois**, Executive Director, **Fanm Yo La**; **Deanne Germeil**, Legal Expert- Investigator, Office de la Protection du Citoyen; and **Nancy Roc**, **Radio Metropole**. Also **Lysias Fleury**, Legal Expert with Commission Espiscopale Nationale Justice et Paix in Hinche; **Ronald Pierre**, **News editor**, Comite des Avocats pour le Respect des Libertes Individuelles from Bobon; and **Marthe Pierre**, Representative, Groupe d'Assistance Juridique from L'Acul-Eu-Nord, accompanied by three interpreters.

Human Rights Day Celebration - Fresno

Attorney Howard Watkins, an MCLI alum of Fresno, is giving MCLI a gift from his collection in memory of his mother, Rose Katzenelenbogen Watkins. The gift includes several years' worth of the Daily Cal, put out by students of UC Berkeley during the late 1960's era of student protests and the claiming of People's Park, these publications document the heart of the times. MCLI is planning an event to celebrate Human Rights Day in late Fall in Fresno to air these documents and celebrate a student movement that rocked the world. Let us know if you can help with this great event.

Time to Send in Your Pledge

We currently have \$18k annually pledged for the New Director Fund and need to reach the \$100k mark by mid-2004. If you have already pledged to MCLI, then it is time to mail in your 2003 pledge or drop by for a visit with a check in hand. If you have not yet made a pledge, would like to increase your pledge or write MCLI into your estate plan, we would be happy to talk with you.

Web Page Interest Up; Order Online Now

Soula Culver, our new office manager, has really upgraded our web page. The web site has had 12,522 hits in the 2nd quarter, a 59% increase over the 1st quarter. Word is out. Check out the site yourself and share it with your friends.

<http://www.mcli.org>

Elizabeth Morrissett Presenté

Longtime friend of MCLI who was still reading voraciously and listening to the morning radio news until the end.

MCLI Rep at UNA-USA Forum in D.C.

From June 26th-28th, I attended the UNA-USA Forum in Washington DC as an MCLI representative. I tabled with literature and attended talks. Other attendees, primarily UNA members from around the country, were very curious about our organization, as well as supportive. I handed out almost 200 pages of fliers and newsletters. In break-out sessions I asked questions: how UNA might work with MCLI locally. UN Ambassador Idriss Jazairy (Algeria), Gillian Sorensen (UN Assistant Sec. General), and Mary Robinson (Former UN High Commissioner for HR) spoke passionately promoting peace and human rights, while exposing destructive U.S. policies around the UN. I attended "The Relevance of the UN," "U.S. Preemption Strategy -- Pros, Cons and Alternatives," and, "Working Together for a Stronger Voice: How Local Organizations Can Cooperate to Influence U.S. Foreign Policy."

It was a wonderful experience!

--Victoria Ashley

At Work at MCLI, Summer 2003



Ann Rebecca Jeanna Soula Jeffrey

Excess Profits Tax: Action in Boston

As a delegate to the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in early July, I spent three full days petitioning and educating about MCLI and an Excess Profits Tax on War and Reconstruction Contracts. Working closely with MCLI friend, Ward Morehouse (of PoCLAD) and others, we gathered over 300 signatures in support of an emergency resolution urging passage of this tax. People from all over the U.S. from the solid middle class were very supportive. The proposal was not chosen by the UU committee to come to the floor this year, but it got noticed.

I continued to flyer participants with MCLI Excess Profits Tax fact sheets. I met with Rev. David Carl Olsen, President of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) and discussed bringing an Excess Profits Tax issue to the GBIO, with 90 member organizations. He said that it was a real possibility.

To help, contact me at (510) 848-0599.

--Jeffrey Melcher

Arthur Horowitz Law Intern Grant

An upstanding concerned citizen and businessman, Arthur Horowitz, has generously donated \$1000 to support MCLI's ongoing summer internship for law students. The intern recipient of this grant will meet with Mr. Horowitz at least once during their internship. The interns this summer have done tremendous work on the PATRIOT Act Human Rights Reporting Project, which you read about on pp. 1 and 6.

If you would like to donate to the intern granting program, please write or call Jeffrey or Ann.

Special Thanks to the Samuel Rubin Foundation for its supportive Grant of \$3500 helping MCLI peace and justice work reminding local, state, and federal leaders about using not only the U.S. Constitution, but the UN treaties to support and uphold economic, political, civil and cultural rights.

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Friends of MCLI Who Have Given Generously Since April 2003 Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!

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The New Director Fund is for hiring an Executive Director in 2005, as Ann Fagan Ginger retires after 40 years of pro bono work. Please give generously to support this transition.

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Special thanks again to The Judith Badner Trust as the last of a \$21,797 bequest came in this quarter.

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