

Guild Notes

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IT'S ALMOST HERE!

What to Expect at the 2014 Law for the People Convention
September 3-7 • Chicago, Illinois

Workshops | Major Panels | CLEs | Tours | Receptions

- and -

The Guild Bids Farewell to Executive Director Heidi Boghosian after 15 Years

NLG Victory in Occupy Pensacola Appeal

The Guild Loses Longtime Members Bob Doyle and Jennie Rhine

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Cover Photo: Protesters form human pyramid atop statue of Gen. John Logan at Grant Park, Chicago, in opposition to the 1968 Democratic Convention. (Photo: [Barton Silverman/The New York Times](#))

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Note: The views expressed in Guild Notes are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the NLG as a whole.

A Note of Appreciation to the NLG Membership For Its Tradition of Service to the People

By Heidi Boghosian



Arthur Kinoy once said that the test for a people's lawyer, legal worker and student is not the technical winning or losing of formal proceedings. The real test is the impact of legal activities on the morale of the people involved in

the struggle. No matter how experienced or clever a legal practitioner may be, the most important element in the process is the informed support and participation of the people.

As a group, Guild members have dedicated their lives to serving, and taking their lead from, the many social movements and people directly involved in fighting for social change. Not until I began working here did I fully appreciate the true meaning of the word "guild," a like-minded community that nurtures its members and emboldens them to take risks that other bar associations and political organizations shy away from. In the past 20 years, from being a law student to a staff member, I too have been mentored and supported. You have shaped my life immutably.

Fifteen years ago, when I reported for my first day of work at the Guild offices I was thrilled at the prospect of serving the unique organization that I had joined in law school. Kevi Brannelly and Sarah Hogarth gave me a thoughtful orientation to the inner workings of the NLG, and my introduction to the membership a few weeks later at the San Francisco Convention was a preview of how a real "guild" operates.

The Guild tradition is a legacy of support. From defending our own members Mumia Abu-Jamal, Lynne Stewart, to the defense of Occupy protesters

in parks and streets across the country, to the well-orchestrated 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 RNC and DNC defense efforts, it has been an honor to work with, and ultimately to serve, the very best and most committed practitioners in the field of radical law. In addition to working on behalf of others, we are also committed to improving how we work and treat one another. To paraphrase Tema Okun from Dismantling Racism Works, one of the impactful trainers that the Anti Racism Committee and The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC) have brought to our national conventions: believe in my goodness, but challenge me to be my better self. TUPOCC has effectively done this for the NLG for a decade.

Increasingly, we are supporting the work of our students and NextGen members. They actively shape our response to the encroaching power and abuses of government and multi-national corporations. In 2006, for example, two New York City members were concerned about FBI targeting of animal rights and environmental activists; their apprehension was the impetus for our national Green Scare Hotline. At the Austin convention that same year, another NexGen member met with Starbucks workers to talk about union organizing in the Radisson Hotel where we were staying. When Suffolk University invited Armenian genocide denier Abe Foxman to deliver their 2014 commencement, one NLG student organized a well-publicized campaign to draw attention to Foxman's record of hypocrisy. These members, and so many more, serve as inspiration to others in the Guild and remind us daily of the value in learning from each other's endeavors.

Thank you all for upholding the values inherent in the notion of peoples lawyering, a practice that began in 1937 and that is alive and well today in the remarkable NLG. I am so grateful to all of you for the work you've done in the past, and I very much look forward continuing that work in the future as a fellow Guild member.

A message from the National Office staff: After 15 years, of tireless work on behalf of the Guild, we're saddened to lose Heidi as our executive director. We're grateful to have had her as a mentor and know her as a friend. We wish her all the best in the future. We'll miss you, Heidi!

NLG Fact-Finding Delegation to Palestine Invigorates Human Rights Efforts



NLG delegation joins protesters at their weekly rally in the village of Nabi Saleh.

by **Azadeh Shahshahani**

June 2014 – The Israeli security agent who called me into the room at the border crossing had pulled up on her computer screen an NLG statement on the launch of Palestine Solidarity Legal Support. She had also learned that the NLG has a Palestine Subcommittee with a clear stance in support of adherence to international human rights norms in Palestine and Israel. She further discovered that I had attended the World Social Forum, Free Palestine in Brazil on behalf of the NLG.

She was concerned about any “political” work that I was going to do in Palestine and Israel on this trip. Of course, she had reason to be concerned. Our delegation of five NLG members was there from May 18-24 to investigate the situation of Palestinian political prisoners. For some of us, this was our first trip and we wanted to learn more about the occupation and Palestinians’ resistance. Our trip also coincided with the hearing in the case brought by the Rachel Corrie family against the Israeli military for crushing her with a bulldozer as she was trying to protect the home of a Palestinian family from destruction.

They did all they could to keep us out. But after 12 hours and five separate rounds of questioning, I was finally able to secure a visa and soon joined the other delegation members in what was to be a powerful, intense, inspiring week for all of us. We found that the Israeli government uses various tools such as mass incarceration, land grabs, the Apartheid wall, significant monetary and military support for settlements, and check points to tightly control and oppress Palestinians. We saw institutionalized racism play out before our eyes.

But we were also deeply inspired by the everyday resistance of Palestinians through weekly protests, engaging in artwork,

and simply staying put. As a picture at the offices of Stop the Wall Campaign proclaims: “To Exist is to Resist.”

As I write this column, between 125 and 250 Palestinian prisoners have been on hunger strike for more than 55 days. They started the strike to protest their indefinite detention without charge or trial. The Israeli government has not only failed to negotiate with the imprisoned Palestinians on their basic demands for human dignity, but has also put forward a measure to allow the force-feeding of prisoners.

In doing so, they have repeatedly cited Guantanamo as an example of a facility where force-feeding takes place on a daily basis. Of course, this is not the only perverse US influence, since the US government is also supporting the occupation to the tune of \$3 billion dollars a year.

Everywhere we went in Palestine, people graciously shared their stories with us (deeply painful accounts like that of a young man who was shut by the Israeli military 65 times, a home destroyed, a family torn apart by repeated imprisonment for indefinite terms) and had just one request: “Please don’t stay silent about our treatment when you go back. Please tell Americans what is happening here.” Staying silent we shall not do.

I am deeply grateful for this experience. And I appreciate being involved with an organization that strikes fear in the hearts of Israeli government officials and other representatives of oppressive institutions. I look forward to seeing you at the Convention and sharing more about what we witnessed. And learning more about what groundbreaking work you and other fellow NLG members have been doing in the past year around the globe. This includes NLG members’ representation and advocacy on behalf of Chicago-based Rasmea Odeh. This Palestinian community leader has been targeted by the US government for allegedly not reporting on her naturalization application that she was tortured and imprisoned by the Israeli government as a political prisoner in the 1970s.

Until Chicago,

Azadeh Shahshahani
President

Editor’s note: After the NLG delegation to Palestine and before this issue’s publication, the Guild called on the US to cease military aid to Israel, given the humanitarian crisis that erupted in Gaza in July 2014. To read the NLG’s June 17 statement, visit nlg.org/news/releases/national-lawyers-guild-urges-us-government-cease-3-billion-annual-military-aid-israel.

Occupy Pensacola Prevails in 11th Circuit Appeal

by Alistair McKenzie, Southern Regional Vice President

On June 19, 2014, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion in the case of *Occupy Pensacola v. City of Pensacola*. That opinion granted the relief Occupy Pensacola sought which was a reversal of the summary judgment granted by the lower court on four of its First Amendment claims, which were facial and as-applied challenges to the City's special events permitting ordinances and its park regulations. Occupy Pensacola argued in its appeal that the lower court inappropriately granted judgment against Occupy Pensacola by failing to differentiate between the separate claims and relief sought by Occupy Pensacola in their Complaint. The Court in its opinion

agreed with Occupy Pensacola and stated "the district court misapprehended the gist of the remaining four claims. In our view, these claims are not dependent on the Tent Ordinance and therefore warrant further adjudication." Occupy did not challenge the lower court's ruling on the selective enforcement counts regarding the tent ordinance in place in the City of Pensacola.

As a result of the Eleventh Circuit's opinion in favor of Occupy Pensacola, the case has been remanded for further proceedings on the remaining four First Amendment claims. The case will now proceed once again in front of Northern District of Florida Judge Vinson.

33-Day Walk for Oscar López Successful

by Alberto Rodríguez, for the Puerto Rico Subcommittee

May 2014 was an exciting and historic month in the three-decade long campaign to free Oscar López Rivera. Oscar is the longest held Puerto Rican political prisoner convicted in U.S. federal court for seditious conspiracy for his commitment to Puerto Rican independence. Guild members in New York City represented the campaign National Puerto Rican Day Parade on June 8.

The Guild's Puerto Rico Subcommittee has long supported Oscar and other Puerto Rican political prisoners, adopting organizational resolutions and by calling upon multiple administrations for his release. The Free Oscar campaign was also present at last year's Convention in San Juan.

Commemorating his 33 years in captivity, the campaign for his release organized *La Caminata Nacional: 33 en 33 x Oscar* (33 in 33 Walk for Oscar). The walk began April 27 and toured 33 towns in 33 days to raise awareness and gather support for his release.

Each day one town was connected with another in a 333-mile walk through winding mountainous roads. While a small, hearty core group of activists and supporters participated in consecutive daily walks, locals from each town joined in to add their own flavor. Eclectic groups of often hundreds of participants included young people, seniors, athletes, students, unions, musicians, civic and religious groups, elected officials, pro-independence activists, and supporters of the current U.S. commonwealth status of Puerto Rico as well as statehood supporters.

As the walk in the mountains was underway, another event took place in San Juan called *Al Mar x Oscar* ("To the Sea for Oscar"), inspired by a letter from prison to his granddaughter Karina, in which he wrote, "... after family, what I miss the most is the sea. It's been 35 years since the last time I saw it." On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on May 25, hundreds marched along the waterfront of Old San Juan while row boats, paddle boats, rafts, kayaks, fishing boats, jet skis – practically anything that could float – accompanied them.



A scene of the *Caminata* on May 25. Photo: Cultura Profética

On May 29 the *Caminata* arrived in front of the Federal Building in San Juan after successfully visiting 33 towns in 33 days. In solidarity with the *Caminata*, Oscar also walked 333 miles in those 33 days in the prison yard.

The Puerto Rican people have sent a powerful message to the White House that we want Oscar released from U.S. custody now. In the midst of the worst economic crisis the island has experienced in decades – high energy and food costs, mass exodus to the U.S., primarily of the young and the educated, a crumbling education and health system, a rise in crime and the insecurity and anxiety it creates – Oscar has not been forgotten, and the call for his release is front-and-center.

Here in Puerto Rico, there is a mass sense of optimism and faith that President Obama will do the right and just thing and release Oscar. This optimism is not idealistic or unfounded but very much rooted in a proud history of witnessing our political prisoners walking out of the gates of U.S. prisons. Here, there is faith in the power of a united Puerto Rican people demanding in one loud, clear and unwavering voice "Free Oscar Now!"

To learn more about last year's activism in Puerto Rico or to learn about the Puerto Rico Subcommittee, visit www.nlg.org/Convention/2013PuertoRicoResources

Fighting Mass Incarceration at the Board of Parole

by Nora Carroll

To the casual observer, opponents of mass incarceration are ubiquitous. The Justice Department is inviting nonviolent drug offenders to apply for clemency, there have been congressional hearings on solitary confinement, and everyone is talking about the Netflix series *Orange is the New Black*. But for those who envision a world without prisons, “progress” is always bittersweet. In New York State and New York City, we have plenty to celebrate, but the struggle is unrelenting.

Though we heralded Mayor De Blasio’s appointment of Joseph Ponte to be Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction, we also mourn the deaths of Jason Echevarria, Kyam Livingston, Bradley Ballard, Jerome Murdough among others, who died horrific deaths while in custody. And though 2014 saw the introduction of the HALT (Humane Alternatives to Long-Term) Solitary Confinement Act—a bill that would formally recognize prolonged solitary confinement as torture—in both houses of the New York State legislature, its path to becoming law is challenging.

The United States prison population has declined slightly in recent years, but the Board of Parole’s abuses continue unabated. Though New York State courts and the legislature have taken some interest in curtailing the tendencies of the Board of Parole to deny parole reflexively based on the nature of the crime of conviction, the Board has continued with business as usual. The legislative mandate to consider risk and needs in determining whether an individual is suitable for release has taken a backseat to the commissioners’ usual fear of being criticized the *New York Post*. Cases like that of Daniel St. Hubert, the mentally ill parolee accused of multiple stabbings (including two young children), create a difficult political climate for the thousands of New Yorkers who have served many years more than their minimum sentences but continue to be denied parole. Most press coverage glosses over the fact that Mr. St. Hubert had not, in fact, been granted parole by the Board at all, but instead was released after serving his maximum sentence.

In this fraught political environment the New York City Mass Incarceration Committee (MIC) seeks to oppose mass incarceration at the most basic level – by working to free rehabilitated people from prison. Our Parole Preparation Project, which is ramping up and has already grown tenfold this summer alone, is working with long-termers in New York State prisons who have been denied parole before, and who would benefit from counseling and assistance in preparing to go before the Parole Board.

The Parole Prep Project deploys volunteers to work with parole applicants by gathering needed documents and letters of support, counseling the individual before the Parole Board interview, and writing a letter to the Board advocating release. We are learning in depth about the failures of the parole system, and connecting with incarcerated people who are leaders in the movement for change.

Our volunteers are law students, legal workers, attorneys, social workers, and even some friends and family members of people in prison. We do not provide attorneys to the parole applicants we work with, but we do provide a level of guidance and expertise that is generally unavailable to people preparing for a Parole Board appearance.

“The parole system is profoundly unfair; but its harms are often hidden from mainstream society.”

Our project exists in recognition of the immense structural barriers to legal work by and for people in prison. Everyone is constitutionally entitled to legal counsel when charged with a crime, and many NLG attorneys are criminal defense attorneys. We fight as hard as we can, but ultimately more than 90 percent of our clients plead guilty and go to prison. Many long-termers (and not just in New York) have not had the advice of counsel since their crime of conviction and its appeal. Onerous laws keep people in prison out of court and prevent their attorneys from making any money, ensuring that this vulnerable population is forgotten, particularly by the legal community.

Reducing mass incarceration and getting people out of prison restores families and communities one individual at a time. The parole system in New York State is disgraceful and profoundly unfair, but its harms are often hidden from mainstream society. The Parole Prep Project seeks to expose the broken parole system, which along with an array of other efforts, will pressure the legislative, judicial, and executive branches to make meaningful change.

If recent attention to the ills of mass incarceration has taught us anything, surely a significant lesson is that prisons are places where legal services are desperately needed. Prisons are closed off to journalists and granted the most extreme deference by the courts in how security is enforced, and people in prison suffer as a result.

The Mass Incarceration Committee calls on lawyers and legal workers of conscience to use our legal skills and political power to reduce mass incarceration, help get people out of prison, and end the worst abuses in the prisons we can’t close down.

For more information or to join the MIC and/or the Parole Preparation Project, please contact Nora at carroll.nora@gmail.com.

The Convention will feature programming on mass incarceration, including the major panel Furthering the Movement to Stop Mass Incarceration and the workshop, Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Chicago Public Schools. There will also be an MIC meeting for new and current members.

Haywood Burns Fellow Brings Mass Defense into the Digital Age

By Patrick Tyrrell



In the summer of 2012, right before I began law school, I volunteered with the NLG Chicago chapter to set up a database to track those people arrested in the mass protests against the annual North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) meeting held in Chicago that year. I worked closely with the chapter in their

satellite legal office, created solely for NATO legal support. This arrestee database quickly expanded into the creation of on-the-fly legal software to help organize our intake system and collect information on incidents of police brutality and harassment.

While working in the NLG office, I met with civil rights attorneys and legal workers from across the country to discuss the case management needs of law offices and special legal projects involving NATO and the RNC/DNC legal defense. I realized, with much surprise, that there is an enormous lack of technological resources for these types of mass defense projects. Once a new project begins, it typically must reinvent the wheel and create its own case management system, given the lack of a reliable, established system.

The Haywood Burns Fellowship allowed me to develop a prototype suite of software tools that are specifically designed to handle the intake and case management needs of NLG's mass defense projects. These software tools, if fully implemented, would unify all of the handwritten notes, phone

logs, spreadsheets, Google docs, and other ways attorneys, legal workers and political organizers have kept track of arrestees in the past. The prototype allows NLG volunteers to track hotline calls, keep notes on individual arrestees, and create timelines of arrests and other pertinent events. Attorneys may also use the prototype to manage their cases by calendaring hearings, organizing case notes, and managing different filings. It also gives the Guild smarter, more precise tools for reporting data, such as arrest/incident mapping and tracking complaints of police brutality and harassment.

The prototype is built using free and open source software, which allows for rapid development, better stability, and makes it easier to deploy at multiple Guild offices. The software is non-commercial, giving future developers the ability to expand and enhance the project. It can be easily set up on a secure server, housed within a Guild office, and accessed through a closed network of computers. It is also simple enough that even the most tech-phobic users could master it. I hope that this project will one day be made available to progressive legal offices and projects everywhere, which would allow them to save time, money, and perhaps most importantly, have more control over their case work and their clients' information.

As a 2013 Fellow, I worked closely with Abi Hassen, National Mass Defense Coordinator, and other Guild members to develop the prototype. We demonstrated it at the 2013 NLG National Convention to the Mass Defense Committee, where we received warm praise and thoughtful feedback. We hope to have a stable version of the software ready for the 2016 RNC/DNC conventions. For now, we are still testing the software and expanding its features. If you ever want to try it out, please feel free to email me at tyrrellp@gmail.com!

Military Law Task Force of The National Lawyers Guild



MLTF to Release Self-Help Handbook for Survivors of Military Sexual Assault

The Guild's Military Law Task Force (MLTF) is publishing a first-of-its-kind self-help handbook for survivors of military sexual assault and sexual harassment. The handbook, *Military Sexual Violence: A Guide to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Policies in the U.S. Armed Forces*, is designed for attorneys and advocates as well as servicemembers, and covers complaint procedures, investigations and response to reprisals and retaliation. With assault and harassment at epidemic proportions in the military, the need for self-help material and legal advocacy is critical. The Task Force will follow the handbook with a workshop on sexual assault policies at the Guild convention, and plans training seminars and a legal memo for attorneys, law students and legal workers to follow.

Also recently published by the MLTF are several memos designed for attorneys and advocates: *Military Medical Policies*, *Representing Servicemembers in Involuntary Discharge Proceedings*, and *Complaints under Article 138 of the UCMJ*. All are available on nlgmiltf.org; paper copies can be obtained by contacting MLTF and nlgmiltf@gmail.com.

Jennie Rhine | 1940 - 2014

Longtime Guild-member Jennie Rhine passed away early morning on May 11, 2014. A graduate of UC Hastings School of Law, Jennie graduated first in her class of 1969. She went on to take a number of activist cases and to organize with the National Lawyers Guild. After some years in private practice, she was elected judge and sat on the Alameda County bench for more than 20 years.

In the late 1960s Jennie was instrumental in opening the Bay Area office of the NLG, helping to set a new activist agenda for the chapter. In the early 70s, Rhine worked out of the Guild office in San Francisco representing witnesses subpoenaed by federal grand juries investigating the anti-war movement. Jennie was a founding member of the Bay Area Wounded Knee Support Committee, which was launched following the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee. She traveled to South Dakota to provide legal support to the American Indian Movement and recruited other lawyers and law students to support as well. She was president of the National Lawyers Guild SF Bay Area Chapter in 1974, and a leader of the women's caucus at the



Guild's Boulder convention, which defined a new direction for the Guild.

The chapter honored her and her partner, Tom Meyer (another long-time Guild member), at the NLG-SF 2014 Testimonial Dinner. She remained a Guild member and was active with the chapter until illness made involvement too difficult. She will be greatly missed.

Rob Doyle | 1942 - 2014



Rob Doyle, a founding member of the (reestablished) Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG in the late '60s, died on May 1, 2014. In the '70s he worked with the Wounded Knee Legal Defense Project and was an active member his chapter throughout his career. This is a selection of a remembrance of him delivered at his memorial by his law

partner of many years, Carol Steinberg:

Ever since law school in the late '70s, I had known about this tall dignified lawyer striding around Boston courtrooms, defending demonstrators, representing tenant organizations sued by landlords for conspiracy, and suing, along with others here today, the lead paint industry on behalf of poisoned kids. I saw him annually at the Lawyers Guild dinners trying to raise money, always with humor. Through the '80s, I practiced in a nice personal injury firm but Rob's firm was where I aspired to be.

In the '90s, [I joined his firm and] our offices at Kehoe Doyle were side by side. It was then that I began the practice of bugging him for advice many times a day—a

practice I continued up until the day he died. He would quickly give me a suggestion that was right on the money, tell me succinctly to go "look it up," or remain coolly silent while I babbled on until I came to the answer myself, said thanks, and he said "was I in this conversation?"

In 1998, Kehoe Doyle broke up. I was stunned and so flattered when he asked if I wanted to go into practice together. For 16 years, it's been just the two of us representing people hurt or sickened by the negligence of others. Adventures and jokes have been abundant, disputes rare. He already knew I had MS when he asked. He didn't blink as it progressed. More than once, I would fall in the middle of the street. Unfazed, he, with the help of the characters from the shelter next door, would lift me up and we would continue on. When I started using a wheelchair and was having trouble fitting into the bathroom in our office, he came in one day with the tools to take the door off its hinges and change its swing from inward to outward. I hadn't even asked. We started trying the cases together then—dividing up the openings, closings, and witness examinations 50/50.

He was a sight to behold in court. His presentations were always smooth, eloquent, and to the point. His cardinal rules in court were "less is more" and "no notes." I tended to violate both and am doing that right now. But we were a great team. The clients loved him—they could never stop telling me how kind and empathetic he was. I loved practicing law with Rob—and I'm not ready to leave it behind.

NLG Calls for US to Cease Plans to Detain and Deport Thousands of Child Refugees to Central America

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) objects to the President's decision to detain and expedite deportations of thousands of children from fleeing persecution and violence in Central America. The NLG also opposes any efforts by Congress to roll back critical human rights protections – such as the right of an unaccompanied minor to see an immigration judge – in the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization. The NLG is disturbed that the Department of Homeland Security has continued to jail thousands of women and children in hastily erected family detention centers, despite reports of abuse. Detaining and deporting refugees is a wholly inadequate response by the Obama administration and ignores the root causes of this forced migration.

Many of these unaccompanied children described systemic violence, enslavement, and trafficking in their home countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. According to the UN, the majority of these children reported a targeted fear, such as a death threat or attempted kidnapping, as reasons for their departure. The majority of these children faced an incredibly dangerous journey, often marked by robberies, rape, and assault, to seek refuge in the US and other countries in the region, such as Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

The current refugee influx is not a new phenomenon. For the last four years, several immigrants' rights and international groups have tracked an increasing exodus of children from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. It is no coincidence that the countries generating the most refugees are on the direct receiving end of harmful US foreign policies, such as the US-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which eviscerated Central American economies; US government interference with democratic policies of leftist governments in Honduras and El Salvador; and US continued support for the "War on Drugs," pushing cartels from Colombia into Central America.

One stark example of US implication in the recent crisis is its support of the 2009 military coup in Honduras, which gutted democratic and economic reforms, and its continuing support of the coup government. The NLG has sent three delegations to Honduras since the June 2009 coup that ousted democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya (1) shortly after the coup in August 2009 (2) as credentialed election monitors for the November 2013 elections; and (3) last month, on the fifth anniversary of the coup. Based on its interviews and observations, the NLG has consistently expressed its concern about the grave human rights crisis in the country.

It is unfortunate and telling that the US, despite signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child on February 16, 1995 – an international treaty supported by such broad international consensus that it was ratified by 193 of the 195 sovereign and independent UN member – has continued to tarnish its international reputation by refusing sanctuary to refugee children in their time of need. Smaller countries like Turkey, Kenya



Unaccompanied child detainees sleep in a cell at a Brownville, Texas US Borders and Customs Patrol processing facility in June. (Photo: Eric Gay/AP)

and Jordan have offered refuge to millions during comparable human rights crises. For the US, fifty-thousand refugees are entirely manageable.

The US has historically failed to take meaningful, humanitarian action in response to refugee crises. (One case in point is from June 6, 1939, when the United States government turned away the MS St. Louis, a German trans-Atlantic liner carrying 937 Jewish refugees fleeing from the Third Reich, and forced them to return to Europe.) This is an opportunity for the country to change that trend. The United States must not abandon its self-proclaimed commitment to human rights when these children need it the most.

We call on the Obama administration to: (1) adhere to its international human rights obligations and designate these children as refugees; (2) halt the expansion of family detention centers; (3) meaningfully respond to reports of abuse; and (4) provide counsel for these children to ensure their civil and human rights are protected.

Already, members of the NLG and its National Immigration Project have joined other groups in filing a class action lawsuit demanding that the US provide these children with legal counsel and are investigating reports of abuse in detention centers. To help remedy this situation and prevent similar ones in the future, the Obama administration must redress US foreign policies that undermine democratically-elected institutions in Central America and fuel the ongoing human rights crisis in the region.

To read the full NLG Honduras delegation reports, visit nlginternational.org/report/HONDURAS_FINAL_Prelim_Report_Eng_.pdf and nlginternational.org/report/NLG_Honduras_Election_October_2013_Report.pdf

This piece was adapted from a press statement issued July 22, 2014. The original can be found at www.nlg.org/news/releases.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 3 - 7, 2014

CROWNE PLAZA CHICAGO METRO

Visit nlg.org/convention for registration, hotel group rate booking info, event tickets, volunteer forms, sponsorship opportunities, and more.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Intl'l, Enviro Justice, Animal Rts Committees - Enviro Human Rights CLE Registration
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	Intl'l, Enviro Justice, Animal Rts Committees - Enviro Human Rights CLE
7:30 AM	8:30 AM	National Immigration Project (NIP) CLE Registration
8:30 AM	5:00 PM	National Immigration Project (NIP) CLE
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	National Police Accountability Project Board (NPAP) Meeting
6:00 PM	10:00 PM	National Immigration Project (NIP) Board Meeting
7:30 PM	8:30 PM	National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting
8:30 PM	9:30 PM	Chicago Convention Planning Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

8:00 AM	5:00 PM	National Immigration Project (NIP) Membership Meeting
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) CLE Registration
8:30 AM	5:00 PM	National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) Immigration Detention CLE
8:00 PM	8:30 PM	Military Law Task Force (MLTF) CLE Registration
8:30 PM	12:30 PM	Military Law Task Force (MLTF) - Military Discharge Upgrading CLE
8:30 AM	12:00 PM	International Committee Meeting
12:00 PM	4:00 PM	*NEW* Legal Worker Retreat
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	Labor & Employment (L&E) Committee Meeting
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Task Force on the Americas Meeting
1:30 PM	4:00 PM	Military Law Task Force (MLTF) Meeting (social hour to follow) CLE
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	50 Years After Freedom Summer CLE
3:30 PM	5:30 PM	Using Human Rights to Defend Promote Income Security CLE
5:00 PM	6:45 PM	Chicago Chapter Cocktail Reception
5:00 PM	6:45 PM	National Immigration Project (NIP) Cocktail Reception
5:00 PM	6:45 PM	Labor & Employment (L&E) Committee Cocktail Reception
7:00 PM	8:45 PM	Keynote Address - Speaker: Karen Lewis

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	Past Presidents' Meeting
8:30 AM	9:45 AM	WORKSHOPS I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot Topic: US vs the Bolivarian Project: The US role in Destabilizing the Venezuelan Government, the Argentinian Economy and other Progressive Forces in the Hemisphere & What We Can Do About It • From Second Class to Second Chance: Criminal Records Relief & Dismantling the "New Jim Crow" • Fighting for Chicago: Combating Economic Restructuring, Gentrification, and other Policies that Exclude the Poor and People of Color • Hot Topic: Federal Criminal Defense: Raising Creative Defenses in Phony Stash House Ripoff Cases and Analyzing Ways to Reduce Federal Drug Prison Sentences • How the NLG Can Use Litigation to Work with Progressive Community Activists • Should an Intersectional Analysis of Oppression include Exploitation of Non-Human Animals?
10:00 AM	11:15 AM	WORKSHOPS II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging the Police Narrative: Fighting Police Repression through Cop Watching, Organizing, Journalism & Litigation • Trends in Repression of the Palestinian Rights Movement: Counteracting Legal Attacks on Human Rights Activists • Organizing in the New Economy and Worker Centers: Laboratories of Worker Democracy • U.S. Imperialism in the Philippines/Military Pivot & Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) • Immigration Detainers • Organizing for Human Rights Accountability in the US: Using the UN & New International Human Rights Laws to Promote Justice
11:00 AM	1:00 PM	National Immigration Project (NIP) Litigation Meeting
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Puerto Rico Subcommittee Meeting
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Friday Luncheon: A Jazz Celebration with Maggie Brown (ticket required)
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Animal Rights Activism Committee (ARAC) Meeting
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Indigenous People's Human Rights Committee Meeting
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	NLG Review Meeting
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	TUPOCC Business Meeting
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	PLENARY I (Award Presentation)
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Puerto Rican Community Tour
5:30 PM	6:45 PM	Student Caucus

5:30 PM	6:45 PM	Legal Worker Caucus
5:30 PM	6:45 PM	Next Generation Caucus
5:30 PM	7:00 PM	International Committee Reception & Debra Evenson Award Presentation
7:00 PM	8:15 PM	Queer Caucus
7:00 PM	8:15 PM	Solo Caucus
7:00 PM	8:15 PM	Marxism & the Law Caucus
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Palestine Solidarity Legal Support: Organizing & Strategy Meeting
7:00 PM	8:30 PM	Legal Services Workers Union Meeting
9:00 PM	(Late)	Student Sponsored Party

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

8:00 AM	9:00 PM	NLG Foundation Board Meeting
8:45 AM	10:15 AM	MAJOR PANELS I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighting Wage Disparity & Income Inequality • Sex Work and the Failure of Anti-Trafficking Policies • Pursuing Accountability & Reparations for Torture
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	MAJOR PANELS II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthering the Movement to Stop Mass Incarceration • Deportation is Death: Issues Facing Queer/Trans Immigrants • Guilty Until Proven Innocent: How Federal Law Enforcement Circumvents Constitutional Rights
12:00 PM	12:30 PM	Labor Action Part I: Standing w/ Farmworker Women (Bandana Project)
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	PLENARY II (National Elections, Resolutions, Amendments)
2:30 PM	3:00 PM	Labor Action Part II: Standing w/ Farmworker Women (Bandana Project)
3:00 PM	6:00 PM	Anti-Racism & TUPOCC Programming
6:30 PM	7:30 PM	*NEW* Pre-Celebration Reception (no cost, open to all)
7:30 PM	10:00 PM	Saturday Night Celebration: Fundraiser/Award Presentation (ticket req'd)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

8:00 AM	9:00 PM	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting (EJ & EHRC Committees)
9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Regional Meetings
10:45 AM	12:00 PM	WORKSHOPS III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOIA – How to Successfully Bring Sunshine to Records the Government Doesn't Want You to See • Dead or in Prison: Indigenous Resistance to Resource Extraction

- Political Prisoners & the Prison Industrial Complex: Connections between U.S. and Palestine
- Military Sexual Assault: Advocacy in Reporting Assaults & Countering Retaliation
- Our Homes Divided: 45 Years after the Fair Housing Act, How Far Have We Come?

12:30 PM 1:45 PM

WORKSHOPS IV

- Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Using Restorative Justice to Stop the Criminalization of Black and Latino Youth in Chicago Public Schools
- Surveillance Self Defense for Legal Workers and Lawyers
- US Empire through Revolution and Counter-Revolution: Understanding the U.S. Neoliberal Project in the MENA Region to Build Analysis, Transparency & Accountability
- Lessons in Resistance & Continued Struggle for Autonomy in Indigenous Communities
- Immigration Status for Victims of Workplace Crimes

2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Mass Incarceration Committee (MIC) Meeting
2:00 PM	5:00 PM	Labor History Tour (\$25, registration information at nlg.org/convention)
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	CLE: <i>Mass Defense Committee - Political Criminal Defense</i> (no cost)
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Mass Defense Committee Meeting

- This schedule is subject to change -

TOURS & OUTINGS

Puerto Rican Community Tour (\$10, Friday 5:30-6:30 PM) Explore the community institutions built by the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, including an alternative high school; community garden; childcare center; Vida/Sida AIDS program; the first homeless shelter in Chicago for LGBT youth; a park honoring Puerto Rican political prisoners and a youth cultural center. We'll end with an authentic Puerto Rican meal (included). Contact: melindapower@comcast.net.

Westside Tour (\$10): A neighborhood exemplifying Chicago's segregated past and gentrifying future, this tour will be led by lifelong activist, educator and African scholar Prexy Nesbitt. Contact: susan.ruthkaplan@gmail.com.

Murals Tour (no cost): A tour of some of Chicago's famous public art, which reflects the cultural diversity of Chicago's many different ethnic communities. Contact: don.goldhamer@pobox.com.

Labor History Tour (\$25, Sunday 2-5 PM): This

three-hour tour will be led by a representative of the Illinois Labor History Society (illinoislaborhistory.org). The tour includes several historic labor sites around Chicago including the Haymarket Monument, the Union Stockyard Gate and the Haymarket Martyrs' Monument. Contact: choiniere.randy@gmail.com

Lunchtime Labor Action (no cost, Saturday 12-12:30PM and 2:30-3:30 PM): We'll support farmworker women in action with the Bandana Project to end workplace sexual violence against farmworker women. We'll decorate white bandanas with words of encouragement, motivating statements, inspirational pictures and art to raise awareness about this important issue. Contact: choiniere.randy@gmail.com

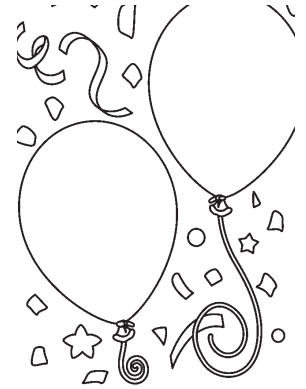
Self-Guided Neighborhood Tours (no cost): We'll offer resources for Convention attendees to go on self-guided walking tours, including suggested sites and highlights from various Chicago neighborhoods. Attendees will be able to conduct their own self-guided tours at any time, at their leisure.

FRIDAY LUNCHEON: A JAZZ CELEBRATION with MAGGIE BROWN

Join us September 5 for great food and a performance by **Maggie Brown**, daughter of the late Chicago jazz legend Oscar Brown, Jr. For over 20 years, she has toured her one-woman show, "LEGACY: Our Wealth of Music," following the history and evolution of African American music. A delicious vegal lunch will be provided! *Luncheon ticket required (\$45). Available upon registration or at nlg.org/convention.*

The **ANNUAL SATURDAY NIGHT CELEBRATION** is full of food, drinks, music, and fun. We'll hear from friends old and new, recognize the outstanding work of our members, and share our favorite Guild stories. *Ticket is required (\$75/Students \$35). Available upon registration or at nlg.org/convention.*

***NEW* PRE-CELEBRATION RECEPTION** An hour before the Celebration begins, we'll hold a gathering open to all Convention attendees with music and a cash bar. Join us! (*No ticket required. No cost.*)

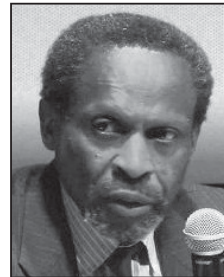


2014 HONOREES

Every year, we honor exceptional members who exemplify the Guild's revolutionary spirit of 77 years of legal activism for the people. This year, we're also celebrating 10 years of TUPOCC. Join us in congratulating the following leaders with a message in this year's tribute journal! To order an ad or learn more, visit nlg.org/convention and click on "Tribute Journal Ads" at the lefthand sidebar.



Karen Lewis
Keynote Speaker; President of the Chicago Teachers Union



Standish Willis
Law for the People Award



John C. Brittain
Ernie Goodman Award



Hannah Adams
C.B. King Award



Brian Concannon, Jr.
Debra Evenson Venceremos Award



Kris Hermes
Legal Worker Award



Mary Kenney
Carol Weiss King Award

tupoccc

THE UNITED PEOPLE OF COLOR CAUCUS
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CONVENTION CHILDCARE Fill out the online childcare request form at nlg.org/convention by August 3. Contact ChildcareChiNLGConvention@gmail.com with any questions.

ALTERNATIVE HOUSING The Alternative Housing & Childcare Committee is committed to helping make this year's Convention as accessible as possible by helping people find accommodations so that the hotel is not a cost-prohibitive factor. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee alternative housing to anyone. To request shared space offered by local members, please fill out the online childcare request form at nlg.org/convention by August 3. Contact AltHousingChiNLGConvention@gmail.com with any questions.



PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS 2014

According to the NLG Constitution, the Plenary at the Annual Convention is the highest decision-making body in the organization. Every year, proposed resolutions are presented before membership prior to voting. All current members up-to-date on their dues are eligible to vote. We strongly encourage all members to carefully review the proposed resolutions (printed here as submitted), *prior* to voting at the Convention. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE RESOLUTIONS MAY NOT BE IN FINAL FORM. Please consult nlg.org/convention/ as the convention nears to see if edited or updated versions have been posted. Past resolutions, the NLG Constitution and Bylaws are available at nlg.org/member/bylaws-resolutions.

CUBAN 5 NLG RESOLUTION 2014

Five Cubans, Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez, Fernando González Llort, and René Gonzalez, were convicted in the United States in 2001 of conspiracy offences and being agents of a foreign government. Mr. Hernández was also convicted of a conspiracy to commit murder.

None of the actions of the Cuban Five involved acts of violence or acts against legitimate interests of the United States.

A resolution adopted by the 2007 National Convention of the National Lawyers Guild called for “an International Investigation into the Failure of the United States Government to Address and Remedy the Denial of Justice in the Case of ‘The Cuban Five.’” The resolution pointed out that Cuba had been repeatedly targeted by anti-Castro groups based in the United States, and over 3,000 Cuban citizens had been killed. Cuba repeatedly protested the planning, financing and launching of such attacks from the U.S. The failure of the US government to halt the attacks is what made Cuba decide to send its own agents to the US to monitor the groups and deter and minimize further such attacks.

The Cuban Five were arrested in Florida while they were participating in the Cuban government program to monitor violent anti-Castro groups to prevent further terrorist attacks on Cuba. They were held in solitary confinement for 17 months. Over the objections of the defendants that a fair trial could not be held in Miami, they were nonetheless tried in Miami, convicted, and sentenced to long prison terms ranging from 15 years to more than two life terms.

In August 2005, a unanimous 3-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Miami trial of the Five was unfair and their convictions should be vacated based on a “perfect storm” of intense community hostility against anyone identified with the government of Cuba, combined with prosecutorial misconduct intended to inflame such passions.

However, one year later that decision was vacated by the full 11th Circuit and the panel decision for a new trial was reversed.

In the 2007 resolution, the NLG Convention reaffirmed its commitment to fight for justice in this case, and specifically called upon the United States government to either release these prisoners forthwith or provide them with a new trial.

Rene Gonzalez was released in 2011 after 13 years in prison, and allowed to return to Cuba in 2013. Fernando Gonzalez was released in February 2014. The three others remain in prison.

Although not conducted by an official US or UN body, the international investigation called for by the NLG finally took place this past March 7 and 8 in London. Before hundreds of people attending each of its sessions, a Commission of Inquiry headed by three world renowned judges listened to two days of testimony and unanimously adopted Preliminary Conclusions. The judges were Zakeria Mohammed Yacoob, former Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Philippe Texier, former Judge French Cour de Cassation, and Yogesh Kumar Sabharwal, former Chief Justice, India.

The Commissioners Preliminary Conclusions stated:

1. There are serious concerns about whether any of these people have had the full benefit of the fundamental human right to a fair and speedy trial before an independent and impartial tribunal or Court, recognized universally in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as ratified by the United States of America.

The Commission unanimously found the following facts:

- a) all five Cuban Nationals were placed in solitary confinement for about seventeen months before the trial began;
- b) none of them have had sufficient access to documents relevant to the trial and necessary for the adequate preparation of a defense;
- c) the opportunity to consult with their legal representatives was, in all the circumstances, less than sufficient;
- d) the trial was held in a part of Miami, Florida where, according to three respected judges of the Eleventh Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals, a fair trial could not be guaranteed;
- e) Serious allegations have been made that the United States Government paid the media to ensure prejudicial publicity against these persons both before and during the trial;
- f) these five human beings were certain of their fate only eight years after the trial in the District Court had been concluded.

The three Commissioners further observed that:

- 2. According to all the judgments not one of these persons either committed or intended to commit any act of violence.
- 3. No conduct of any of these persons was aimed at the United States of America or its Government. The Cuban Five gathered information aimed at preventing privately-inspired violence and other anti-Cuban action emanating from United States soil.
- 4. The perception of the Cuban Five, indeed their firm belief, was that the United States Government was not doing enough to stem violent anti-Cuban action from United States soil.
- 5. There is no doubt at all that hundreds of compatriots and countrymen who were ordinary citizens of Cuba have died in unacceptably horrendous circumstances as a result of the actions of Cubans opposed to the Castro government in Cuba from United States soil. The families of the deceased would have suffered immeasurably.
- 6. Two of the members of this group of persons have already served their full sentences, and there can be no prejudice in pardoning them now.
- 7. The other three persons have, in any event, already served inordinately long periods of imprisonment in all the relevant circumstances summarised in this statement.
- 8. The families of these people have undergone tremendous suffering and hardship in consequence of the internment of their loved ones, and it can be said without any fear of contradiction that enough is enough.

9. None of these persons acted out of malice or any kind of ill-will towards the United States or its government, people, or policies: each of them was carrying out the instructions of their government.

10. Private anti-Cuban aggression from American soil is quite impossible to be justified from any viewpoint.

11. It is urged that the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States is a laudable and achievable goal, in the interests of both the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba, and that the generous grant of pardons by the President of the United States of America to the people who have been described as the Cuban Five will contribute immeasurably to the achievement of this vitally important purpose.

12. The President of the United States is also respectfully informed of the prevailing reasonable view that it is important to signal that the achievement of fairness and justice is not the preserve of the judiciary alone of any country, but, ultimately, a vital political responsibility that must be embraced when the moment comes.

13. It is suggested, with the greatest of respect, that the grant of these pardons will have a significant impact on world justice and world peace.

The three Commission members summarized their findings and conclusions as follows:

In summary, the granting of unconditional Presidential pardons to the members of the Cuban Five has the real potential to achieve effective justice for the five human beings who have been the concern of this enquiry, demonstrate the adherence of the President of the United States of America and its Government today to universally accepted norms of morality, fairness and justice, contribute substantially to the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba and represent a meaningful stride towards world justice and world peace.

Having heard two full days of compelling evidence, we would urge the President of the United States of America, President Barack Obama, to pardon completely all these five persons and to release immediately and unconditionally the three persons who continue to languish in prison in the United States

Therefore be it resolved that the 2014 National Lawyers Guild at its convention in Chicago calls on U.S. President Obama to immediately release the remaining three of the Cuban Five still in prison and grant a full pardon to each of the Cuban Five.

IMPLEMENTATION: This resolution is to be implemented by the NLG Cuba Subcommittee, the International Committee, in coordination with the NLG National Office, and the anticipated support of other committees and chapters to educate their members and the public about this case.

Submitted by: NLG Cuba Subcommittee (Art Heitzer, Chair, aheitzer@igc.org)

Contact: James Marc Leas <jimmy@vermontpatentlawyer.com>

INTERNATIONAL LABOR JUSTICE WORKING GROUP (ILJWG) RESOLUTION

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) has historically placed great value on developing relationships with associations of progressive lawyers in other countries, even more imperative with the escalation of corporate globalization; Whereas, from its founding, the National Lawyers Guild has emphasized the importance of freedom of association and a core part of our membership has been internationalist lawyers and legal workers who work to advance labor rights;

Whereas, the International Committee (IC) and Labor and Employment Committee (LEC) formed the International Labor Justice Working Group (ILJWG) in 2005 in order to collaborate more effectively and to maintain productive relationships with the Asociación Latinoamericana de Abogados Laborales (ALAL) and the Canadian Association of Labor Lawyers/ Association canadienne des avocats du mouvement syndical (CALL/ACAMS);

Whereas, these relationships have included work on common lawsuits, projects, conferences, articles and other joint efforts and have promoted solidarity and understanding and contributed to the success of labor struggles in our countries;

Whereas, every year since 2005 representatives from CALL/ACAMS and ALAL and the NLG have exchanged representatives for our three conventions, sharing and working out content of presentations and costs of the exchanges, and the presence of Canadian and Latin American perspectives has greatly enriched the quality and experience of the workshops and panels at the NLG convention;

Whereas, the decision-making process of the NLG regarding workshops and panels at conventions leaves decisions regarding workshops to the chapter setting the agenda while the NEC decides panels;

Whereas, the ILJWG has always proposed at least one work-

shop in coordination with the IC and LEC, in order to ensure that our international guests receive the courtesy of having a meaningful opportunity to present their views, and requiring early coordination in order to ensure that the topic coincides with the expertise of the representatives selected by CALL and ALAL to represent their organizations;

Whereas, two years ago the NLG decision-making structure resulted in an extremely awkward problem for the IC and LEC (solved at the last minute through the approval of a hot topic slot) of having to explain to our international allies that our proposal had not been approved and that there would be no opportunity for them to address the NLG or present their views;

Whereas, non-approval for the ILJWG workshop proposal for the Chicago 2014 convention resulted again in a similar extremely awkward and embarrassing situation for the IC and LEC;

Whereas, there is already well-established precedent of guaranteeing slots for speakers, such as the Immigration Committee's allocation of guaranteed workshop slots;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that The NLG Convention hereby agrees that ILJWG shall be allocated one slot for each convention, either a workshop or a panel, which shall provide an opportunity for a presentation that includes representatives of ILJWG's international labor lawyer organizational affiliates (CALL/ACAMS, ALAL).

Submitted by: Jeanne Mirer

Implementation:

The National Office will forward a copy of this resolution to each agenda planning committee so that all committees are aware of this resolution passed by the Convention. ILJWG, and its committee sponsors, International Committee and Labor & Employment Committee will work with the National Office to ensure effective implementation.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Whereas:

1. Guild membership is now less than one-half of what it once was. This decline has occurred over the last 25 years. Despite the sizable increase in the total lawyers in the U. S. and the continuing legal needs of the working class and people's struggles, Guild membership has declined to its present level and stayed there. We have no strategy or structure for building membership. We need to establish a national membership committee to rebuild Guild membership.

2. This decline in membership has and will continue to have a very negative effect on the political impact and effectiveness of the Guild. Certainly there may be some external reasons assisting this decline. But, in order to rebuild our membership we need to first look inward and recognize that building and maintaining the membership of the Guild has not been a priority of the organization for a long time.

3. With our declining membership we have overspent our income over the past several years and last year did so by a very

substantial amount. This has created an immediate and dangerous financial crisis for the organization. Dues have always been a primary method by which the Guild has financed itself. Dues have given us a solid financial base in the past. With a rebuilt membership this can be true again.

4. The national office staff has only one staff person whose responsibility is building and maintaining membership. This staff person works only three days per week. This staff person is charged with everything - soliciting renewals, keeping membership and dues records, communicating with chapters regarding membership, etc. This staff person's previous membership budget for occasional temporary assistance has recently been eliminated. Limited assistance to the membership staff person is given by the three day a week student organizer.

5. The strategy, planning, and much of the work required to rebuild membership will have to occur within a broad chapter and region based national membership committee. It can no longer be deferred to the national office or NEC. With their other responsibilities, commitments, and interests, it has not been possible for the national staff and the NEC to prioritize

membership issues.

Now therefore, be it resolved that:

1. A national membership committee shall be formed immediately. The members of this committee shall be members and representatives of all chapters, regions, and of TUPOCC and other national committees, who are committed to building the membership of the Guild.

2. The national membership committee shall strategize, plan and work to build the

Guild using all appropriate methods and focusing on all areas of need. A very partial and preliminary list of these methods and areas may include:

a. Develop plans and programs to transition graduating Guild law students into city chapters in wherever city the graduating student locates.

b. Implement a program to effectively contact long time and moderately long time Guild members whose membership lapsed some time ago.

c. Establish a program for prompt and effective follow up with current members who do not renew.

d. Coordinate with the national office and make recommendations regarding national office membership activity.

e. Identify potential sources of new, and diverse, Guild mem-

bers; develop recruitment plans.

f. Identify areas where current membership policies and practices are having a negative effect on building and maintaining membership, and also those that are having a positive effect - and take action or make proposals accordingly.

g. Review and improve Guild brochures, application and renewal forms, and other written materials directed towards joining or renewing members.

3. The committee shall meet at each national convention to deal with committee business and to elect a steering committee that shall coordinate its activities and be empowered to act for the committee between conventions. Members of the steering committee shall serve until replaced or resigned. The committee membership and steering committee shall communicate between conventions through a list serve, conference calls, and other means as they determine.

IMPLEMENTATION: The D. C. Chapter volunteers to initiate getting this membership committee off the ground. To begin this process the D. C. Chapter will arrange for and call an initial meeting during this Chicago convention of all persons interested in participating in a national membership committee. A list serve and an interim coordinating body may come out of this initial meeting. If it does not the D. C. Chapter will assist in the formation of an interim coordinating body for the committee after communicating with various chapter leaderships around the country.

PUERTO RICO SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2014 NLG CONVENTION

WHEREAS, for the past 116 years, the United States has denied Puerto Rico its self-determination and independence, holding it as a colonial possession;

WHEREAS, in 1960, the United Nations General Assembly declared that the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation; and further, that all peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Resolution 1514 (XV), Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

WHEREAS, we are in the midst of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly Resolution 65/119);

WHEREAS, for the past 33 years, the United Nations Decolonization Committee has passed resolutions affirming the application of Resolution 1514 (XV) to the colonial case of Puerto Rico;

WHEREAS, in its most recent resolution of June 2014, the Decolonization Committee once again exhorted the U.S. to accelerate a process permitting the Puerto Rican people to exercise its inalienable right to self-determination and independence; once again urged the U.S. to clean up its toxic

military waste from Vieques and Culebra and return the land to the people; and yet again called on the U.S. to release Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, in prison for 33 years, recognizing his case as a humanitarian concern, and to release Puerto Rican political prisoner Norberto González Claudio;

WHEREAS, this past year has seen a surge in international indignation and calls for the release of 71 year old Oscar López Rivera, including diplomats and dignitaries, elected officials, teachers, students, lawyers, artists, actors and others;

WHEREAS, marches, rallies, demonstrations and symbolic events have taken place internationally to demand the release of Oscar López Rivera, including a mass march in San Juan in which 50,000 participated; a 333 mile walk through 33 towns in 33 days culminating on the 33rd anniversary of his arrest; monthly rallies held by 33 women in Puerto Rico and New York for 33 minutes; resolutions by the Senate of Puerto Rico; recognition by the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade; newspaper editorials supporting his release, calling his ongoing imprisonment "an affront to democracy that fails to respect human rights," and more;

WHEREAS, the United States consistently ignores the resolutions of this august international body;

WHEREAS, the National Lawyers Guild has a long history of solidarity with the movement for the independence of Puerto Rico, and during its 2013 convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, adopted a Proclamation in support of self-determination, education of the membership about colonialism, and activism to promote the release of the political prisoners;

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

- The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) reaffirms its support for efforts to end the U.S. colonial regime in Puerto Rico;
- The NLG reiterates its call on President Barack Obama to order the immediate release of Oscar López Rivera and Norberto González Claudio;
- The International Committee, Task Force on the Americas, and the Puerto Rico Subcommittee will continue to work to educate all NLG members regarding the colonial situation of Puerto Rico and the political prisoners who remain in U.S. prisons;
- The International Committee, Task Force on the Americas, and the Puerto Rico Subcommittee will continue to work with

and encourage NLG chapters and to obtain further resolutions from civic groups and political entities, in support of the release of Puerto Rico's political prisoners.

Submitted for approval at the Annual Convention in Chicago, September 2014

Submitted by: Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, Judith Berkan and Jan Susler (Co-Chairs, Puerto Rico Subcommittee of the International Committee; Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, Jeanne Mirer and Suzanne Adely (Co-Chairs, International Committee); and Judy Somberg (Chair, Task Force of the Americas)

Implementation: International Committee, Task Force of the Americas, Puerto Rico Subcommittee

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING US FUNDING TO DESTABILIZE PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

As John F Kennedy said when he launched the Alliance for Progress and the US Agency for International Development in 1961, "economic policy is foreign policy".

Since then, billions of US tax dollars have been sent all over the world through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), with the stated mission of partnering with local organizations "to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies, while advancing the security and prosperity of the US".

In Latin America, USAID and NED -- with the support of Cold War-originated human rights "monitors" such as Human Rights Watch -- have regularly funded efforts to promote opposition and dissension and to destabilize those very governments that have been the most effective in eliminating poverty and including working people in the political process.

The 21st Century socialist model that devolves national wealth and resources to the people, regionalizes economies in people-centered trade agreements, and includes the previously marginalized in the country's economy and politics is anathema to the neo-liberal capitalist program and its funders, including the USAID.

USAID/NED funding of so called "civil society" organizations such as the extreme right wing SUMATE and the neo-liberal CTV union federation in Venezuela and the social media opposition recruitment project Zuzuneo in Cuba are a small sample of the misguided use of US tax dollars, intended to destabilize the very governments that have been the most successful in this hemisphere in eliminating poverty and including marginalized members of society in their economy and politics.

WHEREAS, the NLG has had long-standing relations with progressive movements in Latin America and has sent numerous delegations in solidarity with progressive forces in Venezuela, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Bolivia and Mexico;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lawyers Guild call on US President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry to cease funding organizations that seek to destabilize progressive governments that represent poor and working populations, specifically in Venezuela and Cuba and elsewhere in Latin America.

FURTHERMORE, the National Lawyers Guild, through its International Committee, resolves as well to monitor and expose US funding of opposition groups that seek to destabilize socialist governments and oppose socialist parties and programs in Latin America and throughout the world.

FURTHERMORE, the National Lawyers Guild, through its International Committee, resolves as well to oppose the pending sanctions legislation against Venezuela and to repeal the Cuban blockade, both of which are sponsored by Congressional allies of the groups receiving USAID funding.

FURTHERMORE, the National Lawyers Guild further resolves to support the initiatives of the International Committee to monitor and critique reports of Human Rights Watch and other such organizations and advocate that their reports recognize the value of economic, social and cultural rights and do not serve to promote corporate and neo-liberal interests.

AND FURTHERMORE, the National Lawyers Guild, through its International Committee, resolves to educate its membership and the public about these issues.

IMPLEMENTATION: This resolution is to be implemented by the NLG Task Force on the Americas the Cuba Subcommittee and the International Committee, in coordination with the NLG National Office, and the anticipated support of other committees and chapters to educate their members and the public about this issue.

Submitted by: NLG Task Force on the Americas (Judy Somberg, Chair), the Cuba Subcommittee (Art Heitzer, Chair), and NLG International Committee (Natasha Bannan, Co-Chair)

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SAVE THE DATE!

National Lawyers Guild
Law for the People Convention
September 3-7, 2014

Crowne Plaza Chicago Metro

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honoring member **Standish Willis**

with keynote speaker **Karen Lewis**, Chicago Teachers' Union President



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