

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee E-mail Bulletin.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and throughout the world.

(If you are receiving this bulletin for the first time, please visit:

<http://www.uusc.org/info/emailthanks.html>

for an introductory letter.)

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Action Alert! Help free Aung San Suu Kyi; bring justice to Burma

Burmese opposition leader and Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi underwent major surgery on Sept. 18 in Rangoon. She has just been released from the hospital and now is once again under house arrest. The news of her medical treatment was the first report of her whereabouts since May 30 when she and her supporters were attacked by a government-sponsored mob during a tour of northern Burma. Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy have led the movement to restore democracy and human rights against the oppressive military regime.

For more details and information of what you can do to help bring peace and justice to Burma, please visit <http://www.uusc.org/news/alert093003.html>.

Threats, memories of massacres cloud hope for free elections in Guatemala

Allison Kent, program associate for Latin America, recently spent two weeks in Guatemala where she met with UUSC partners. She returned with some riveting stories about the hopes and fears of indigenous Guatemalans as the presidential election draws near.

For more details and the story of a massacre survivor who is seeking justice for the murder of her husband, please visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article093003.html>.

Action Alert! Preserve family values, 40-hour work week, overtime pay

President Bush and the U.S. Department of Labor want to change the standard work week from 40 hours per week to 80 hours over two weeks, allow private employers to offer compensatory time in place of overtime pay and legally permit those employers to deny use of that compensatory time for a year or more. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is shocked that this administration would seek the reversal of more than 60 years of labor law in the United States and ignore the human rights of families and workers. The U.S. Senate has voted to halt these rule changes, and it is imperative that members of the U.S. House of Representatives do the same.

For more details and what you can do to influence the outcome of this issue, please visit <http://www.uusc.org/news/alert092603.html>.

Cuba: Victory for supporters!

In early September, UUSC asked advocates to contact their U.S. representatives to support legislation to end restrictions on traveling to Cuba. Shortly afterwards, a major victory was recorded when three amendments to an appropriations bill that would ease the restrictions were approved by the House of Representatives by respectable margins. However, more work needs to be done because President Bush has promised to veto measures such as these.

For more information and suggested follow-up actions, please visit <http://www.uusc.org/news/article091403.html>.

UUSC sends U.S. attorney general a message on USA Patriot Act

Human rights activists from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee joined several hundred other protestors to greet U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft as he visited Boston Sept. 9 to drum up support for the administration's controversial USA Patriot Act. The protestors sent a message to the United States' "top cop" to free the American people from the restrictions placed on them by the government's Patriot Act. Protesters also distributed leaflets at the rally aimed at sharing information on ways to combat the most burdensome parts of the legislation.

For more information, please visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article091003.html>.

UUSC volunteers provide service, advocacy to North Carolina farm workers

Volunteers from across the country traveled to Greenville, N.C. this summer to participate in a Unitarian Universalist Service Committee workcamp examining the living and working conditions of migrant farm workers. The volunteers helped build housing for the farm workers, learned about the social justice issues they face, and participated in advocacy efforts to improve their living and working conditions.

For a full report and a pictorial overview of the workcamp, please visit http://www.uusc.org/info/article092603_2.html.

Photo exhibit highlights struggles of indigenous Guatemalan women

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is inviting Unitarian Universalist congregations to display a photographic exhibit focusing on art and culture of indigenous women in Guatemala and their struggles to protect their human rights. The museum-quality exhibit, Granddaughters of Corn, is a professionally-produced exhibit that documents the determination and spirit of the Guatemalan people in spite of the suffering they have endured.

For information on how you can arrange for the display, please visit http://www.uusc.org/info/article092603_2.html.

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Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
130 Prospect Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
ph: 617 868-6600 fax: 617 868-7102
www.uusc.org