

# Amnesty USA Group #37

## July 2023 Meeting Agenda

July 23, 2023 2:00pm-4:00pm

### Meeting Info

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898872899?pwd=elc4eWdEZVI2dFIWb2NZTVN4RzUzZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 9887 2899

Passcode: 680930

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbX3ADmp4B>

### Regular Meeting

#### Introductions

Welcome new members!

#### Native Land Co-existence Statement

*Built on the seized state of indigenous peoples, Mni-Sota is built up over the territory of the Anishinaabeg and Dakota people, and we honor them as custodians past and present. We acknowledge the deep inequality in power relationships between indigenous interests and other planning bodies. We recognize indigenous interests and their determination over land upon which our homesteads, cities and suburbs have been built. Under these conditions, we defend treaties and support the sovereignty of tribal nations and their citizens.*

<https://twincitiesamnesty.org>

#### News/Events

Summer Postcard Action

**NEW Summer Solidarity Postcard Action**

AIUSA is launching a postcard action for July and August 2023. We are hoping to leverage the power of our grassroots movement to mobilize as many people and communities as possible for this **collective action**.

### **Local Groups Can:**

- **Get creative**, making your own postcards by printing photos on cardstock or buying bank cards and inviting members of your community to design their own postcards with drawings and messages of hope.
- **Share the action on social media** and mobilize your online networks to join you. You can copy and paste this message, and [download the flyer](#) to add to your post too:
  - Join me and @AmnestyUSA for a summer solidarity postcard action! Send a postcard to @POTUS to #FreeLeonardPeltier and one to #RockyMyers for his birthday this summer! Check out the flyer to learn more about Leonard and Rocky's cases, or visit these websites:  
[www.amnestyusa.org/free-leonard-peltier](http://www.amnestyusa.org/free-leonard-peltier) and  
[www.amnestyusa.org/rocky-myers](http://www.amnestyusa.org/rocky-myers)
- **Check out the flyer below** and email [communitynetworks@aiusa.org](mailto:communitynetworks@aiusa.org) if you have any questions, need any support, or if you have creative ideas to mobilize your community that we can share with other local groups!

### **NEW Q4 Campaigns Announcement**

The Quarter 4 (Oct – Dec) campaigns have been approved, based on the recommendations from the Quarterly Priorities Working Group:

- **Top organizational priorities: Write for Rights and end of year fundraising.** Recognizing organizational capacity, AIUSA won't run an additional Campaign in Q4
- **Spotlight on [Rocky Myers' case](#) during Write for Rights** to highlight the profound racial and criminal injustice of his case, and convince the Governor of Alabama to commute his death sentence and spare his life.
- **Spotlight on [COP 28 in the UAE](#)**, Nov 3 -Dec 12, uplifting Amnesty's asks on climate justice, freeing prisoners of conscience (including the case of Ahmed Mansoor in W4R) and protecting protest rights.

Additional Notes:

- A Spotlight on the global torture trade treaty (part of the IS Protect the Protest Campaign) was approved for Q4, however we are most likely moving it to Q1 as the external timelines have shifted.
- We are testing a new variation on the Spotlight concept—Spotlight 2.0. You'll recall that initially AIUSA had only one Spotlight per quarter, it lasted the whole quarter, and received a set menu of tactics. Spotlight 2.0 envisions multiple Spotlights, for shorter, more specific periods of time, with tactics based on strategy and capacity.

- Campaigns haven't changed: they're still more highly resourced efforts than Spotlights, with a deeper strategy based on a unique external opportunity to win and can last any amount of time. (With Spotlights, there is a unique opportunity to advance a topic.)
- Please note that in August we'll be reviewing the quarterly selection process for Campaigns and Spotlights—your feedback is very welcome, see below for more info on the **Member Leader Consult and Survey on Campaign Selection Process!**

## Campaign: Free Leonard Peltier

AIUSA continues to boldly campaign for the release of Leonard Peltier, urging President Biden to grant him clemency. Leonard Peltier is a Native American activist who has been imprisoned for nearly 50 years in the USA for a crime he maintains he did not commit. There are serious and ongoing concerns about the fairness of his trial and conviction. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, several UN Special Rapporteurs, including on Indigenous Rights, a wide range of Indigenous Leaders, and even former US government prosecutor whose team supervised his prosecution all call for his release. AIUSA has been vocal on all fronts amplifying our call-to-action for President Biden to grant him clemency. We are working with the NDN Collective on a campaign spike focused on Leonard's birthday on September 13th, that would include plans to launch an in-person action in Washington DC, and a multitude of other actions online and offline. A toolkit will be shared with members describing ways to engage and participate soon.

### Local Groups Can:

- Use this [New Action Brief](#) to mobilize your community to take action!
- [Report your actions here](#), so we can tell government officials and other targets how many people took action care about this issue, and track our progress toward building a bigger and more impactful organization!

## NEW [Town Hall on Right to Protest](#)

**Tuesday, July 25**

**8pm ET / 5pm PT**

[Register Here](#)

Next Tuesday evening, July 25, AIUSA is co-sponsoring a virtual town hall along with our coalition partners on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs). If you attended the chat with Steven Donziger the other week, these are the types of lawsuits similar to what he has faced in pursuing his Ecuadorian court decision against Chevron Texaco. Allies like Greenpeace, who also supported the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline in Standing Rock, have also been targeted through these lawsuits. The information for the event is below and hope you can join us next Tuesday evening:

Learn how the company behind the Dakota Access Pipeline is STILL trying to punish those who dared speak out against it - and how this "SLAPP" lawsuit affects YOUR right to protest.

Join us for the virtual town hall "We Will Not Be Silenced: Protecting the Right to Protest and Dissent" on Tuesday, July 25 at 5 pm PST / 8 pm EST featuring Congressman Jamie Raskin.

**Register:** <https://www.mobilize.us/greenpeace/event/570001/>

## Monthly Member Call

**Wednesday, July 26**

**8:30pm ET / 7:30pm CT / 6:30pm MT / 5:30pm PT**

[Register Here](#)

Please join us for Amnesty International USA's Monthly Membership Call. On the call, we'll be sharing key updates about AIUSA's Asylum initiatives and a Rocky Myers Birthday Action. The goal of our monthly membership calls is to inform and educate the movement on where we are to help you to navigate activism opportunities coming in the next few months.

### **Agenda:**

- Welcome & Introductions (2 mins)
- Rocky Myers Birthday Action (30 mins)
- Spotlight on Asylum (15 mins)
- Closing (3 mins)

### **Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://amnestyusa-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvcOyuqDkjG9QwaE4RZrghiLAnXt564HIQ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We look forward to seeing with you on the 26th!

You can also find our monthly member newsletter here: [Across the Movement – June 2023](#)

## Amnesty USA - New Website and Member Center

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/>

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/member-center/>

## Virtual Activism Conference 2023

Fri, Oct 20 - Sun, Oct 22

Amnesty International USA is excited to be hosting our Virtual Activism Conference! (VAC'23). We will host this event entirely online via Whova. VAC'23 is an opportunity to meet and learn from individuals, groups and subject matter experts who share your commitment to human rights.

When: Friday, October 20 - Sunday, October 22

Where: Online via Whova

Submit your workshop proposals now!

If you want to shape our conference, we want to hear from you. The deadline for workshop submissions is July 27, 2023. Please email [EventSupport@aiusa.org](mailto:EventSupport@aiusa.org) with any questions related to your submission.

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/virtual-activism-conference-2023/request-for-proposals/>

Join the Conference Planning Committee!

We are seeking diverse applicants to help plan the programming for our conference. The Conference Programming Committee (CPC) is a group of AIUSA member leaders who will review the 2023 conference program session proposals and select the final sessions for the Virtual Activism Conference (VAC'23) as well as the hybrid Annual General Meeting (AGM'24). <https://www.amnestyusa.org/virtual-activism-conference-2023/conference-programming-committee-application/>

## Guantanamo

### Monthly Demonstration

Wednesday August 2 | 5-6pm | Handshake Bridge

## Tabling

### Open Streets

- Open Streets Cedar - Sunday, August 20, 2023
- Open Streets West Broadway - Saturday, September 16, 2023
- Open Streets Lyndale - Sunday, October 8, 2023

We are always looking for opportunities, so make suggestions!

- Art openings
- Concerts
- Public Events

## Recruiting New Member Leaders

### **Recruiting for Member Leader Roles**

As a grassroots membership organization, Amnesty International USA is led by volunteers and members across the country. Serving in volunteer leadership positions is a great way to help protect human rights while gaining valuable skills and contacts. People with all different backgrounds and interests serve as volunteer leaders. We have several types of volunteer leadership positions focused on different issues or skills. We're seeking diverse and talented activists interested in joining our Legislative Coordinator Program, Country and Thematic Specialist Program, State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator Program, and Area Coordinator Program. Please note, the recruitment cycle for the Youth Collective and Youth Leadership in Activism is now closed.

**To Apply:** If you are interested in applying, please visit the [AIUSA's Become a Volunteer Leader site](#). If you have any questions email us at [memberleader@aiusa.org](mailto:memberleader@aiusa.org)!

**More Info:**

- Legislative Coordinator Program:
  - Priority States: Maine, Southern California, Alaska, West Virginia, South Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Maryland
  - Application Deadline: June 30, 2023
- State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator Program
  - Priority States: Ohio, Missouri, Alabama, Florida and Oklahoma
  - Application Deadline: June 30, 2023
- Country and Thematic Specialist Program
  - Priority Countries: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Sudan, Haiti, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Application Deadline: September 15, 2023
- Area Coordinator Program
  - Priority States: New York City, Massachusetts, Texas, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, Southern CA
  - Application Deadline: September 15, 2023

## MMIW

(Debbie)

## Death Penalty

AI USA Website

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/issues/death-penalty/>

Pakistan - Imran Riaz Khan

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-man-at-risk-of-protest-related-execution-pakistan-ua-63-23/>

### YOUTUBER AND TV ANCHOR FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED

On May 11th, 2023, Imran Riaz Khan, a Pakistani YouTuber and TV anchor, was detained and arrested by the Sialkot police, at the Sialkot International Airport. It was only after his detention

that a detention order was issued alleging Imran incited violence. Authorities allege he was released on May 12th, however he has not been seen or heard from since the day he was arrested. Authorities must immediately and impartially investigate the fate and whereabouts of Imran Riaz Khan, and if he is in state custody, he must be immediately released or, if there is sufficient evidence of wrongdoing, promptly charged with an internationally recognizable crime and brought before a civilian court.

## Cuba - Loreto Hernández García and Donaida Pérez Paseiro

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-release-yoruba-prisoners-of-conscience-cuba-61-23/>

Hundreds of Cubans remain imprisoned for participating in island-wide protests on 11 July 2021. The Cuban judiciary, which is not independent of the government, routinely rubberstamps politically motivated accusations without...

## USA - Missouri - Johnny Johnson

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-execution-set-of-man-with-mental-disability-usa-ua-68-23/>

Johnny Johnson, a 45-year-old man long diagnosed with severe mental disabilities, including schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, is scheduled to be executed in Missouri on August 1, 2023 for the 2002 murder of a six-year-old girl. His lawyers have presented the findings of a neuropsychiatrist that he does not have a rational understanding of the reason for his punishment, instead believing Satan is using the State to execute him to bring about the end of the world. International law prohibits the execution of people with serious mental disabilities, including those with a diminished ability to understand the reasons for their sentence.

## AIUSA Death Penalty Abolition Fund

### **AIUSA Death Penalty Abolition Fund**

Planning a death penalty action in your community but need resources? AIUSA invites you to apply for the [Death Penalty Abolition Fund](#).

AIUSA groups can apply for up to \$5,000 to plan events or action to advance AIUSA's death penalty abolition work. Learn more about the fund and how to [apply here](#).

*\*\* Please note, applications take at least 6-weeks to review and approve, so we encourage groups to plan in advance.*

## Philippines

(Gary/Paul)

## Pacita Abad at Walker Art Center

<https://walkerart.org/calendar/2023/pacita-abad>

April 15 - September 3

Pacita Abad is a very accomplished Filipina artist. She traveled widely. Some themes are refugees and women, but many are about culture in many countries, and even deep sea creatures. It is three rooms of very good quality.

FREE EVERY THURSDAY from 5-9

Maybe we can go over after our Gitmo demonstration?

## IOPT

Amnesty Academy

<https://academy.amnesty.org/learn/course/239/play>

## Lobbying

(Paul/Lora)

## Speaker - Gary King

Gary King is just back from the Philippines, and will discuss his trip and human rights actions there!