



Amnesty International Eltham Group

Protecting and Defending Human Rights

September 2007 <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ethamai> Vol. 1 Issue 2.

This Month's Meeting: Mirinda Boon-Kuo Victorian Community Campaigner How to Recruit & Retain Volunteers

Thursday 20th September 2007

This month our special guest speaker will be Mirinda Boon-Kuo who is the Victorian Community Campaigner of Amnesty International Australia who will present guidelines and suggestions for recruiting & retaining volunteers and members of Action Groups.

All groups and networks require members to be effective and functional. It is difficult to maintain motivation to keep a group active when there are few members, let alone organising functions and activities and achieving results.

Mirinda will run through a "tip sheet" which serves to provide some ideas for tactics to assist in recruiting new members and making meetings and activities interesting so as to help in retaining existing members of our Group.

Mirinda will also be able to answer questions on the current activities and campaigns that are happening in Amnesty International within Victoria and worldwide and provide inspirational advice to our group!

Open Letter to Prime Minister Howard and Prime Minister Harper

Published on 10/09/2007

The Honourable John Howard MP
Prime Minister of Australia
The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister Howard and Prime Minister Harper,
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
It is time for Canada and Australia to end the opposition

This week the United Nations is set to take a long overdue step when it votes on the adoption of a new Declaration recognising the fundamental rights of Indigenous peoples. Amnesty International members throughout Australia and Canada call on you to make it clear that your governments are prepared to join the world in supporting its adoption.

In Australia, in Canada and around the world, Indigenous peoples are universally among the most marginalised and persecuted people on the planet. There is no question that concerted international attention is needed if these grave abuses are to be addressed. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be central to these efforts.

It has taken more than two decades to get this far. In June 2006,

the first major hurdle was cleared when the new UN Human Rights Council adopted the Declaration. However, Australia and Canada joined forces with other governments and were instrumental in later blocking its adoption at the UN General Assembly.

Today an overwhelming majority of the world's nations have indicated they support the Declaration and are prepared to vote for its adoption. At long last there may be an international human rights instrument which delivers minimum human rights standards for Indigenous peoples. Canada and Australia should be among the global champions of this Declaration.

At this significant point in history, it is our hope and expectation that your governments will no longer stand in opposition to the Declaration. Indigenous peoples need your support, and certainly deserve no less.

Peter Thomas
Interim National Director
Amnesty International Australia
Alex Neve &
Beatrice Vaugrante
Amnesty International Canada

Bunjil of the Wurundjeri: Synopsis

By Ken Eckersall

Ken has a book launch in association with Eltham Book Shop, on Sunday 25 November at 4 pm. Called *Bunjil of the Wurundjeri* it is an historical, cultural, political and social essay on Aboriginal reconciliation with particular focus on Nillumbik.

‘Bunjil, black eagle, Wurundjeri totem, soars above: her eyes see afar off. Wurundjeri people celebrate their “Dreaming” in land-form, sacred symbols, picture, story, dance and song’.

So begins the essay I entered in the inaugural Ellen Gudrun Kastan Literary Award in 2007 for essays, short stories, poetry and novellas – I gained a High Commendation. I have revised and extended this 3,000 word essay to 10,000 words to produce a new essay: *Bunjil of the Wurundjeri*.

Bunjil of the Wurundjeri is local in detailing the landscape and introducing Eltham identities and their connections with the indigenous community: Mick Woiwod, the late Donald Thomson, and Allan Marshall, claimed as a true son.

My essay is local-area historical in covering the murder of an Aboriginal servant youth at Joseph Hawdon’s Heidelberg Station in August 1839, and steps taken to bring the perpetrators to ‘justice’. Further, it covers the battle at Ryrie’s Yering Station near Yarra Glen, 13 August 1840, Captain Henry Gisborne’s confrontation with Wurundjeri men led by Jacki Jacki – *Historical Records of Victoria* notes: ‘This in the opinion of some historians, was the first serious confrontation in what became almost a “guerrilla war” between blacks and whites’. Third, it tells the story of the Lettsom Raid of 11 October 1840 when Major Lettsom’s red-coat soldiers and mounted police surrounded the Wurundjeri camp, killed their dogs and slew the Aboriginal leader, Windberry; and, on the Heidelberg Road they rounded up 400 men, women and children and marched them to the Melbourne Stockade. Fourth, it briefly considers the ‘Reservations Solution’, as at Coranderrk.

This essay is religio-spiritual in covering the life and work of William Barak, last Chief of the Yarra Tribe of Aborigines, Aboriginal advocate to the government and artist who reconciled his Presbyterian Christianity with his traditional Aboriginal beliefs and cultural practices. It draws on *Remembering Barak*, produced for the 2003 Exhibition at the Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria at Federation Square: its Introduction, ‘Barak My Uncle’ by Joy Murphy-Wandin.

My essay is political in highlighting the Gurindji Aboriginal walk off from Wave Hill Station in 1966 to obtain decent wages and restoration of control over their lands, led by Elder, Vincent Lingiary; Lingiary’s speech at the Whitlam Government handover ceremony of 3,250 square kilometres of land on 16 August 1975: ‘We will be mates. White and black’; the first Land Rights Act, introduced by the Fraser Government in 1976; the Redfern Park address delivered by Paul Keating on 10 December 1992, consequential to the ‘Mabo’ High Court decision which had overturned the doctrine of *terra nullius* – Keating urged justice for Australian Aborigines and Reconciliation: ‘It begins, I think, with that act of recognition...’ – hence the Keating Government legislated for the Native Title Act which recognised Aborigines’ continuity and rights in their traditional lands; and

my essay covers the Howard Government role in the Hindmarsh Island dispute, its ‘Wik’ legislation designed to give pastoralists ‘certainty’ over leaseholds, its denial of human rights violations and the need for an apology in regards to *Bringing them home*, the ‘Stolen Generations Report’ (countless Australians signed ‘Sorry Books’), and Howard Government delivery of top-down ‘Practical Reconciliation’ – ‘a return to pre-1972 assimilation and the guardian state’, and the sacking of ATSIC. The essay also discusses Noel Pearson’s recent call for a new ‘radical centre’ to address urgent Aboriginal social needs; highlighted in June 2007 in the *Little Children Are Sacred* report and the Howard Government’s intervention in the Northern Territory, with the range of responses coming from Aboriginal leaders.

My essay is social/cultural in highlighting the role of sport in Aboriginal reconciliation: Cathy Freeman at the 2000 Olympics; in football, tracing back to the 1930s to Fitzroy’s Pastor Doug Nicholls (later Sir Douglas), to 1993, to St Kilda’s Nicky Winmar, his raw salute to taunting Collingwood supporters: I’M BLACK AND PROUD TO BE BLACK, to Essendon’s Michael Long and Kevin Sheedy, ‘a father of reconciliation’; and the AFL, its code of racial conduct and celebration of Aboriginality: and extending this, celebration of indigenous achievements in bands, radio, art, literature, self-management in health, conservation and the environment, in the universities, law, politics and government – in literature, a good example is Alexis Wright, a Waanyi woman, her Miles Franklin Award-winning book in 2007, *Carpentaria*.

Nillumbik reconciliation filled the void of 10 years at national government level, a lowlight moment in an Age of Indigenous Renaissance. *Bunjil of the Wurundjeri* traces events in schools, churches and other community groups in Nillumbik, a microcosm of Australia. Major events have included: 15 August 2004, when the Shire of Nillumbik declared open Barak Bushlands, the urban forest and wetlands west of the Eltham Gateway, near the bridge over Diamond Creek - the naming day marked the 101st anniversary of William Barak’s death and symbolic of the opening was the kaleidoscopic Reconciliation ‘Sea of Hands’; and in 2006 and 2007, the Eltham Bookshop and Nillumbik Reconciliation Group forum series, ‘The Past Matters’, an exploration of contemporary art and literature, including of works by Audrey Evans, Tony Birch, Richard Broome and Corinne Manning, Jennifer Biddle, John Nicholson, Meme McDonald, Bruce Pascoe and Anouk Ride; and in July 2007, Eltham NAIDOC celebration Yinga Indigenous Music and Cultural Festival, ‘50 Years: Looking Forward Looking Blak’.

Ken Eckersall

Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group

From Pat and Bob Spencer

The Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group have just started a new newsletter they call Connect. It was forwarded indirectly by ex residents of Eltham, Pat & Bob Spencer. They recently held a symposium on torture at which Pat delivered an address. Here is are some extracts from the newsletter:

A Book on Torture

The papers presented to the Symposium on Torture held on 5 May 2007 have now been printed in a small book called *Confronting a Scandal: A Symposium on Torture*. Former prime minister, Malcolm Fraser, has written a Foreword. The book also includes an agreed statement by members of the Symposium called 'Five Propositions concerning Torture'. The headings for the statement are:

- Torture violates the inherent dignity of the human person
- Torture is rightly banned in international law
- Torture is unnecessary
- Torture is counterproductive
- Torture undermines a nation's moral authority.

Confronting a Scandal was launched on 22 July 2007 at Antipodes Bookshop Sorrento by Malcolm Fraser. He spoke with concern at the weakening of the Rule of Law in our and other Western societies as we face the threat of terrorism. He said that discarding long established principles, such as, the right to a fair trial before a properly constituted court, the presumption of innocence until proved guilty, the inadmissibility of evidence obtained under torture, the right of an accused person to know the case against him or her, is reducing us to the level of the terrorists.

Confronting a Scandal retails at \$10 per copy and may be obtained from most Peninsula bookshops. Alternatively, by sending \$12 to the Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group (4 Capri Grove Sorrento 3943) together with your name and address, it will be posted to you.

Letter to Rob Hulls

We are concerned about thirteen men (Hany Taha, Nacer Benbrika, Shane Kent, Aiman Joud, Fadal Sayuadi, Amer Haddara, Izzydeen Atik, Abdullah Merhi, Shoue Ham-moud, Bassem Raad, Ezzit Raad, Ahmed Raad and Majed Raad) who are being held in Barwon Prison under the Federal Government's anti-terrorism laws. All are Muslims. Ten were arrested in November 2005 and the other three in March 2006. Their present status is that they are unconvicted remand prisoners held in the maximum security Acacia Unit and are still awaiting trial after some twenty-two months in detention.

We recognise that this is principally a Federal matter, but it does involve some State responsibilities covered by our

new Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. We strongly supported the passage of this legislation last year with a Forum attended by nearly three hundred people.

On the 30 July 2007 we wrote to our Victorian Attorney-General, Rob Hulls, raising the following questions:

1. At the time of their arrests Federal and State politicians claimed that a major terrorist plot had been thwarted. Our Premier declared that police had disrupted 'probably the most serious preparation for a terrorist attack that we have seen in Australia'. There was no presumption of innocence. Has the Premier breached s.25 (1) of the Charter?
2. The conditions in the 'supermax' Acacia Unit of Barwon Prison where the men are held are harsh. We have heard reports that these men are kept in solitary confinement for up to eighteen hours per day with only a small room for exercise, are given very limited contact with family and lawyers, have leg irons and manacles regularly used on them, and are frequently strip searched. It has been reported to us that convicted murderers in Barwon Prison enjoy better conditions than these unconvicted remand prisoners. During the committal hearing, there were complaints that detainees were being underfed. On 14 August 2006, Magistrate Paul Smith heard how the men were being given only a pie or a roll in the course of twelve hours in court. He said that underfeeding constituted 'cruel and unusual punishment', and demanded an explanation from Corrections Victoria. We have also heard that, at the prison, detainees have been served meals with pork, have been denied the right to pray together, and are banned from reading literature in languages other than English. All of these matters, as you would be aware, concern the work of Corrections Victoria, which comes under the Department of Justice. As the responsible Minister, we respectfully ask whether, on your watch, s.10 (b), s.19 (1) and s.22 of the Charter have been breached?

We still await a reply.

John Howells (Editor)

Project Respect

By Elizabeth Stewart

Notes taken from a seminar conducted by Project Respect at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Project Respect has recently got state government coordinated emergency accommodation for trafficked women, who come here via:

1. Complete coercion e.g. abduction, more often children
2. Deception through promises of legitimate employment
3. Deception through half-truths, e.g. doing dancing / stripping
4. Deception about the nature and conditions of the prostitution. They are mostly in this category.

The process involves:

1. Recruitment
 - illegitimate visas, passport (proper or someone else's). The women sign forms they don't understand. See the film 'Linear for Ever'. A woman is recruited by her Russian 'boyfriend', who 'couldn't come with her because his mother's sick'.
 - It relies on developing trust
 - Women ignore their gut instinct
 - This has implications for how they'll relate to us (Project Respect) later
2. Transport:
 - Escort 'mules'
 - Women in family groupings, as honeymoon couples, with traffickers who are Thais, Australians and others.
3. Breaking in: Violence to:
 - Break resistance
 - Teach them how to do prostitution sex, often systematically raped
 - Service many clients a day, 6-7 days a week, sometimes one day to make money for themselves.
4. The contract: Typically \$30 -45,000
 - Can't refuse specific customers, sexual acts, sex without condoms.
 - Charged extra for 'migration advice', etc.
 - Terms of contract can be changed by traffickers
 - Does NOT relate to a real debt

How Long? They pay off quickly, often in 2-8 months, because:

1. Work long hours, can't refuse customers.
2. Once they realize they can't escape, they want to pay off quickly, as they see no way out.
3. Quick contracts – they want to send money to family. They are scared for their family and feel in danger.

Prostitution

- Legal brothels, e.g. 417 Brunswick St – case going back to court. In a legal brothel, it's easier to hide trafficked women, as police don't go there. You'd think the owners

would have to know. Sometimes women work in legal and illegal brothels. One place seems to have trafficked women (two under 18) by day, but is legal by night (or ? vice versa) to prevent talking between the groups. The trafficked women are afraid to talk anyway. There's often a 'Mummy' overseer too.

- Illegal brothels
- Escort agencies
- Other, e.g. tabletop, striptease

Members of the Grey Sisters are allowed to be present in court, but aren't allowed to speak to the women, who make occasional eye contact.

Ongoing violence:

- Violence continues
- Sent back to violent customers, can't refuse sex without condoms.
- One legal brothels boxes Ural for urinary tract infections; women come out from encounters bent double in pain.

Increasing 'freedom'

By the end, they may be able to go out, because:

1. They have learnt they'll be punished. A woman in Sydney was beaten severely.
2. Hope to get money for self and family.
3. Learnt little support for women who run away, are told they'll be deported if contact Australian authorities.

There's a kit with a flyer for Project Respect. A woman 'phoned to give information, but said: "Don't call the police until I've left the country." Project Respect (one woman) visits brothels in the cities of Yarra and Monash, a few in the west and 1 in the north. It has some rural outreach. There are about 94 legal brothels in Victoria, and 3 times that many illegal ones.

The women are usually 18-25, mostly Thai, with a trend towards S. Koreans (with proper, mostly student, visas). There are legitimate debts for S. Korean women, whose families sell them to pay off debt. They can work 20 hours / week.

Traffickers' reasons for increasing freedom: Less valuable, profits have been extracted, no longer a 'new face'. May be free to come and go, but may still be a victim of slavery. There are other ways, e.g. language – can't even give address

Methods of control:

- Deprivation of passport
- Isolation – language, information, physical.
- Sexual – physical violence
- Controlling money
- Threats to alert immigration authorities
- Lack of food, medicine
- Isolation: sometimes forced to live in the brothel, which is illegal.
- Threats and intimidation to victim / loved ones

Project Respect continued.

- Threats of exposure via photos to families
- Encourage drug, alcohol, gambling addiction.
- Kindness
- Decreasing violence
- Making women feel 'it's O.K.', with parties, etc.

The End:

1. Escape and run away – to home country or say (can be tracked).
2. Finish contract – traffickers do in to DIMIA
3. Access support, including the Federal Govt's Victoria Support Programme.

A nurse at the government STD centre in Swanston St for Thai women agreed to refer women to P. R., but officially wasn't allowed to (? privacy legislation).

Impacts:

Physical(US) 47% reported head injuries
36% (international) mouth and teeth injuries (53% in U.S.)
56% US trafficked women require emergency room treatment

Most get STDs

Psychological: 80% depressed, 41% hopeless
Approx. 90% drug dependent.

Other: Separation from children, loved ones

Loss of trust, including of govt. agencies

Worse financial situation, so unable to look after family.

Massive sense of failure.

Functionality:

Often continue to function apparently well, try to hold things together 'til can escape. The optimum time for contact is early. Later they see no options.

What do they say?

- Reluctant to talk of violence
- Usually talk at first about financial exploitation or deception. do talk about their diaries.

Indicators of slavery, servitude:

- No passport or 'plane ticket
- Doesn't know type of visa
- Doesn't know where she lives

Other indicators:

- Diary of jobs, refers to debt
- Hasn't been paid
- Is escorted to brothel
- Says she works every day, works long hours
- STD, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma, urinary difficulties, pregnancy, infertility from chronic untreated STI (STI infection) or botched abortion.
- self harm scars
- bruises, scars, other signs, physical abuse / torture
- malnutrition

- appear forgetful

Traffickers learn what women value, work on weaknesses, psychological and physical violence. Until 2005, working on 1999 legislation, still being prosecuted under that. First successful prosecution was against 417 Brunswick St.

Legislation:

The govt ratified the UN Protocol

The Fed. Govt passed the Slavery & Sexual Servitude Act in 1999
The Criminal Code Amendment (Trafficking in Persons Offences) Act 2005

State Slavery and Servitude Legislation

2003 Second Trafficking Conference at RMIT:

- end to automatic detention
- victim/witness visa
- change to legislation
- support for trafficked women – very dicey

Problems with Victim Programme:

All will get Bridging Visa F – 30 days to decide if they will help police or not. Police decide if their evidence is good or not. If women don't have enough evidence, get deported. It's more a witness protection programme than a victim support programme.

Alternate visas are needed:

US /Italy systems

Women receive support and a related visa

Enables them to stay and recover regardless of whether they're involved in a prosecution.

Reforms

Women or 'agents' should be able to apply for trafficking related visas and where processes can be reviewed (Review Tribunals).
The Refugee Review Tribunal has got refugee status for 2 Thai women

?Australia should train customs officials to be on alert for such women. Traffickers may come and go within a couple of days. Thai women mostly want to stay. They're fearful of going home – of threats to family and failure.

Project Respect is the first port of call, a voluntary contact by a woman. P.R educates women in brothels to look out for trafficked women. It has a \$20 million package to provide a 'suite' of material for brothels. It takes women several times a year for a weekend to the country. P.R. supports women NOT on government support Numbers? 300 cases (in NSW, Vic, SA) in 6 weeks. Using AFP extrapolation, 1000 p.a.

Matthew (ASRC Catering) has a project with a Thai trafficked woman leader to open a Thai noodle take away.

Good News: Brazil declares indigenous land

From www.amnesty.org.au

Reference: AMR 19/017/2007 Published on 30/08/2007

Amnesty International welcomes the Ministry of Justice's recent decision to declare 18,027 hectares in the region of Aracruz, in the north of Espírito Santo State, as indigenous land. The organisation calls on all other outstanding cases to be expedited. This ruling comes after the long-running dispute between the Tupinikim and Guarani peoples and the paper pulping company, Aracruz Celulose, which has established eucalyptus plantations on Tupinikim and Guarani ancestral lands.

Although many steps remain in the process including negotiations with Aracruz Celulose, physical demarcation of the land by the National Indigenous Foundation (Fundacao Nacional do Indio, FUNAI) and ratification of the area by presidential decree - the Ministry of Justice's decision is an important landmark in a case that had been paralysed by inaction.

Years of uncertainty about the legal status of the lands left the Tupinikim and Guarani peoples vulnerable to violence and intimidation. In January 2006, thirteen indigenous people were injured and two villages were burnt down, during a violent eviction carried out by the Federal Police, involving attacks with helicopters, dogs, rubber bullets and tear gas.

Amnesty International calls on the Federal Government to carry out the remaining steps in the process as swiftly as possible, and hopes that this decision signals a fresh determination on the part of the Ministry of Justice to speed up the process of land demarcation for all indigenous Brazilians. In many other parts of Brazil, notably Mato Grosso do Sul, indigenous peoples continue to suffer violence and severe economic deprivation largely because their constitutional right to land still remains unresolved.



Good News: Rwanda abolishes death penalty

From www.amnesty.org.au

Reference: AFR 47/010/2007 Published on 30/07/2007

Amnesty International welcomes the promulgation of legislation by Rwanda to abolish the death penalty. Rwanda is the first country in the Great Lakes region to abolish the death penalty and strongly confirmed the worldwide trend to end capital punishment by becoming the 100th country to abolish the death penalty in law, with another 30 countries abolitionist in practice. Fourteen countries in Africa, including Rwanda, are abolitionist for all crimes and a further 18 are abolitionist in practice.

Amnesty International hopes that such moves reflect the beginning of an overall regional pattern in Central Africa to abolish the death penalty. Encouragingly, a revised version of the Penal Code in Burundi, currently pending promulgation, has excluded the death penalty as punishment for all crimes.

In light of the recent promulgation of the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes in Rwanda, Amnesty International calls upon the Rwanda government to co-sponsor the resolution on a global moratorium on executions that will be introduced at the United Nations General Assembly this October, and to encourage other countries in the region to support such resolution.

The last death sentences were imposed in 2003. The last executions of people sentenced to death took place in 1998 when 22

people found guilty of genocide-related crimes were executed. Rwanda currently holds approximately 600 prisoners on death row. Despite their sentences being commuted with the enactment of the legislation, there are continuing concerns regarding the cruel, inhumane and degrading prison conditions in which these prisoners remain detained.

Background

The continued existence of the death penalty constituted one of the main obstacles preventing the transfer of detainees held by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), or indicted genocide suspects living abroad, to Rwanda's national jurisdiction. Other obstacles have also been the capability of the Rwandan justice system to provide fair trials as well as additional concerns regarding its independence, impartiality and transparency. The abolition of the death penalty is taking place in this context.

The initiative to table a resolution calling for a global moratorium at the UN General Assembly this year is supported by countries from all regions of the world, including Africa. Amnesty International believes that such a resolution would be an important milestone towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

Eltham Bookshop World Matters Festival The Audacity of Hope October 27th to 29th

There will be a glittering array of speakers including :
Waleed Aly with his book *People Like us*,
Maria Tumarkin with *Courage*,
John Langmore with *To a Firmer Ground*,
Jennifer Isaacs with *Spirit Country*,
Margaret Reynolds with *Living Politics*,
Paul Cleary with *Shakedown: The Grab for East Timor Oil*,
Glenn Nicholls on *Deported*.
Everyone should pencil in the dates and support this
valiant effort by a small bookshop. Programme available
on request.

Non-Violence: A book discussion Saturday, Oct 27th, Time: 2.30pm 4.00pm Edendale Community Farm, Gastons Lane, Eltham Cost: \$5.00

As part of the three day series of talks and seminars on
World Matters ,on Saturday Oct 27th, from 2.30pm to
4.00pm at Edendale Community Farm, Gastons Lane you
are invited to join our own Carole Wigg as she leads a
discussion based on the book *Non-Violence* by New York
Times bestselling author Mark Kurlansky.

In this timely, highly original narrative the author discusses
non violence as a distinct entity, a course of action, rather
than a mere state of mind. Kurlansky asserts that
Nonviolence can and should be a technique for
overcoming social injustice and ending wars. He also
brings into focus just why nonviolence is a dangerous
idea. Is there such a thing as a 'just war'?

Could nonviolence have worked against even the most
evil regimes in history?

John Langmore, President of AUNAA Victoria,
Professional Fellow in the Political Science Dept of
Melbourne University and author of *To a Firmer
Ground: Restoring Hope in Australia* will speak at the start
of the session.

We encourage you to buy *Non-Violence* by Mark
Kurlansky and book in for the event at Eltham Bookshop.
Free entry for all those who read the book before the
session. \$5.00 for those who wish to attend and listen.

Bookings at 94398700

Blogger released

Published on 24/01/2007

Iranian student activist and blogger Kianoosh Sanjari has been
released from prison after over two months detention. He was
released on bail of 100 million tuman (over US\$100,000) by the
Special Court for the Clergy on 27 December 2006.

Kianoosh was arrested on 7 October 2006 whilst reporting on
clashes between security forces and supporters of Shi'a cleric
Ayatollah Sayed Hossein Kazemeyni Boroujerdi. He was held
incommunicado at an unknown location.

He is believed to have been accused of "acting against state secu-
rity" and "propaganda against the system", although he does not
yet appear to have been formally charged. No date has been set
for a trial to begin.

Amnesty international launched a web action on 10 November
calling on the Iranian authorities to release him immediately or to
make public any charges against him and to ensure that these
were communicated to both Kianoosh and his lawyer without
delay.

Kianoosh thanked Amnesty International for its efforts in a post-
ing on his blog in which he thanked all those who worked on his
behalf. To find out more about internet repression visit [http://
irrepressible.info](http://irrepressible.info).

Eltham Bookshop **Robyn Williams - Future Perfect** Tuesday 9th October Time: 7.30-9.00pm Cost: \$5 (Refreshments included) Venue: Gateway Galleries 559 Main Road Eltham Booking Required—9439 8700

Future Perfect is a book for those who believe we can
shape the future of our earth, and that there is a moral
responsibility for us to do just that. It's difficult to disembark
once you're here, after all. Written in Robyn Williams'
characteristically whimsical and provocative style, it
conjures up the possibilities before us in our cities, our
employment, our transport and even our sex lives. It
confronts the challenges before us and does not shrink
from the hard answers.

The evening is also an attempt to remind people about the
importance of becoming members of the Friends of ABC.
The campaign manager of the Friends of ABC will
introduce the evening. For bookings please contact the
Eltham Bookshop on 9439 8700

What Are Human Rights

What are human rights ?

Human rights are the basic freedoms and protections that people are entitled to simply because they are human beings.

Human Rights are Universal

They belong to everyone, regardless of their race, sexuality, citizenship, gender, nationality, ethnicity, or abilities.

Human Rights are Inherent

We are all born with human rights. They belong to people simply because they are human beings.

Human Rights are Inalienable

They cannot be taken away – period. No person, corporation, organization, or even government can deprive another person of his or her rights.

Human Rights can be Violated

Although they are inalienable, they are not invulnerable. Violations can stop people from enjoying their rights, but they do not stop the rights from existing.

Human Rights are Essential

They are essential for freedom, justice, and peace.



Amnesty International Eltham Group
Protecting and Defending Human Rights
Newsletter Editor 34 Hakea St., Watsonia, Victoria 3087, Australia.

Stamp

About The Eltham Amnesty International

Amnesty International Eltham Group has been fighting for human rights for just on 25 years. We are active in letter writing to highlight violations of human rights. The particular campaigns we are currently interested in are Iran and Woman's rights.

Eltham Amnesty Meet on the third Thursday of each month
at 8 pm, in the Eltham Uniting Church meeting room,
corner of Main Road and John Street Eltham
(enter via John Street).

For further information on the Eltham Amnesty International Group,
contact our membership coordinator Brad on
(Mobile) 0438 361 955