



# Amnesty International Eltham Group

Protecting and Defending Human Rights

October 2007

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ethamai>

Vol. 1 Issue 3.

## **This Month's Meeting: Discussion night.**

Thursday 18th October 2007

Eltham Uniting Church

Cnr. Main Rd and John St Eltham 3095

Melways 21 J6

## **Vigil for the world day against the death penalty**

Federation Square Wed 10th October 2007

By Amanda Thompson

China, US, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, these are just some of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region which still employs the Death Penalty as an acceptable sentence for criminal liability. Australia, as a staunch opponent of the Death Penalty has an important role to create positive change in our region. Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October the World Day against the Death Penalty was an occasion to express just that and the Victorian Youth Network jumped aboard the Victorian Amnesty team coordinating the Victorian event commemorating the day.

We publicised the event around our Universities and held collective posters and prop making sessions, then braved the elements of Melbourne weather along with the other volunteers at Federation Square. There the members wielding the petition to stop the Death Penalty had prime position to collect 132 signatures in one and a half hours – not a bad effort!

The event was a great action for the growing Youth Network and a success for the Monash Uni group in the midst of a revival!



Photos Courtesy Mirinda BoonKuo

## Amnesty International Victoria Indigenous Support Network:

Screening of a compelling new documentary 'Liyarn Ngarn', featuring Pete Poselthwaite, Patrick Dodson and Archie Roach

Wednesday the 24th of October. 7:30 pm

Victorian Activist Resource Centre, 134 Cambridge St. Collingwood.

'Liyarn Ngarn', meaning "Coming together of the Spirit" in the language of the West Kimberly region around Broome, is a newly released documentary highlighting the injustices experienced by Indigenous people in Australia.

The documentary shows the journey of Pete Poselthwaite, a renowned English actor, as he recounts personal stories of the devastation and inhumanity suffered by Australia's original owners. Poselthwaite is accompanied by Archie Roach, an Indigenous singer and songwriter, and Patrick Dodson, an Indigenous leader and Yawura man. The impetus for 'Liyarn Ngarn' was the death of Bill Johnson's adopted Aboriginal son, Louis St John, who was murdered on his 19th birthday, allegedly "because he was black."

The film aims to change peoples' perception and attitude to Indigenous people and to assist with the process of true and lasting reconciliation.

The Amnesty International Victoria Indigenous Support Network is providing a fantastic opportunity to see a free screening of 'Liyarn Ngarn' on Wednesday the 24th of October.

The evening will begin at 7:30pm and will be held at the Victorian Activist Resource Centre, 134 Cambridge St. Collingwood.

Please contact Hayley Franklin on [h.franklin@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:h.franklin@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au) or 0412 429 044 to RSVP.

This is a great opportunity to see a documentary which has received glowing reviews and widespread recognition.

Hope to see you there!

cheers,  
Hayley

## Fears for Myanmar as arrests continue

Reference: ASA 16/029/200

Published on 15/10/2007

Four people have been detained on 12 October in Yangon as part of a continuing crackdown by the military authorities.

The four detainees include prominent activists Htay Kywe (39), Mie Mie (35, also known as Thin Thin Aye), and Aung Thu (43) who were members of the 1988 Generation Students group. All have been imprisoned previously for their peaceful activism for human rights and democracy.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Htay Kywe, Mie Mie and Aung Thu, who are at grave risk of torture and ill-treatment.

Continued arrests fly in the face of the promises made last week by the Myanmar authorities to cooperate with the United Nations. On Thursday the UN Security Council strongly deplored the violent crackdown and called for the early release of all political prisoners. Instead, arrests continue amid grave fears for the safety of those detained, including torture and ill-treatment.

The international community must insist on concrete action from the Myanmar authorities - for an end to the arrests of peaceful protestors, for guarantees for the safety of all detained, including access to the detainees by independent observers, and for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience.



image1988 Generation Students group leader  
Htay Kywe © AI

**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

**ELTHAM bookshop**

have the pleasure of hosting

the book launch by

TBA

***Bunjil of the Wurundjeri***

by **Ken Eckersall**

on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2007  
 4 pm to 5.30 pm

at **ELTHAM bookshop**

970 Main Road Eltham 3095

Afternoon tea will be provided

Contribution: \$5.00

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: 9439 8700**  
**elthambookshop@bigpond.com**

'BUNJIL, black eagle, Wurundjeri totem, eaglehawk,  
 soars above: her eyes see afar off.'

***Bunjil of the Wurundjeri*** covers the main local and  
 national events: land, history, art, spirituality, politics,  
 sport, literature and community.  
 Its theme is Reconciliation.

'Nillumbik reconciliation helped fill the void of 10 years  
 at national government level: a moment in an Age of In-  
 digenous Renaissance. *Bunjil of the Wurundjei* traces  
 events in Nillumbik Shire, a microcosm of Australia.'

*Bunjil, black eagle, hovers over.*

## 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**

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## 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