Overview

The Amnesty International NMSU student group and the local group #380 are proud to invite you to our Human Rights Film Festival. Our aim is to propose documentaries on a variety of subjects that worry us at Amnesty. The persistence of slavery, the conditions of women and the importance of gender related crimes, the weakness of the United States judicial system, the damage caused to child soldiers and civilians, sometimes long after the end of the conflict, are a few of the problems about which Amnesty International tries to influence governments and non-governmental groups to take the right decisions.

Through this festival, we hope to raise awareness to these crimes and Human rights abuses that are not much talked about, and to show you what you can do about them.

Join Amnesty International and your local groups in this fight!

Salt of the Earth

Based on actual events, this landmark film depicts a 1950 strike by zinc miners in Silver City, New Mexico. Against a backdrop of social injustice, a riveting family drama is played out by the characters of Ramon and Esperanza Quintero, a Mexican-American miner and his wife. In the course of the strike, Ramon and Esperanza find their roles reversed: an injunction against the male strikers moves the women to take over the picket line, leaving the men to domestic duties. The women evolve from men’s subordinates into their allies and equals.

The film’s very existence is the result of political struggle. It was made during the height of the McCarthy era, and the blacklisted cast and crew were subject to attacks by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and other anti Communist organizations. These attacks were misguided however, as *Salt of the Earth* is now considered one of the most important American films in history. 94 min.

The VHS and DVD of *Salt of the Earth* are available from www.organa.com, with 50% of the net proceeds going to the filmmakers' families.

FRIDAY 7:00


FRIDAY 1/30
6:30 Introduction
7:00 *Salt of the Earth* (94’)

Saturday 1/31
1:40 *Strong roots* (41’)
2:30 *To free the slaves* (48’)
3:25 *Who’s counting?* (53’)
4:25 *Coming to say goodbye* (32’)
5:05 *In whose Interest?* (27’)
5:45 *Jesus Tecu Osorio in Guatemala* (26’)
6:30 Intermission
7:30 *Murder on a Sunday morning* (1:55)

Sunday 2/1
1:30 *Interview with a executioner* (13’)
2:00 *Bombies* (57’)
3:15 *Going home* (30’)
4:00 *Honorable murder* (57’)
5:15 *Maquila: a tale of two Mexicos* (55’)

The program was slightly changed because of shorter durations of two movies, which allowed to add *Who’s counting?* on Saturday.

The NMSU group and the local group #380 hold regular meetings together. Contact us if you wish to attend the next meetings (next on February 12)

Contact

amnesty@nmsu.edu
web.nmsu.edu/~amnesty/
Corbett Center, Campus Activities
PO Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003–0001
**Strong Roots**  
*SATURDAY 1:40*

Pedro, Antonio, and Luis joined Brazil's Landless Workers Movement in search of a piece of land, dignity in their lives, and justice in their society. Through their memories and their day-to-day lives in Pernambuco and Bahia, they bring us a personal portrait one of the most vital social movements in Latin America today. The Landless Workers Movement (MST) started in 1985 to correct the extremely unequal concentration of land in Brazil. There, 1% of large landholders control 46% of agricultural land. Of the 400 million hectares of arable land, only 60 million are used for planting crops; 4.8 million families have no land, while 35 million Brazilians live in poverty. 40 min.


**To free the slaves**  
*SATURDAY 2:30*

Over 28 million men, women and children live in slavery around the world. To Free the Slaves is a documentary that looks at ordinary men and women in four different countries who are determined to bring an end to the suffering of the weak caused by the economic concerns of the powerful.

An ordinary Canadian couple redeem slaves caught up in a brutal civil war in Sudan. In Mali, Save the Children Canada reunites young people with their families after they have been kidnapped and forced into slave labour in the Côte d'Ivoire. In Canada, ex-prostitute Cherry Kingsley helps young people enslaved in prostitution re-integrate into society. And in the brickyards of India, the Pandits free and rehabilitate slaves from bonded labour and re-educate the slave-owners. 47 min.

Canada, 2002. 

By Hilary Jones-Farrow. The May Street group, www.maystreet.ca

**Who’s counting?**  
*SATURDAY 3:25*

Marilyn Waring from New Zealand is the foremost spokesperson for global feminist economics, and her ideas offer new avenues of approach for political action. With persistence and wit she has succeeded in drawing attention to the fact that GDP has no negative side to its accounts--such as damage to the environment--and completely ignores the unpaid work of women. "Why is the market economy all that counts?" Ms. Waring asks. This film has inspired many people, notably the Who's Counting Project, to work on human-scale economic alternatives, local currency exchanges, and more humane ways of measuring the quality of life. 53 min.


**Coming to say goodbye**  
*SATURDAY 4:20*

The stories of Rosalyn and her daughter, Mwaisha and her son, Christopher and his brothers, Bibi and her granddaughters are a personalized journal of the spread of this modern plague as it threatens the foundations of nation-building in Kenya and Tanzania. Because of the immensity of the problem, the poor are often left by themselves to deal with AIDS. They lack even the food needed to take medicine properly. Most of the patients are women, typically rejected and abandoned by their families. Also doomed are between 100,000 and 150,000 orphans in East Africa infected with AIDS.

The stories are woven together with insights from church workers, social workers, educators, and medical professionals who, as they struggle to stand by those who are suffering, are having to deal with a collapsing health care system. These caregivers help us see the connection between the AIDS crisis in Africa and the broader issues of extreme poverty, inequality and the policies which keep the cycle spinning. 52 min.

Old Dog Documentaries, www.olddogdocumentaries.com

**In Whose Interest?**  
*SATURDAY 5:00*

Filmmaker David Kaplowitz leads us on an eye-opening journey, questioning the effects of U.S. foreign policy over the past 50 years. Revealing a pattern of intervention, the film focuses on Guatemala, Vietnam, East Timor, El Salvador, and Palestine/Israel.

Archival footage, photographs and media tidbits are dynamically interwoven with personal eyewitness accounts and commentary from academics – such as Noam Chomsky – religious leaders and politicians. In whose interest? is informative and disturbingly honest, yet upbeat, with twists of irony and humor. 27 min.


**Jesus Tecu Osorio in Guatemala**  
*SATURDAY, 5:45*

Jesus Tecu Osorio witnessed the murder of his parents and siblings in 1982 during bloody civil war in Guatemala. Today, he leads a courageous campaign for memorials, exhumations, and the prosecution of former military officers. 31 min.

1999, Bullfrog films. www.bullfrogfilms.com
**Murder on a Sunday morning**  
SUNDAY 7:30

Filmmaker Lestrade describes the **judicial process** that led from the arrest of Brenton Butler, a 15 year old black man who was walking by the scene of a murder, to his trial. The film follows the work of Patrick McGuiness, Butler’s lawyer, when he conducts the inquiry proving the many mistakes of the police investigation. 111 min.  
2002 Academy Award for best documentary.

Prod. Denis Poncet. www.docurama.com

**Interview with a executioner**  
SUNDAY 1:30

Terry, the South Bay Area local group coordinator, interviews the former Mississippi executioner. After many executions, he decided to quit when he got convinced that he executed an innocent man. He explains why death penalty cannot be an option in the current judicial system. 13 min.  

**Bombies**  
SUNDAY 2:00

Between 1964 and 1973 the United States conducted a secret air war, dropping over 2 million tons of bombs and making tiny Laos the most heavily bombed country in history. Millions of these ‘cluster bombs' did not explode when dropped, leaving the country massively contaminated with 'bombyes' as dangerous now as when they fell a quarter century ago.  
*Bombies* examines the problem of unexploded cluster bombs through the personal experiences of a group of Laotians and foreigners and argues for their elimination as a weapon of war. Unfortunately they are still a standard part of the US arsenal and were dropped both in Kosovo and now Afghanistan. 57 min.

Bullfrog films, www.bullfrogfilms.com

The United States' insistence on the use of cluster bombs, designed to kill or maim humans, is condemned almost universally and brings discredit on our nation. Even for the world's only superpower, the ends don't always justify the means.  
Former President Jimmy Carter

**Going Home**  
SUNDAY 3:15

Mohammed is just 10 years old. For most of 1997 he was forced to act as a young fighter with rebel forces in the jungles of Sierra Leone. His duties included carrying heavy equipment, acting as a personal servant to other soldiers, and torturing and disciplining any of the other child soldiers who stepped out of line.  
Eventually he escaped to Guinea. In 1997 Guinea was host to an estimated 430,000 refugees: 190,000 Sierra Leoneans, and 240,000 Liberians who'd escaped the 8-year civil war there. This film evaluates the success of the Guinean government and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in protecting the rights pledged this huge African refugee population under the OAU Convention. 31 min.

1998, By Emily Marlow.  
Bullfrog films, www.bullfrogfilms.com

**Honorable Murder**  
SUNDAY, 4:00

In many Middle Eastern countries, honor is so highly prized that it is considered more valuable than life itself. This program examines the code of conduct that makes each woman a sacred vessel of her family’s honor—and the practice of atoning for any family member’s breach of that code with her blood. Scholars, judges, and clergymen discuss the culturally sanctioned practice of "honorable murder," while fathers, brothers, and moth’s talk about the communal pressure to adhere to the honor code and the loss of daughters and sisters has affected their lives. Interviews with some of the "lucky" ones—women who were imprisoned rather than executed—are also included. 57 min.  

**Maquilas: a tale of two Mexicos**  
SUNDAY, 5:15

This video examines the impact of corporate globalization on Mexico, focusing on the *maquiladoras*. Archives and interviews provide historical background to the present crisis, involving the displacement of peasant farmers who migrate to northern border cities such as Juárez and Tijuana, where they endure dangerous working conditions in the *maquilas* for starvation wages. The film also reveals other aspects of the present crisis, including the environmental disasters generated by these factories, their unsafes environment, which has resulted in an unsolved series of brutal rapes and murders of young women, and violent rural confrontations between the Mexican Army and Mayan peasant farmers. The video features interviews with workers, factory managers, government officials, army officers, indigenous peasants and economists. 55 min.

About Amnesty International

Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. Its vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

In pursuit of this vision, AI’s mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

AI is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion. It does not support or oppose any government or political system, nor does it support or oppose the views of the victims whose rights it seeks to protect. It is concerned solely with the impartial protection of human rights.

AI has a varied network of members and supporters around the world. At the latest count, there were more than 1.5 million members, supporters and subscribers in over 150 countries and territories in every region of the world. Although they come from many different backgrounds and have widely different political and religious beliefs, they are united by a determination to work for a world where everyone enjoys human rights. AI’s national sections and local volunteer groups are primarily responsible for funding the movement.

First AI Urgent Action

AI issued its first full Urgent Action, on behalf of Professor Luiz Basilio Rossi, a Brazilian, on March 19th 1973. He was arrested for political reasons. Luiz himself believed that AI’s appeals were crucial: “I knew that my case had become public, I knew they could no longer kill me.” Then the pressure on me decreased and conditions improved.” Prof. Rossi was released in bail, waiting for the trial, on 24th October 1973. Then in February 1974 he left for Belgium. The trial took place on March 10th 1975. He was not sentenced, but an arrest order was issued. His wife later became one of the founder members of AI Brazil’s health professionals network.

The film festival is cosponsored by:
The International Delights Cafe
The NMSU Government Dept., Center for Latin American and border studies & Women’s studies program &
The Bean of Mesilla

About Amnesty International

A Word from Peter Benenson, founder of Amnesty International on Amnesty International’s 40th Anniversary in 2001

On 28 May 1961 I wrote an article in The Observer newspaper which gave birth to Amnesty International. It began with these words: “Open your newspaper any day of the week and you will find a report from somewhere in the world of someone being imprisoned, tortured or executed because his opinions or religion are unacceptable to his government ... The newspaper reader feels a sickening sense of impotence. Yet if these feelings of disgust could be united into common action, something effective could be done.”

Forty years on, Amnesty International has secured many victories. Its files are full of letters from former prisoners of conscience or torture victims thanking the organization for making a difference. Torture is now banned by international agreement. Every year more countries reject the death penalty. The world will soon have an International Criminal Court that will be able to ensure that those accused of the worst crimes in the world will face justice. The Court’s very existence will deter some crimes.

But the challenges are still great. Torture is banned but in two-thirds of the world’s countries it is still being committed in secret. Too many governments still allow wrongful imprisonment, murder or “disappearance” to be carried out by their officials with impunity.

Those who today still feel a sense of impotence can do something: they can support Amnesty International. They can help it to stand up for freedom and justice.

A few current Amnesty International campaigns

- **Stop Child Executions!** International law prohibits the death penalty for minors. Yet juveniles are still executed in a handful of countries—including the United States.

- **Hundreds of Women Murdered in Mexico:** Since 1993, hundreds of women have been murdered or “disappeared” in the cities of Juarez and Chihuahtaa—and the Mexican authorities have repeatedly failed either to investigate these cases or to protect women. (See the documentary “Maquila: a tale of two Mexicos” and the table of the Amigos de las mujeres de Juárez.)

- **Stopping the pain merchants:** Manufacturing, trading and promoting equipment which is used to torture people is a money-making business. Help ban some torture equipment and control the sale of others.

- See more actions and what to do, at our table and at Amnesty’s web sites: [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org) and [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org).