

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2008

Contact: Jenna Thompson, Media Coordinator
617-318-0412

13th Annual "Get On The Bus" Set for April 11, 2008

1,500 Activists will gather in New York City to demonstrate against human rights violations in Myanmar, Darfur, Bhopal, Sri Lanka and Libya

Somerville, MA - Amnesty International Group #133 will host its annual Get On The Bus (GOTB) trip to New York City on Friday, April 11, 2008.

Now in its thirteenth year, GOTB is the largest volunteer-organized Amnesty International event in the country. It gives high school and college students from all over the Northeast an opportunity to demonstrate about some of the world's most pressing concerns in front of several consulates and embassies in New York City. GOTB will feature five actions as well as a speakers' panel, where experts will shed light on the issues for which the participants will be demonstrating. Amnesty activists will demonstrate for the people of Darfur and Myanmar, to bring to justice those responsible for the murders of journalists in Sri Lanka, for the victims of the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, and for Fathi el-Jahmi, a Libyan Prisoner of Conscience.

In the past, activists have demonstrated against China's imprisonment of Tibetan nuns and democracy advocates, Nigeria's execution of human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, and discrimination and violence towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) citizens in Jamaica.

The first GOTB trip to New York City took place in 1996 with only 30 people. This year's event will be attended by over 1,200 people. The growing success of this event is largely due to young people who feel that they can make the world a better place through learning about global issues and injustices and speaking out about them.

Here is what people are saying about Get On The Bus:

"Last Friday I joined a group of 16 students from the Winsor School as a parent participant in Amnesty's "Get On The Bus" Program. The one-day program was a terrific success, and I want you to know from a participant's viewpoint how well organized the entire event was. The demonstrations were orderly, focused and clear in their message, attracted much attention, and, from the reaction of passersby, much credit to Amnesty and the high school and college students participating. I was proud to be part of this extremely successful program, and I want congratulate you for organizing it. "

- John Shattuck – Former Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Democracy and then Ambassador to the Czech Republic during the Clinton Administration. He is currently President and CEO of the JFK Library in Boston.

Amnesty International Group 133 is one of the 1,500 Amnesty groups in the US, providing opportunities for human rights activism for concerned individuals in the Somerville, Arlington, Cambridge area of Massachusetts.

For more information about Get On The Bus: www.gotb.org

What: 13th annual Get On The Bus

Where: New York City

When: Friday, April 11, 2008

#####