

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

NORTH COUNTY CHAPTER 471

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Vesta Ross (760) 434-7855
Kathy Ford (760) 731-0735
Margaret Wernett (760) 731-9174

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HOSTS

"A CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE" HUMAN RIGHTS WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008

The 20th Anniversary San Diego Candlelight Walk for Human Rights hosted by the North County Chapter of Amnesty International will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at the outdoor amphitheater and pier in Oceanside at 5:30pm.

The event is free to the public. This year's theme, "A Call for International Justice" will give participants an opportunity to be a voice for victims of human rights abuses, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to call on elected officials to support the International Criminal Court.

A brief reception – with refreshments, materials, and the live music of Akayaa & Bolga Zohdoomah will be followed by a program of courageous speakers.

The featured guest speaker will be Ms Rebiya Kadeer, the chapter's former "adopted" prisoner of conscience from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in China. Kathy Ford, the founder and coordinator of the North County Amnesty International group said, "This brave woman, a women's activist, was on her way to meet with a U.S. Congressional Team when she was arrested in their hotel lobby. She was sentenced in 2000 to eight years in prison. For many years while she suffered harsh prison conditions in China, hundreds here in Oceanside carried her name and image out the pier, hundreds more at our walks signed petitions or sent postcards calling for her freedom, and this year in Oceanside she will stand before us, as a *free* woman." Since her early release, having served 5 ½ years of her sentence, Ms Kadeer has said: "I don't believe that I would be alive today without the support of Amnesty International."

Other presenters will be Peter Schey, the Founder, President and Executive Director of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law Foundation who will speak about the Reconciliation Process in South Africa, and Mr. Sean Butler, International Criminal Court Alliance member who leads the advocacy campaign for domestic and global support for the International Criminal Court.

The North County Chapter's 2008 Digna Ochoa Human Rights Defender Award will be presented to the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice in San Diego with Dee Aker, their interim Director, accepting the award.

Designed as an evening of hope and inspiration, the walk will culminate with the symbolic candlelight "Freedom Walk" on the Oceanside Pier. Participants will be invited to take up the cause of another person who needs a voice and action, or one of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or the cause of the International Criminal Court.

Everyone is reminded to dress warmly.

For information: (760) 731-9174 or www.Amnesty471.org