

Media Advisory

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Russian Federation: Abolish the death penalty -- Amnesty International convenes US activists in Moscow for debate on justice instead of vengeance

Amnesty International announces the arrival in Moscow of Sister Helen Prejean, Bud Welch and Denise LeBoeuf to speak out against the death penalty.

*Sister Helen Prejean's book *Dead Man Walking*, on her experience working with death row inmates and the relatives of murder victims, was made into the Oscar-winning film, of the same name. On 12 December the film will be presented by Amnesty International as part of the Moscow International Human Rights Film Festival, "Stalker".*

Bud Welch tragically lost his 23-year old daughter, Julie, in the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma. He has since been actively campaigning against the death penalty, including against the convicted perpetrator of that crime, Timothy McVeigh.

Leading death row lawyer and anti-death penalty and human rights activist Denise LeBoeuf will be joining the events.

All three activists will take part in a roundtable discussion and conference on the death penalty at the Russian Duma on 10 and 11 December. They will meet with parliamentarians, government officials and members of Russian non-governmental organizations. Sister Helen Prejean, Denise LeBoeuf and Bud Welch will take part in the following events and will be available for interviews.

Event Timetable

10 December:

10.00 State Duma, Okhotny Ryad 1, Maly Hall:

Round Table discussion with the State Duma Committees for Legislation and Jurisdiction and for Public Associations and Religious Organizations on the abolition of the death penalty.

12.00RIA Novosti, ulitsa Petrovka 26:

press Conference with participants of the conference 'Russia without Death Penalty'

14.30 State Duma: Conference 'Russia without Death Penalty', Maly Hall organized by the Russian Institute for Human Rights in cooperation with the Council of Europe

<http://www.hrinststitute.ru/sk/programe.html>

17.00 Dom Kino, ulitsa Vasilevskaya 13

opening of the Moscow International Human Rights Film Festival AStalker@.

11 December:

10.00 State Duma: Continuation of the Conference Russia without Death Penalty

17.00 Moscow State University (Leninskiye Gory), 1 Gumanitarny Korpus: Auditorium - Law Faculty
debate with law students and lecturers.

12 December:

Dom Kino, ulitsa Vasilevskaya 13

Moscow International Human Rights Film Festival AStalker@ Day, dedicated to the death penalty:

17.00 Open debate with Sister Helen Prejean, Denise LeBoeuf, Bud Welch

19.00 Film Dead Man Walking, following the screening there will be time for questions

More information is available on the following websites:

Sister Helen Prejean: <http://www.prejean.org/Background.html>

Bud Welch:

<http://www.amnesty-usa.org/ailib/aireport/ar99/press/welch.htm>

Denise Le Boeuf <http://www.aclu.org/issues/death/abol196e.html>

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