

## **Human Rights Advocates Announce Kick-Off of “Human Rights/Immigrants’ Rights Conversation Series”**

Press conference will be Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., in front of Cobb County Jail

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Atlanta – Human rights advocates today announce the kick-off of a new initiative, “The Human Rights/Immigrants’ Rights Conversation Series.” Launched on occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the initiative is aimed at deepening the understanding of the myriad of human rights issues facing immigrant, refugee, and migrant communities in Georgia.

“Today, in Georgia, many of our immigrant brothers and sisters are being denied the most basic human rights guaranteed to all human beings under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” said Ajamu Baraka, Executive Director of U.S. Human Rights Network. “Families are being torn apart; men are being subjected to egregious conditions at detention centers throughout Georgia; women and children are afraid of contacting the police for fear of being deported.”

Advocates will hold a press conference in front of the Cobb County Jail on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. In addition to Baraka, speakers will include: Teodoro Maus, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR); Glory Kilanko, Women’s Watch Afrika; Terrence Courtney, Atlanta Jobs with Justice; Azadeh Shahshahani, ACLU of Georgia; John Park, Center for Pan-Asian Community Services; Deepali Gokhale, community organizer; and Anton Flores, Alterna.

“The location of the press conference is of particular significance,” said Adelina Nicholls, Executive Director of GLAHR. “Officials in Cobb County have detained nearly 5,000 people over the past year and sent over 2,200 to the Stewart Detention Facility, an isolated detention center in rural Southwest Georgia run by Corrections Corporation of America, a for-profit prison-operating corporation.”

The first conversation will be hosted by GLAHR on the evening of Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. A presentation on the people’s history of the UDHR will start the event. Participants will then engage in a conversation about various communities’ immigration histories with a particular focus on the recent erosion of the rights of Latino communities in Georgia, centered around specific articles of the UDHR.

“It is high time that immigrant, refugee, and migrant communities in our state are accorded the full scope of human rights and human dignity due to them,” said Azadeh Shahshahani, ACLU of Georgia’s National Security/Immigrants’ Rights Project Director.

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