



MCHR MIDYEAR ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



(Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Giles and the University of Florida)

MCHR Speaker Series: Geoffrey Giles, a scholar of groundbreaking research and writings on the Allied occupation of Germany, came to the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum to speak about the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany and in post-war, occupied Germany. Giles also gave a presentation in Professor Lower's *Researching the Holocaust* course, interacting with students engaged in Holocaust research and education. He examined Nazi Gestapo and secret police records of those suspected of homosexuality, presenting compelling case studies and testimonies from victims of persecution, in addition to examining policies of homophobia and notions of masculinity in the SS and beyond.

Second Annual Visiting Podlich Fellow: John Prendergast

The Mgrublian Center for Human Rights (MCHR) was honored to welcome human rights activist, best selling author, and Founding Director of the Enough Project, John Prendergast, as an annual Podlich Fellow for human rights scholarship. Prendergast spent his week on campus interacting with students across the 5 Claremont Colleges, professors and faculty members, and engaging in discussions with President Chodosh. He later presented at the Ath about the most effective ways to combat violent kleptocracies, unveiling his new project, *The Sentry*, which he launched with actor/activist, George Clooney. *The Sentry* is an initiative using satellite imagery to track armed conflicts and mass atrocities NGOs cannot witness due to closed borders.



Lessons and Legacies XVII

The Mgrublian Center for Human Rights (MCHR) welcomed the world's largest gathering of experts on the Holocaust to Claremont McKenna College Nov. 3-6. Over 275 Holocaust scholars, experts and survivors from around the world convened for the biennial *Lessons and Legacies* conference, co-sponsored by the MCHR and the Holocaust Educational Foundation. Organized around the theme *The Holocaust in the 21st Century: Relevance and Challenges in the Digital Age*, conference participants hosted a variety of panels and plenary sessions, and met with MCHR affiliated students.

(Keynote address: "State of the Field of Holocaust Studies", Doris Bergen, University of Toronto: *Photo Courtesy of William Vasta*)



Fellowship Highlights

Task Force Highlights

Research Fellowship Projects 2016-2017

The MCHR is supporting six undergraduate research fellowships. Here is a list of the fellowship projects:

Anoush Baghdassarian '17: Researching the Memoir of Hovhannes Aharonian, a Survivor of the Armenian Genocide

Fiona Bare '17: Humanitarian Aid in Conflicts

Will Cullen '19: Environmental Injustice in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Patrick Elliott '19: Education: A Tool for Some, A Barrier for Others

Michele Pashby: United States Cover-up of Japanese Unit 731

Roxane Sazegar and Sam Neufeld '19: The Plight of Central American Refugee Youth, A Call to Action

Task Force Updates: September-December 2016

Power of Women (POW): On November 29th, POW hosted an informative discussion aimed at learning about CMC's Title IX policies and procedures for sexual assault, and domestic violence violations, discussing case studies designed to help facilitate a greater understanding of the school's policies and how to navigate Title IX.



International Development and Education Association (IDEA): IDEA hosted a movie screening of *Girls Rising*, a documentary that tells the stories of nine girls and the obstacles they face. During the screening a raffle was held, proceeds of which will fund an annual salary of a teacher at United World Schools Kaung Whatt School in Myanmar to ensure that Burmese children are given the opportunity of an education.

No Lost Generation: No Lost Generation-CMC is one of the newest task forces at MCHR working to help improve the lives of Syrian refugee youth. The task force worked to raise awareness of the refugee crisis, putting together a photo series with their "#I Stand With Refugees" campaign.



This semester, Amnesty International has provided students with a rich variety of human rights campaign experiences. Students have had the opportunity to participate in any and all of our amnesty sponsored workshops with individuals such as John Prendergast, Founding Director of the Enough Project and Muna Sharif, Amnesty International USA community organizer, as well as become involved in our three active campaigns including:

- **Lobbying efforts for senate resolution 432 and House resolution 831, focusing on promoting human rights justice in Ethiopia through the US Congress**
- **Efforts to raise awareness about the Syrian refugee crisis while also raising funds to help support a recently arrived refugee family in Pomona Valley.**
- **My Body My Rights movement joining forces with other clubs on campus such as women's forum and the Power of Women to help create a larger network of awareness among students.**

We have also had tremendous support from President Chodosh for our Conflict Free Campus Initiative, which calls for accountability on our campus, to ending the use of electronics mined with conflict minerals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are so proud of all that has come out of this semester including our 80 new freshman members!

Student Voices



"I immensely enjoy working as a Research Assistant for the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights. As an incoming freshman, I was nervous about finding a research institute that would allow me to participate fully in their various activities. But thankfully, I have been able to take part in several incredible events that have allowed me to expand my knowledge of human rights work. One of my favorite parts of the semester was when John Prendergast visited because it was so inspiring to personally meet someone who has directly had such a large impact on improving the lives of people across the globe. The Lessons and Legacies Conference was also an incredibly rewarding experience. I was able to interact with world-renowned scholars and see firsthand the results of academic collaboration. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights and look forward to participating in future events." **-Sophie Boerboom '20, MCHR Student Assistant**

"I have been involved with the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights since my first semester here at CMC. My involvement began with the creation of a Women's Rights task force, Power of Women (POW), that has since evolved into an activist and advocacy group for gender equality, and support for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, as well as sparked my interest and involvement with CMC's Amnesty International chapter. Both of these groups and the Center itself, have given me a great community of support, and immense opportunity for intellectual dialogue and thinking. This year, my favorite events were the Lessons and Legacies Holocaust conference and the Regional Amnesty International conference. I would have never expected to be able to participate in such high profile, intellectually intriguing events as an undergraduate student and I am forever grateful for all of the opportunities the Mgrublian Center has offered me."

-Isabel Chavez '19, MCHR Task Force Leader



"So far my favorite event at the Mgrublian Center was the Human Rights & Film Panel. Movies usually serve the purpose of piquing my interest in learning more about a specific human rights issue; so having such notable activists such as John Prendergast and Bonnie Abaunza in the room was an amazing experience. Film has a way of shining a new light on human rights issues; the narrative shown through a documentary, for instance, makes the problem much more relevant to an unaffected populace. The work I have been doing through the Center's fellowship program has definitely added to my sophomore year experience. The conversation of human rights usually surrounds countries outside of the United States; it has been nice to debunk the elitist stigma surrounding this nation and focus on an area that we as Americans desperately fail in: secondary education. Looking at the current state of our education system as a violation

of human rights has opened my eyes to more violations done by the United States. I am excited to continue exploring this important topic, and hopefully my research will publicize such a disregarded field."

-Patrick Elliott '19, MCHR Research Fellow



Human Rights Updates

“It means a great deal to those who are oppressed to know that they are not alone. Never let anyone tell you that what you are doing is insignificant.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South African civil rights activist

Amnesty International USA:

November saw a significant numbers of victories on the part of political prisoners of conscience. Here are some of the highlights:

- Student activist from Angola released from prison;
- Bahraini political activist Ebrahim Shari was released from holding, all charges dropped;
- Student activist, has been granted bail after spending more than two months in jail without charge in Rajshahi, Bangladesh. He was arrested in August for two Facebook posts criticizing Prime Minister;
- Venezuelan prisoner of conscience received critical medical care due to pressure from Amnesty and other human rights organizations

The Enough Project:

During his visit to CMC in October 2016, John Prendergast unveiled his most recent project which he established with the help of actor/activist, George Clooney: *The Sentry*. The project will use Google Earth imaging and other technological advances to track and analyze how armed conflict and atrocities are financed, sustained, and monetized. The Sentry uses open source data collection, field research, and state-of-the-art network data analysis technology, and works in partnership with local and international civil society organizations, journalists, and governments. The Sentry examines the techniques used to benefit financially from armed conflict and atrocities, including: **convergence of licit and illicit systems, regulatory and sanctions evasion, disguised beneficial ownership**—illicit actors employ increasingly sophisticated methods to disguise their true identities to avoid detection and exposure, and money and commodities laundering **war crimes and crimes against humanity**. The Sentry’s ultimate objective is to alter the incentive structure of those benefiting financially and politically from conflict and mass atrocities.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS: Internship opportunities

The MCHR offers students dedicated to human rights and social justice the opportunity to apply for sponsored internships through the Center. The MCHR is affiliated with several organizations including:

- [Amnesty International](#), Washington D.C.
- [Enough Project](#), Washington, D.C.
- [Human Rights Watch](#), New York, NY
- [POLIN](#) (Museum of the History of Polish Jews), Warsaw, Poland: Marketing Intern

Students, please visit CMC’s website or see page 5 for more details on MCHR sponsored internship deadlines.

Looking Forward: Spring '17 Programming

February

Feb. 7-8th: The MCHR is pleased to welcome Adotei Akwei, Managing Director for Government Relations for Amnesty International. Akwei will be speaking at the Athenaeum, interacting with faculty and leading workshops for students for training in grassroots activism and the structure of non-governmental organizations. Mr. Akwei has promised to accept one MCHR student for a summer internship in the Government Relations department located in the DC office of Amnesty International.

TBD: The Amnesty International chapter of CMC will be hosting a number of campaigns and events surrounding Mr. Akwei's visit to CMC. Events will include, a photo project highlighting what human rights means to CMC students, awareness of gun violence, and continuing support for Syrian refugees.

Feb 10: Deadline to apply for sponsored internship through the MCHR. Applications may be accessed [here](#).

April

April 20: Chris Bohjalian, Annual Mgrublian Lecturer on Armenian Studies, will take place in the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum

April 21: MCHR Spring Advisory Board Meeting

March

March 6th: Maria Trujillo, Human Trafficking Program Manager, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs, will present her findings on modern day human trafficking.

March 8th: In honor of International Women's Day, a number of task forces will be hosting an event to celebrate powerful women internationally and raise awareness about the most pressing issues faced by women around the world.

TBD: The MCHR will be hosting its fourth annual Human Rights Career Panel and Dinner which will bring several professionals in the field of human rights, to interact with students interested in pursuing a career in human rights and social justice. Last year's panelists included: Professor Heidi Haddad (Pomona College), Nazareth Haysbert (Human Rights Attorney), Mark Palmer (Advisory Board Member, Mgrublian Center for Human Rights).

TBD: Style Like U, event hosted by Power of Women task force.

May

TBD: Student Authors Meet Critics: "The Defense." Center Fellows, and students with honors theses in human rights, genocide and Holocaust history, will publicly defend their research.



MGRUBLIAN CENTER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Mgrublian Center for Human Rights

The Kravis Center, 3rd Floor

850 Columbia Ave. Claremont, CA 91711

Editor-in-chief: Larissa Peltola '18, lpeltola18@cmc.edu

With special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. David and Margret Mgrublian,
Professor Wendy Lower, and Kirsti Zitar

Not for re-print or publication without expressed written consent by the

Mgrublian Center for Human Rights.