



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 10 DECEMBER**  
**Sixtieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**  
**to be commemorated at United Nations Headquarters**

A number of special events to observe Human Rights Day and to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Wednesday, 10 December 2008. *Members of the media as well as UN staff, delegations, NGOs and members of the public are invited to attend.*

The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights will be awarded at the special afternoon commemorative General Assembly plenary meeting in the General Assembly Hall. The recipients of the 2008 Prize are: Ms. Louise Arbour, Mr. Ramsey Clark, Dr. Carolyn Gomes, Dr. Denis Mukwege and Human Rights Watch. Mrs. Benazir Bhutto and Sr. Dorothy Stang were awarded the prize posthumously. *A press conference with some of the prize recipients will take place in Room S-226 at 5:00 p.m.*

In his message for Human Rights Day, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reflected on the continuing struggle to see the universal human rights included in the Declaration enjoyed by everyone, everywhere. "The challenges we face today are as daunting as those that confronted the Declaration's drafters. We face a food emergency and a global financial crisis. Humankind's assault on the natural environment continues. There is political repression in too many countries. And as ever, the most vulnerable continue to be on the frontlines of hardship and abuse," stated the Secretary-General.

"On this Human Rights Day, it is my hope that we will all act on our collective responsibility to uphold the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. We can only honour the towering vision of that inspiring document when its principles are fully applied everywhere, for everyone," he said.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navathenem Pillay, called for greater efforts to implement human rights standards worldwide, saying "The success of human rights work depends on its commitment to truth, with no tolerance for double standards or selective application. We must work for the full implementation of human rights on the ground in a way that affects and improves the lives of the men, women and children who are all entitled, regardless of their race, sex, religion, nationality, property or birth, to realization of each and every right set forth in the Universal Declaration."

In addition to the morning award ceremony in the General Assembly, a number of other events are taking place at UN Headquarters on or around Human Rights Day. **Please turn over for a full schedule.**

**For journalists** without UN press accreditation wishing to attend events, please refer to the website of the Media and Accreditation Liaison Unit for details: <http://www.un.org/media/accreditation/> or contact: +1 212 963 6934.

**For NGOs and members of the general public** who wish to attend events on 10 December, please forward names and contact details to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights **by COB Wednesday 3 December** via tel: +1 212 963 5931 or fax: +1 212 963 4097.

**For non-accredited NGOs and members of the general public** who wish to attend the **DPI-NGO briefing on 11 December**, please forward names and contact details to Ms. Gail Bindley Taylor-Sainte by **COB Friday 5 December** via email: [sainte@un.org](mailto:sainte@un.org) or +1 917 367 9380.

**For media queries**, contact Renata Sivacolundhu, Strategic Communications Division, Department of Public Information, tel: +1 212 963 2932 e-mail: [sivacolundhu@un.org](mailto:sivacolundhu@un.org) or Melanie Nolte, Strategic Communications Division, Department of Public Information, tel: +1 917 367 0262 e-mail: [nolte@un.org](mailto:nolte@un.org).

**For more information on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and other events taking place around the world, see <http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/udhr60>



**Human Rights Day 2008 and the  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
Commemorative Events at UN Headquarters in New York**

Event	Time	Venue	Attendance
<b>Tuesday 2 to Tuesday 16 December</b>			
<b>Exhibition on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</b>	Two weeks duration	North-East Corner of the Secretariat Lobby	Delegates and UN visitors. Not open to the public
<b>Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 December</b>			
<b>DPI's Annual Student Conference on Human Rights</b> – focusing this year on Climate Change & Human Rights		The UN International School and UNHQ, with participation from schools around the world via videoconference	Students
<b>Tuesday 9 December</b>			
<b>Press briefing by the High Commissioner for Human Rights</b>	2:00 pm	S-226	UN-accredited press
<b>Press briefing</b> for launch of the <i>World Public Opinion and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> report	3:00 pm	S-226	UN-accredited press
<b>Wednesday 10 December</b>			
<b>General Assembly</b> - two consecutive panel discussions on lessons learned, current challenges and the way forward for human rights	9:00 am* - 1:00 pm <i>*start time TBC</i>	Trusteeship Council	Delegations Observers Accredited NGOs
<b>New Human Rights Dialogue Series</b> – concluding panel “ <i>Reclaiming The Vision: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Today</i> ” with the participation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prof. Philip Alston, Larry Cox, Michael Ratner, and Prof. Patricia Williams	1:15 – 2:45 pm	Conf. Room 4	All are invited to attend
<b>General Assembly plenary meeting</b> devoted to the UDHR 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, including the award ceremony of the UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights	3:00 - 6:00 pm	General Assembly Hall	Delegations Observers Accredited NGOs
<b>Press briefing</b> by the recipients of the UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights	5:00 pm	S-226	UN-accredited press
<b>Screening</b> of a selection of the <i>Stories on Human Rights</i> films, preceded by introductory remarks by the High Commissioner for Human Rights	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Conf. Room 4	All are invited to attend
<b>Thursday 11 December</b>			
<b>DPI-NGO briefing</b> “Dignity and Justice for All of Us: After 60 Years of the Universal Declaration, What Next?”	10:15 am – 12:00 pm	Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium	DPI and ECOSOC NGOs
<b>Monday 15 December</b>			
<b>Musical Concert</b> with Messenger of Peace Daniel Barenboim and his West-Eastern Divan Quintet	Evening	General Assembly Hall	By invitation only