

Nobel Peace Prize from behind bars

Jailed Chinese Human Rights activist wins 2010 Nobel Peace Prize

by Tamarah Olarie

On October 8, 2010 Liu Xiaobo, a recently jailed Chinese dissident, was awarded the renowned Nobel Peace Prize. Liu Xiaobo is a distinguished Chinese human rights activist that has become a symbol of the human rights struggle in China. He has been an important leader in human rights movements across China and for years has been fighting for change.

Liu has pushed against the Chinese communist state for years, and has been in and out of multiple prisons and labour education camps for his many peaceful political activities. One of the first occurrences was his participation in the hunger strike at the Tiananmen square protests which led to the loss of this job at Beijing University and imprisonment for three years in one of China's highest security prisons. He was convicted on charges of counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement. Only a few short years later, he was arrested for voicing his opinion against the Chinese Communist Party and was charged for disturbing the social order. After three years in a labour education camp he was released. Currently, he is serving eleven years in prison because of his involvement with the formulation of Charter 08 which is a document calling for greater freedom of expression, basic human rights, open and free elections, freedom of assembly and government reform in China.

When the Nobel committee announced the winner, the Chinese government contended the results stating, "The awarding of the peace prize by the committee to this person completely contradicts its aims and is an obscenity against the peace prize". In addition, they also



Chinese demonstrators demand Liu Xiaobo's freedom. Top left: Liu Xiaobo.

put restrictions on Liu's wife placing her under house arrest to assure that the news of his honour did not spread throughout the country. Prior to Liu's win, China warned the Norwegian government that if Liu was appointed the winner bi-lateral ties would suffer. Only a few days after the Chinese dissident was chosen, China cancelled meetings with the Norwegian Fisheries Ministry.

Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo makes it obvious that many government bodies and NGO's do recognize the numerous human rights abuses taking place in China. These issues are rarely talked about or addressed, because of the power and control China has gained from their countless economic and political ties. However, since the Nobel Peace Prize was announced there have been statements made from a number of country leaders advocating for the

release of Liu Xiaobo and for the removal of his wife's restrictions.

Many Chinese government officials and their supporters are arguing that this action was an effort of western countries to harm China because of the intimidating strength of their economy. It's hard to believe that this action has harmed the Chinese economy but one might consider the political and social awareness it has created within China and around the world. For years countries have been afraid to push against China, which makes this selection prominent. Speaking up about human rights in China has been far too uncommon in the Western world, but perhaps this is the turning point.

Tamarah Olarie is a 4th year International Studies student at the University of Regina. She is currently doing an internship with SCIC.



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We welcome readers' comments and contributions, including donations to help cover production and distribution costs. Put your pen to paper, or your fingers to the keyboard, and send your contributions to: SCIC Newsletter, 2138 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK. S4P 2R7 or communications@earthbeat.sk.ca.



SCIC

SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL
FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

For more information on the work of SCIC and its Member Agencies, please check out our Web site: www.earthbeat.sk.ca or e-mail: communications@earthbeat.sk.ca or call 306-757-4669.

Payment of *Earthbeat* subscriptions (\$10) and Friends of SCIC donations are welcome anytime!

SCIC REPORT

SCIC has been busy this fall! We have put on many events and have had great support from people in the community. Here are a few of the events we have done in the past few months.

From August 29-31, SCIC partnered with RPIRG offering an activist training camp to about 40 youth. Generating Momentum was a success, with three full days of workshops, presentations and networking. SCIC received a lot of very positive feedback and media attention from the camp, and are hopeful this can be an annual event. You can find more information on Generating Momentum on pages 4 & 5.

SCIC's Annual General Meeting took place on September 25 in Regina, with around 50 people participating. This year the business meeting of the AGM was held in the morning, an unusual occurrence for SCIC. As part of that meeting new members were nominated to the SCIC board of directors. SCIC would like to welcome Sacha Sahueller who was elected as the newest member of the board!

Following the business meeting, those in attendance were served a delicious lunch, catered by Afghan Cuisine. Following lunch Denise MacDonald and Senos Timon spoke about their experience in Southern Sudan this summer. They spoke about the mentoring program, the newly constructed technical school, and the great work that CHAKAM School of the Bible and SHHADA are doing in Sudan.

Following this, member representatives, board members, SCIC staff and hundreds of others from Regina and area attended a Stephen Lewis address at the University



SCIC member reps consider resolutions at AGM.

of Regina. His lecture was amazing and we were pleased with a huge turnout! University of Regina president, Vianne Timmons and SCIC Executive Director, Debra Albus started out the afternoon by welcoming Stephen Lewis to Regina. His talk was an emotional rollercoaster the audience laughed, many cried, and I think everyone left feeling challenged, but also empowered. It was a phenomenal and moving speech. He was extremely supportive of the work of SCIC and our member agencies and we are very thankful that RPIRG partnered with us so we were able to bring him to Regina!

On October 5, SCIC held a Development Issues Luncheon in Regina. About 30 people came out to hear Shaun Stroble speak about his Community Supported Fishery (CFS) in British Columbia. Shaun informed those in attendance about how CFS's operate and shared information on how Saskatchewan people can get involved. Delicious fresh BC wild salmon was served and everyone left knowing more about the importance of small, family fishing and how this model could be translated to the developing world.



Stephen Lewis addresses a packed house at the U of R.

KALEIDOSCOPE
DÉFI VIDEO / REAL WORLD VIDEO CHALLENGE

REAL WORLD VIDEO CHALLENGE!

AN ONLINE CONTEST FOR YOUTH - AGES 16 AND UNDER

**Are you an active global citizen?
Got something to say?
We are all ears!**

Submit a short video telling us why you care about global issues and what you think needs to be done!

You could win a video camera and a trip to Ottawa.

Deadline: March 31, 2011
For more information:
www.videochallenge.ca

Canadian International Development Agency / Agence canadienne de développement international

Calling all young film makers, teachers, youth groups, and clubs!

SCIC wants to help you create a video to enter into the Kaleidoscope contest. We are hoping to hold film making workshops in several locations around the province. If you are interested in attending or hosting a workshop, please contact Vicki at (306) 757-4669 or communications@earthbeat.sk.ca. This is a great opportunity for classes, social justice/environmental clubs, youth groups, or interested individuals to make a film and have the chance to win prizes and travel!

21st Annual Global Citizens Awards!

SCIC is calling for nominations for this year's Global Citizens Awards. For the past 21 years, SCIC has recognized over 75 individuals, couples, organizations, publications, youth and teachers worthy of the title "Global Citizens" for their work towards a better world for all. We have recognized prominent internationalists alongside young people just beginning their work; our only criterion is that the recipients are Saskatchewan residents or have a strong connection to this province, and have demonstrated a commitment and contribution to global justice and cooperation.

We will gather during International Development Week (at the beginning of February) to present the Saskatchewan Global Citizens award at a gala awards ceremony filled with stories of hope, peace and justice.

Nominations:

Global Citizens Nomination Forms must be received by December 10, 2010 and nominations will be re-

viewed by the SCIC Global Citizens Selection Committee. Please note: people sharing a nominations (i.e. a group or couple) will receive one, collective award.

If you want your candidates to receive individual awards, make sure you nominate them individually! For more information contact SCIC at 306-757-4669 or scic@earthbeat.sk.ca.

Nomination Form



Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

This person has been informed of the nomination: Yes No

First Nominator: _____

Second Nominator: _____

I have attached:

- A biographical description of my nominee and his/her contribution, including my feelings about why he/she deserves a Global Citizens Award
- Supporting letters (optional) Clippings (optional)



Return to SCIC by December 10, 2010.

Please note: People sharing a nomination (i.e. a group or couple) will receive one, collective award. If you want your candidates to receive individual awards, make sure you nominate them individually!

Generating Activist Leadersh

It was a cold week at the end of August, but regardless of the rain and uncomfortable temperatures 40 participants and over 20 facilitators came out to talk about global citizenship and how we can all make a difference in our world. On the first night, veteran activist and friend of SCIC, Don Kossick, reminded the room of young adults that they were apart of history. Generating Momentum was a unique opportunity for youth in Saskatchewan. Below are four short reflections of participants.

Generating Momentum has been a great experience for me. Every moment of the camp has been a learning opportunity; from listening to veteran activists – namely Catherine Verrall, Sue Deranger, Jim Harding, and Don Kossick – to ways of approaching the media. Most importantly I learned how not to minimize others opinions and ideas, and ways to deal with activist burnout.

The local food we shared was delicious, nutritious, and wholesome. Networking with fellow campers helped me make new friends and learn about issues. Since then, using the knowledge and skills acquired at GM I got involved with Pop the Monopoly campaign seeking an alternative to the exclusive Coca-Cola agreement at the University of Saskatchewan. I've made campaign presentations to U of S Students Union and GSA. We've been out there collecting signatures petitioning for an alternative, and we have been featured on CBC Saskatchewan News. For more information, please see our campaign website: <http://sites.google.com/site/popthemonopolyusask/>

In solidarity,
Victor Das



Participants are talking about social programs during an international trade workshop.



Thomas Roussin leads a workshop on activism through music.

Generating Momentum was a unique and positive experience. I gained useful information and became part of a network of young adults active in our communities. I really enjoyed the music and activism session,

it was really powerful. Music is a medium that speaks to a lot of people, therefore through lyrics activist can spread messages to the public in a different way. The session on *Theatre of the Oppressed* was very interesting as well. I found that it was a great tool for me to explore my experiences and also view others experiences of oppression in new and creative ways. In general, from this movement I gained much experience and inspiration.

Katelyn Lee



Katelyn and Vicki smile for the camera after enjoying a tasty meal.

Momentum ip Training Camp

I have attended many courses, conferences, events, lectures and the like over the years (Al Gore, Bill Clinton, Suzuki, Me2We Foundation, 7 years of University, Building Saskatchewan Green Conference 5 times). Hundreds if not thousands in total. *Generating Momentum* was the best conference I have ever attended! The people I met, the skills we developed, and the power, positive energy and encouragement that I felt each and every day was unbelievable. I am grateful and thankful to the organizers, the chef (vegetarian, vegan, omnivore and gluten free options at every meal – WOW), the incredible line up of speakers, and of course all of the wonderful people who attended. Other pieces that still stick out fire songs led by Thomas Roussin of the Nancy Ray Guns, among other brave

vocal souls around the fire. And of course the ‘feel the privilege line’ demonstrating to me how fortunate I am and thankful I should be for my upbringing. All in all the conference was perfect, a huge success, I hope it continues to happen, thank you SCIC, RPIRG and everyone else! “All the freaky people make the beauty of the world” (Michael Franti) “Civil disobedience is not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience” (Howard Zinn)

Curtis

Generating Momentum was an incredible opportunity. One of the most important elements I took away was that a strong activist is a well rounded activist. Being involved in several causes I sometimes have a hard time backing down, or not taking on too much. Other conventions and workshops I’ve attended have had an exhausting atmosphere as they drive the issues, and you feel pressured to continue that at home which has only enabled



Victor and Bryce talk strategy for their activism in Saskatoon.

my problem; a problem I feel is shared by many activists. Throughout *Generating Momentum* it was different. Their message was that you are no good to your friends, family, causes or to yourself if you burn out. Whether it was a sustain-a-story or journaling workshop they worked to opened our minds to something I personally needed to hear--that you need to create balance body, mind and soul and to each person this will be something different. It was a breath of fresh air to be in an environment that was so balanced and I feel I got more from the rest of the week because of this message.

Taren



The participants of *Generating Momentum*.

SCIC Youth

Summer Camp 101

by Fiseko Musonda

Where to begin? How can I, a black African woman born in Saskatoon but raised in Botswana, Zambia and South Africa speak to the importance, wonder and exciting world of summer camps such as the ones held by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association (SCA). Summer camps in general are a foreign concept to me and my experience of them was limited to renditions in Hollywood movies. While working with SCIC over the summer I was tasked with speaking to the youth about international development and social justice issues. What struck me most was the wonderful childhood innocence that most of them had simply because I was a black African woman. It was a wonderful, humbling and precious experience to see their minds approach me tentatively relying on what they had learnt at previous camps about diversity and how people are intrinsically the same regardless of where they were raised or what they looked. I was humbled, once again I was reminded of the importance of having our children attend camps that encourage them to be active citizens, and teaches them about diversity in all its wonder, beauty and ambiguity.

The camp community was a close knit circle of trust and safety built over six days and for most participants, this was the one place they could come to be their authentic selves.

Being tasked with presenting a workshop on HIV/AIDS was exciting, albeit daunting. Most importantly the chal-



Fiseko and fellow campers get serious at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association Summer Camp.

lenge was to find a way to approach the subject in that was both interesting and unique and was not reminiscent of health class. For the most part, the group saw HIV/AIDS as something in textbooks and news bulletins; not an everyday reality, and thus I relied on my personal experiences with organizations, family and friends living with and affected by the virus. What an eye-opener!

My experience with summer camps now? I realise that it is here where a young teen from small town rural Saskatchewan, or big city Saskatchewan can go to interact

with people that have realities far removed from their own. It is here that a young adult can grow and discover who they truly are without outside interference. It is here that organizations such as SCA and



Fiseko and friends let loose at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association Summer Camp.

SCIC remind us that we have a dual responsibility to each other. It is here in these summer camps that our future leaders learn that inaction is no longer a conceivable option and that being an active global citizen is nothing more than treating others how you wish to be treated – whether those others are people at camp or strangers in far away Africa.

Fiseko (Fifi) Musonda is a University of Saskatchewan student. Fifi spent the summer traveling around to youth camps talking about international justice issues on behalf of SCIC.

SCIC MEMBER PROFILE

USC Canada Seeds for Survival

Seeds are the first and most cherished ingredient in a farmer's toolkit. Heritage seeds are especially important to the smallholder producers USC Canada supports. Often passed on from parent to child, these seeds hold deep and unique assemblies of genetic traits reaching back through generations. Each one packs a treasure of problem-solving capability to evolve and adapt to changing conditions of climate, soils, and water resources, and to resist pests and diseases. Through the careful selection and planting choices they make every season, farmers play a critical role in conserving the planet's priceless agricultural diversity.

That's why, in 2007, USC Canada staff, Board of Directors and partners from around the world, decided to place its Seeds of Survival (SoS) program – featuring agricultural biodiversity – as the core focus of its support. Working in 10 key countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, USC Canada is supporting farmer-led initiatives that both enhance livelihoods and nurture the land; farming with nature and not against it.



A man carries his crop in India.



Women let the chaff blow away in Mali.

A series of short articles on the work co-funded with SCIC this year can be accessed at Via USC Canada's Website <http://usc-canada.org/category/archives/notes-from-nepal/>. Updates are added every 2 months. As USC continues to connect with a large constituency across the country and in key focal points, such as with our lead volunteer Karen Farmer in Saskatoon, public engagement tools and resources are being developed constantly. Check them out at our Creative Campaigning site <http://usc-canada.org/resources/creative-campaigning/>

And if you would like to connect directly with USC and learn about the great collaboration we have with others in Saskatchewan, just contact Kate Green at the USC office kgreen@usc-canada.org.

Founded 65 years ago by Dr. Lotta Hitchmanova, USC Canada is one of our country's oldest and most trusted international development organizations. Lotta gathered skilled and committed supporters, some of whom continue to support us to this day. Do you remember Lotta? We'd love to hear your stories or those of friends and family who knew her. We are collecting these as part of our 65th anniversary celebrations. Send them along to rain@usc-canada.org and do check out our Lotta website <http://usc-canada.org/lotta/>.



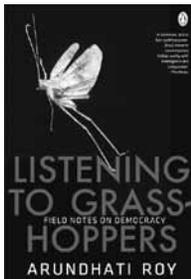
Upcoming Opportunities and Events

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 **Oxfam Social Justice Book Club**

7:00 pm. Oxfam Office,
416-21st Street East, Suite 200,
SASKATOON

Listening to Grasshoppers: Field Notes on Democracy
by Arundhati Roy

In this collection of essays Arundhati Roy asks a really difficult question: "What happens once democracy has been used up? When it has been hollowed out and emptied of meaning?" Sound applicable to our current political situation? Let's talk about it... The books are in at Turning the Tide Bookstore (525-11th St. East, 955-3070) and they are 20% off!! Ask for them at the counter. There are also a couple books available through the Saskatoon Public Library!



NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4 **A Visit by the Association of Men against Violence**

Presented by Oxfam, sponsored by SCIC. A Nicaraguan representative from Oxfam's global partner will be visiting Saskatoon and Regina. This group works with young men to promote reflection and personal change on issues such as violence, sexual and reproductive rights, responsible parenting, and gender roles. There will be presentations taking place at both Universities and elsewhere in the communities.

To get all the information on dates, times and locations make sure you are receiving SCIC's EZine! Not on the list? Email communication@earthbeat.ca.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 **International Aids Day**

Starting in 1988, World Aids Day has been an annual initiative to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. This year's theme is 'Universal Access and human rights'. Millions of people are living with HIV/AIDS and it is extremely important to support them and participate in World Aids Day! Watch for any events happening around your community or take the initiative to plan your own community fundraiser or event!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 **Facilitation Training for Young Global Citizens and Activists**

10:00 am-5:00 pm. Luther College, Room 100, University of Regina. SCIC will be putting on a FREE interactive workshop for young adults. Come and discover fun new ways to become engaged global citizens, activists, and leaders in your community! Participants will learn important and useful skills. Lunch and snacks will be provided. You can register on SCIC's website www.earthbeat.sk.ca or contact SCIC's office at 757-4669 or scic@earthbeat.sk.ca. Registration is limited so do register soon!

THURSDAY, **DECEMBER 9**

SCIC's Holiday Open House
4:00-8:00 pm. 2138 McIntyre St.,
REGINA

Come join SCIC at their Regina office, this holiday season! This is a great opportunity to socialize, enjoy holiday refreshments, and celebrate the holiday season.



DEVELOPMENT **ISSUES LUNCHEONS**

SCIC will also be hosting Development Issues Luncheons during November and December. Keep reading the SCIC EZine for dates and information.