

National Lawyers Guild - Delegation to Pakistan - January 2008

Saba Ahmed is a Pakistani-American law student at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, OR USA. Ms. Ahmed has a degree in Electrical Engineering and Physics from Portland State University, and is pursuing her law degree with a focus on International Business and Patent Law. After law school, she hopes to return to Asia and work in countries that have been devastated by armed conflict, focusing on providing education to women and children. Ms. Ahmed returns to Pakistan regularly.

Shahid Buttar is a civil rights lawyer, media activist, grassroots organizer and hip-hop musician based in Washington, DC. He graduated from Stanford Law School in 2003, where he served as a Constitutional Law Teaching Assistant and Executive Editor of the Stanford Environmental Law Review. While at Stanford, he also organized mass resistance to the War in Iraq, culminating in the non-violent seizure of San Francisco by 20,000 activists the day the war began. Since then, Shahid organized the first impact litigation on the east coast seeking marriage equality for same-sex couples, launched several grassroots groups and served as the spokesperson for the 2005 Counter-Inaugural protest challenging the legitimacy of President Bush's second term. Since 2005, he has built the communications and outreach departments of the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, a network of progressive lawyers, legal scholars and judges around the U.S., while serving on the Board of Directors of the Washington Peace Center. In early 2008, he will relocate to San Francisco, where he will launch a program for Muslim Advocates addressing racial and religious profiling of Muslim Americans. He frequently publishes social and political commentary for a range of outlets, and his first CD, *Get Outta Your Chair*, will be available in January 2008.

David Gesspass is a lawyer in private practice in Birmingham, Alabama. David is the newly-elected co-chair of the National Lawyers Guild's International Committee and the editor-in-chief of the Guild Practitioner, the Guild's theoretical journal. David has been an election supervisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in four elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina. David was also and an election observer for the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Armenia, Croatia and Macedonia. David also helped organize the National Lawyers Guild International Committee's seminar, *Out of the Classroom - Into the Courtroom: How to Use International Law in Our Everyday Law Practices*. David was a member of the delegation of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa in 2000 and represented the IADL on a delegation to meet with ousted President Aristide in Jamaica in April 2004 after the coup in Haiti.

Ryan Allen Hancock is a civil rights attorney in Philadelphia, PA. Ryan received his law degree from Rutgers School of Law. Following law school Ryan clerked in Camden County Superior Court, Criminal Division for the Honorable David G. Eynon. Currently, Ryan is Assistant Chief Counsel with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission the Commonwealth's civil rights agency and Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Lawyers Guild.

Enoka Herat is a 1L at the University of Washington School of Law and a steering committee member of UW's Immigrant Family Advocacy Project. She graduated with honors from Wesleyan University and has since worked at human rights organizations in Thailand,

Sri Lanka and Washington, D.C. Enoka developed her interest in the rule of law while working on a regional anti-corruption project and a judicial reform project in Thailand at the American Bar Association's Asia Law Initiative.

Kathy Johnson is a lawyer in private practice in Birmingham, Alabama. She has a masters degree in international human rights law from the Washington College of Law as well as a masters degree in public administration. She worked as a United Nations Volunteer with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees as a protection officer in Bosnia and Croatia in 1994. She served with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's missions as a Human Rights Officer in Bosnia Herzegovina in 1996 and as a Human Rights and Legal Adviser and chief of staff in Croatia in 1999 and 2000. She was an international legal advisor to the International Crisis Group's Humanitarian Law Documentation Project in Kosovo and Albania in 1999. Most recently, in 2006-2007, she initiated a criminal law project for the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative in Tajikistan. She has extensive election experience, having worked in several capacities as an election supervisor in Bosnia and was a core team legal analyst for the Bosnian elections in 2004. She has served as a long term election observer for the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Moldova, Ukraine and Estonia and as a short term observer in Moldova and Macedonia. She was a member of the NLG delegation to the IADL Congress in Paris in 2005 and is a longtime member of the National Lawyers Guild International Committee and a former member of its steering committee.

Kerem Levitas is a second year law student at the University of Washington School of Law where he is a member of the Washington Law Review. He also works part-time for a local legal aid organization that represents low income tenants in disputes with their landlords, eviction defense and housing benefits disputes. Over the summer, Kerem worked at the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland where he focused on voting rights and poverty law issues. Prior to coming to law school, Kerem spent two years at the U.S. Institute of Peace where he split his time between work on Iraq's regional relations and rule of law challenges in Pakistan and South Asia.

Radhika Sainath is a third year law student at the University of California Berkeley School of Law. During her summers, Radhika has worked on issues relating to national security, war crimes, free speech and immigrants rights at the ACLU, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Asian American Legal Defense Fund. Prior to joining Berkeley Law, Radhika lived and worked in the West Bank, where she conducted advocacy against Israel's West Bank Wall and supported Palestinian nonviolent resistance with the International Solidarity Movement. From 2001 to 2002, she organized South Asian and Latino workers with the Union of Needletrade, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) in New York and Toronto. Radhika is a co-editor and a contributor to Peace Under Fire: Israel/Palestine and the International Solidarity Movement (Verso 2004). Radhika was born and raised Orange County, California and has a B.A. in Political Science and Sociology from the University of California San Diego.