

9-20-2002

Activist Against U.N. Economic Sanctions of Iraq Leads Off UD's Campus Ministry Slate of Speakers

University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

University of Dayton, "Activist Against U.N. Economic Sanctions of Iraq Leads Off UD's Campus Ministry Slate of Speakers" (2002).
News Releases. 9977.

https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/9977

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

7JA(1)

C.1



Sept. 20, 2002
Contact: Pam Huber
Huber@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

ACTIVIST AGAINST U.N. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS OF IRAQ LEADS OFF UD'S CAMPUS MINISTRY SLATE OF SPEAKERS

DAYTON, Ohio — From capital punishment in America to AIDS in Africa, speakers coming to the University of Dayton this fall will share their stories of activism. UD's Center for Social Concern has lined up six presentations for this semester.

All presentations are free and open to the public.

Kathy Kelly, founder of Voices in the Wilderness and a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will address her opposition to the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq by the United Nations at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, in the Kennedy Union East Ballroom. She founded the organization in 1996 and has made more than a dozen illegal trips to the country, bringing supplies and documenting conditions.

In a presentation made in April, 2001, at the World Association of Christian Churches conference, Kelly said the sanctions against Iraq have caused the deaths of more than a million people, more than half of them children under the age of 5.

"The U.S. government maintains a bullying, threatening posture toward Iraqi civilians, essentially saying to Iraqi parents, 'We're now holding your children hostage,'" she said. "'You either force your government to unconditionally surrender to every demand we make or we'll slaughter these children. And if you don't believe we could do such a thing, check your statistics from last month. And the month before, and the month before.' And so the death toll rises. Mothers cradling limp and dying children stare at us and ask, 'Laish?' Why?"

-over-

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu

David Abdulai, called "the Mother Teresa of Africa," will talk about AIDS in his native country of Ghana and providing medical care to the poor at 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. The presentation is co-sponsored by Catholic Relief Services.

Abdulai, a physician, established his Shekhinah Clinic in 1989 and offers free medical care for anyone who needs it. "Provided you are a human being, you automatically qualify," Abdulai said in a June, 2001, story in *Catholic New World*. "The poor, elderly and those under 5 years old are supposed to receive free medical care in the hospitals, but in reality nobody will see a patient without them first paying 10,000 cedis (the equivalent of two days' wages).

"To let people die in peace is why I'm here," he said, noting that his clinic can only house patients with AIDS as the treatment is too expensive. "It's the last incident of your life that matters. If, at the end, a person is destitute and an outcast, they think they had a miserable life. We can give people the feeling that their opinion matters, that they are respected. We want to give people a real feeling of love, of God," he said.

"Ethics and War in the 21st Century," with presenters and panelists, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the Kennedy Union East Ballroom.

Marie Dennis, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, and Gerard Powers, director for international justice and peace issues for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will make presentations, followed by remarks from Joseph C. Kunkel, UD professor emeritus of philosophy; David A. Herrelko, UD visiting professor of engineering; and Danielle Poe, assistant professor of philosophy at UD.

The Rev. Roy Bourgeois, M.M., founder of the School of the Americas Watch, will come to campus Thursday, Oct. 24 (time to be determined). Bourgeois has led the annual protest at Fort Benning, Ga., since 1991. He will speak on the history and current status of what is now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

Critics charge the school "trains Latin American soldiers in combat, counter-insurgency and counter-narcotics. Graduates of the SOA are responsible for some of the worst human

rights abuses in Latin America," according to the School of the Americas Watch Web site.

Bourgeois went to prison after his first protest at the school. "Prison was hard, long at times, but we learned something very important: that they could send us to prison but they could not silence us. The truth cannot be silenced. ... The hardest part about prison ... is our loved ones, the separation from them. And sometimes they do not understand why we go to prison for these acts of conscience: what we might call 'civil disobedience' or some might refer to as 'divine obedience,'" he said in a March speech at SUNY Stony Brook.

Peace in El Salvador will be the topic for Rachel Hellman and Rosa Anaya, both of Christians for Peace in El Salvador (CRISPAZ), at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, in Kennedy Union Room 331. The organization was founded in 1984 to create awareness in the United States about the many social justice issues faced by the people of El Salvador.

Co-founder of Journey of Hope, Bill Pelke will speak about his opposition to the death penalty at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, in O'Leary Auditorium in Miriam Hall. His grandmother was killed by four teen-age girls, who then ransacked the house and made off with \$10 and the woman's 10-year-old car, in 1985. One of the girls was sentenced to death when she was 16, and although he initially approved the penalty, he eventually worked to get the verdict overturned. The girl is serving 60 years in prison.

"The answer is love and compassion for all of humanity," Pelke said. "The answer is to love those who hate you, to love those who persecute you, and to love those who do all manner of evil against you. I am a Christian, and Jesus said, 'Whosoever has no sin, cast the first stone.' Under that criteria, none of us can cast the stone of death."

-30-

For more information on the Center for Social Concern speakers, contact **Nick Cardilino** at (937) 229-2524 or via e-mail at nick.cardilino@notes.udayton.edu. Some photos are available electronically. To request a photo, contact Pam Huber at (937) 229-3241 or via e-mail at huber@udayton.edu.