



DC NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

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1. **Soldier Raps Against Stop Loss Policy, NLG Lawyers Defend**

Specialist Marc Hall joined that Army almost four years ago and was sent to Iraq with his unit. He performed well and returned stateside in February of last year. In July he was told his unit was going to be deployed to Iraq again in December 2009. His enlistment was up at the end of February 2010 which meant he would be "stop-lossed" - forced to remain in the military beyond the end of his enlistment contract. He was not happy.

In July he wrote a hip-hop rap song about his problem with stop-loss wherein he talked about shooting those who were responsible for keeping him in the Army. People in his unit heard the song and he was interviewed by his superiors - First Sergeant, Company Commander, Battalion Commander. No one did anything to him or



Specialist Marc Hall

indicated they were afraid of him because of the song. Instead they sent him to mental health for an examination.

The doctors said there was nothing wrong with him and he was fit to go overseas again. It seems they did not consider the issue of whether or not he was a threat to anyone. Marc was sent to training with his unit in preparation for Iraq, but he was not issued his weapon. Just prior to deployment in December he was arrested and put in the Liberty County, Georgia jail. His unit went off to Iraq without him.

A week later he had charges preferred against him claiming he threatened various people in his chain of command. Some of the charges stem from the lyrics in his song. He remains incarcerated.

The charges have not been referred for trial, but the Command at Ft. Stewart intend to send him to Kuwait for trial. In the meantime, Marc has applied for conscientious objector discharge. Sending Marc to the Middle East for trial violates Army regulations, but the command does not seem to care.

When they intend to send Marc overseas is unknown. David Gespass has volunteered to represent him.

-written by Jim Klimaski, who has been advising Mr. Hall up to now

2. Update from the American University WCL NLG Student Chapter

The WCL-NLG student chapter is planning to sending 9 students to the Rebellious Lawyering Conference at Yale, Febr. 19-21. They will be driving there. Also, the chapter co-sponsored an event with the Immigrant Rights Coalition and the WCL Chapter of LaLSA that raised \$350 for Haiti.

-submitted by Edmundo Saballos, LLM Student, WCL-NLG

3. For Those of Us who Missed Out...

During our last Happy Hour, Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the Lucky Bar, about 15 attorneys, legal workers and students enjoyed appetizers and libations while we discussed Obama's upcoming state of the union address, recent elections, Michelle Rhee's press statement, and the job market for new and displaced attorneys.

-submitted by Megins Skolnick, Happy Hour Planner. Do you have a favorite place in mind to host a NLG happy hour? Let us know!

4. Additional Members and Family who Attended the Annual Latke Party

The Newsletter inadvertently left out these additional merrymaking members and family who attended the Annual Holiday Latke Party: Ed Elder and his spouse and daughter, Uri Strauss, Danny Katz and his spouse, and Stephanie Joseph and her daughter.



HAITI SUBCOMMITTEE
<http://www.nlginternational.org/com/main.php?cid=3>

There are no updates about Haiti at this website since the earthquake, but it is an interesting resource to learn what the NLG has been working on with Haiti.

5. Events

Feb 14 – Film “Plundering Appalachia – Deep Down,” 8 pm, Busboys and Poets, 14th and V Sts, NW, this film “...puts a human face on the consequences of our environmental impact.”
Cosponsored by Natural Resources Defense council and NomadsLand

Feb 15 – Stop Death Penalty Expansion in Virginia, rally with abolitionists to show VA Senate opposition to the death penalty. More info here
<http://www.washingtonpeacecenter.org/node/2594>

6pm - Howard Zinn Tribute, Busboys and Poets, 14th and V Sts, NW, featuring Amy Goodman, Ralph Nader and more

Feb 16 – Evaluating Copenhagen: What it Means for Ecology, Economy, and Equity at the Jewish Community Center, 1529 16th St., NW, 7-9pm, cosponsored by the International Forum on Globalization, Institute for Policy Studies, Action Aid USA, Oil Change International, and Friends of the Earth

Feb 17 – Stop the Suits!! CISPES sponsored PROTEST against Mining Company Pacific Rim. Meet at Law Firm of Crowell and Moring, counsel for Pacific Rim and Blackwater, at 1001 Pennsylvania Ave., at 10th St. from 8:30-9:30am and again from 12-1pm

4-6pm – Support the Wings Workers Strike, Hold GW Accountable. Prayer Vigil in front of GW’s Square 54 Project, in front of GW Metro Station (corner of 23rd and I St., NW)

Feb 18 – Gaza One Year Later: Picking Up the Pieces, 12:30-2pm, the Palestine Center, 2425 Virginia Ave., NW, with Bill Corcoran, president of ANERA, a non-profit that works in Palestine, rsvp here <http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/ht/d/RegisterForEvent/i/8566>

Feb 22 – Congo, from Lumumba to Freedom, 6:45-8:45pm, discussion with Congolese analyst-activists Kambale Musavuli and Prof. Yaa-Lengi Ngemi, suggested donation of \$7, Congolese food served, RSVP at <http://www.hotsalsa.org/index.php?cid=1001349>