The Obama administration’s failure to close down the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay by January 11, 2010 was driven by the significant opposition that arose soon after the order was signed in 2009. In attempts to appease conflicting standpoints, the administration compromised much of its initial roundtable stance. Human rights violations, such as abuses at Abu Ghraib, were condemned by the administration. Public opinion was well aware of the major support the closing of the camp had, or it would not remain open.

Increasingly, the White House insists that closing down the facility is necessary because it has grown to be a prominent symbol of abuse against the Muslim world. This can be attributed to the internal conflict that has been portrayed as a measure of the fall of the U.S. administration. The administration did little to counter its decision.

Military commissions were established, one that continued to deny prisoners the legal protections found in federal courts. Moreover, the administration reserved the right to detain new terrorist suspects indefinitely without trial. Although Congress impeached the process of the moving detainees to prisons in the U.S., the administration did little to counter its decision.

Ten days after the 2010 deadline, not only were these orders fulfilled—they were progressively refined to reflect more closely the ideals set forth by the Bush administration. A new form of military commissions now exists, which continues to deny prisoners the legal protections found in federal courts.

What is the Global Network of Women’s Political Movements? An umbrella organization of NGOs working toward monitoring the implementation of women’s peace and security. The program aims to strengthen civil society and women’s movements in their work toward the eradication of violence against women and the achievement of a new, more peaceful world. The program works toward encouraging women’s influence in conflict prevention and resolution, promoting their participation in decision-making, in situations of political change, conflict and post-conflict states.

Now, more than ever, the role of women in society and government is of utmost importance.

What is the role of women in society and government? The role of women in society and government is fundamental. It is essential that women are empowered to participate in decision-making processes and are given equal opportunities to participate in social, economic, political, and cultural life.

What is your opinion on the importance of the role of women in society and government? It is essential to ensure that women are given equal opportunities in all aspects of life, including access to education, health care, and economic opportunities. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that women’s voices are heard in decision-making processes and that their rights are protected.

What have you learned from your experience with GWNP? My experience with the Global Network of Women’s Political Movements has been empowering. It has provided me with the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes and to advocate for the rights of women around the world.

The overall increase in extreme weather events will affect more people and generate huge displacement. For example, if current climate change policies continue, by 2050, more than 700 million people will be displaced by climate change effects.

Environmental degradation is on the rise, posing serious threats to the environment and the well-being of communities around the world.

LIVING IN A Degrading World

by Enmy Rodriguez

Environmental degradation is on the rise, posing serious threats to the environment and the well-being of communities around the world. Millions of displaced from their homes amid an increase in climate change.

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**Statelessness still a problem for Haitians in the Dominican Republic**

**by Jackie Cameron**

Many of us don’t really think about our citizenship on a daily basis. We only think about it if we want to pursue studies abroad and need to gather the necessary paperwork, or if we want to vote, or if we are rooted for the American team in the Olympic Games. But in 2008, there were about 12 million people in the state of New York, unprotected by national legislation, and left in legal limbo—according to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The circumstances they face leave them on the margins of society, where they lack identity documentation and are the victims of rampant prejudice.

One of the countries where such discrimination is prominent is the Dominica Republic. The Dominican Republic shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Although the two are close in physical distance, they are not close in their political relationship. Decades of un-
Statelessness still a problem for Haitians in the Dominican Republic

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Many of the don’t really think about our citizenship on a daily basis. We only think about it if we want to pursue studies abroad and need to gather the necessary paperwork, or if we want to vote, or if we’re not rooting for the American team in the Olympic Games. But in 2008, there were about 12 million people in the service of statelessness in any state, unprotected by national legislation, and left in legal limbo—according to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The circumstances they face leave them on the margins of society, where they lack identity documentation and are the victims of rampant prejudice.

One of the countries where such discrimination is prominent is in the Dominican Republic. This country shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Although the two are close in physical distance, they are not close in their political relationship. Decades of un-"Domestic side of human trafficking: Sex work and foster care in the U.S."developing countries looking for a better life in a wealthier part of the world. But it doesn’t have to be that way. There are numerous organizations advocating for children—fostering care for and promoting the rights of children. And many of these groups are working hard to overcome the problems that result from statelessness. There are, however, some exceptions to this rule. For example, in the Dominican Republic, foster homes and group homes that accommodate children who have been orphaned, abused, or abandoned. These homes provide a safe and nurturing environment for these children, allowing them to develop their full potential.

The Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, Abuse, and Prevention Act of 2010 is now being considered in the Senate, and it will provide more support to youth who have experienced forms of abuse or neglect. The bill also includes provisions to protect children from labor trafficking. The bill includes provisions to ensure that children who are rescued from trafficking situations are provided with the necessary support to help them rebuild their lives. These provisions include educational and vocational training opportunities, counseling and mental health services, and legal advocacy.

Statelessness still a problem for Haitians in the Dominican Republic

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MANY of don’t really think about our citizenship on a daily basis. We only think about it if we want to pursue studies abroad and need to gather the necessary paperwork, or if we want to vote, or if we’re not rooting for the American team in the Olympic Games. But in 2008, there were about 12 million people in the service of statelessness in any state, unprotected by national legislation, and left in legal limbo—according to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The circumstances they face leave them on the margins of society, where they lack identity documentation and are the victims of rampant prejudice.

One of the countries where such discrimination is prominent is in the Dominican Republic. This country shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Although the two are close in physical distance, they are not close in their political relationship. Decades of un-
Are the Obama administration’s efforts to shut down the facility all but gone? 

Continuing on the same trajectory, the Obama administration’s assertions at Guantanamo Bay have been silenced to the point where it is implicitly understood that all of President Obama’s 2009 orders cannot come to fruition before the end of his term. Instead of adhering to the honorable call to cease legal and human rights violations, further amendments have been made to the order. This change in tone from the administration mirrors public opinion as well: although a majority supported the closing of the camp in 2009, 60% now want it to remain open.

Still, the White House insists that closing down the facility is necessary because it has grown to be a prominent symbol of abuse against the Muslim world. Progress has been allowed to slip by, as the first civil trial of a former Guantanamo detainee was held. Ahmed Khalaf Ghatilan’s trial specifically addresses his role in a 1998 plot to bomb two U.S. embassies in East Africa. To limit the focus of the trial on his earlier case, a point was made to avoid any mention of Guantanamo Bay.

The Secretary of Columbia University Amnesty International shares her thoughts on the role of women in civil society and government and women’s rights. I always knew I wanted to help make a difference, but I never thought of the chance to make my interests in a proactive way. Being an intern with GWPI has allowed me to explore internships and women’s rights on a hands-on level. Getting involved from women around the world about the program and get the work done in the public interest. The women are all the most affected by violence, yet none have a platform to make a difference. I am trained that you don’t always have to have a well-known organization or institutions such as the United Nations or the Human Rights Watch to promote change.

LIVING IN A Degrading World

by Emery Rodriguez

Environmental degradation is on the rise, posing serious threats to the natural environment and climate change. This has the potential to affect our future on the planet. Studies have concluded that environmental degradation and climate change have produced another large-scale issue that calls for proactive international action. Environmental migration has become a major policy challenge for this century, and data suggests that it will continue to be one in the future.

Environmental migrants are understood to be those individuals, communities, and societies who choose, or are forced, to migrate as a result of damaging environmental and climatic factors. This includes sudden natural disasters, gradual environmental degradation, and long-term climatic factors such as drought and rising sea levels. Several million people are displaced from their homes due to environmental reasons, but this number is only an educated guess based on scattered case studies and academic papers. The number is expected to rise dramatically in the next 50 years, creating the need for collective action.

Poverty, failing ecosystems, vulnerable infrastructure, and gradual climate-driven environmental changes are all linked to environmental migration. This is a major issue in many developing countries that are particularly vulnerable in terms of location and socioeconomic status. In Vietnam, for example, rising sea levels have contributed to an increase in flooding—especially in the Mekong Delta. The Delta is a vital region, as it holds many rice fields that aid the country in meeting its developing goals. As a result, flooding in this region has pushed many rice farmers into urban centers, contributing to a slowdown in growth and stalled development.

It is expected that the combination of climate change and climate migration will affect migration in three different ways. First, the effects of warming are already influencing some regions where red heat agricultural potential and undermine ecosystem services. Inhabitants of rural areas depend on agriculture to support their families financially. Second, Millions displaced from their homes amid an increase in climate change coping strategy for affected populations. Still, environmental migration contributes to rapid urbanization and a massive humanitarian crisis that pressures communities. Additionally, migration is an ineffective solution, because degraded regions are not emptied adequately to allow for environmental recovery.

To solve the problem of migration due to climate change, the international community must create methods to

1.4 Billion Reasons to eradicate extreme poverty

With new film, Global Poverty Project aims to inspire audiences to take action and improve the lives of others

by Laura Baron

Every generation has an institution to eradicate that of slavery, of disenfranchisement. This is not to say the injustice itself disappears. Instead, the individuals may still exist socially—in forms such as racism, xenophobia—but the political structure that fosters them can, under the applied force of a dedicated movement, become obsolete. It is the first step; from there, it is possible to tackle the remaining outlets, with the hope of someday making even the underlying biases expire.

This point was the most resounding of those made last Wednesday in the Global Poverty Project’s one hour, five part presentation, 1.4 Billion Reasons. The multimedia film compares the elimination of poverty to movements to expand structural oppression in the past. As abolitionists overcame slavery in a time when many Americans believed the institution too entrenched to disappear, the ambition of ending extreme poverty can also overwhelm the prejudices against it. The film draws the parallel to preceding structures

spotlight: Jackie Carrero, CC ’13

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Want to get involved? Come to our bi-weekly meetings, Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. in East Hall, or email us at cuami.boo@gmail.com.

AMNESTY ADVOCATE
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THEN & NOW: Guantanamo Bay

by Rachel Eichner

The Obama administration’s failure to close down the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay by January 2010 was driven by the significant opposition that arose soon after the order was signed in 2009. In attempts to appease conflicting standpoints, the administration compromised much of its initial roundtable stance against human rights violations. Such compromises gradually transformed the original ideals set forth into a far less effective way to end the injustices symbolized by this camp.

Obama’s 2009 executive order promised to close down the facility, to end the CIA’s secret interrogation program, to reinstate habeas corpus, and to institute more effective procedures to deal with terrorism suspects in the future. However, months after the 2010 deadline, not only were these orders unfulfilled—they were progressively refined to reflect more closely the ideals set forth by the Bush administration. A new form of military commissions was established, one that continued to deny prisoners the legal protections found in federal courts. Moreover, the administration reserved the authority to detain new terrorist suspects indefi-initely without trial. Although Congress impeded the process of moving detainees to prisons in the U.S., the administration did little to counter its decision.

What is the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders building in the region and how will your involvement in the program? The GWNP is working toward monitoring the implementation of women’s peace and security. The program strives to strengthen civil society and women’s participation in peace negotiations. The program builds on the experiences of women in situations of civil and state security conflicts.

As an intern for the past two months, I’ve been working on researching the film for the upcoming premiere for it’s screening on GWNP’s website. I’ve also contacted international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) that work under the umbrella of GWNP’s network to create profiles for our browselinks. I’ve also been involved in exchanging excellences with women worldwide about their accomplishments in political society and logistic planning and advertisement for upcoming events such as the peace and cyber dialogues.

What have you learned from your experience with GWNP? I’ve always been interested in international affairs and women’s rights. I always knew I wanted to help make a difference, but I never thought of the chance to make my interests in a proactive way. Being an intern with GWNP has allowed me to explore internships and women’s rights on a hands-on level. Getting involved from women around the world about the program and get the work done in the public interest. The women are all the most affected by violence, yet none have a platform to make a difference. I am trained that you don’t always have to have a well-known organization or institutions such as the United Nations or the Human Rights Watch to promote change.

What are your thoughts on the importance of the role of women in society and government? What can students do to make a difference? It is important that women participate in peace negotiations and peace conflict resolution.

Contribute to the amnestylead advocacy newsletter at www.amnestyusa.org. Our aim is to foster open dialogue about the challenges our community faces. We believe that engaging in constructive discourse around these issues is essential to our shared goal of combating human rights violations and promoting peace and justice.

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