

E-Newsletter July 2008
American Anthropological Association (AAA)

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[AAA Highlights and News](#)

NSF Signs Agreement with Pentagon on Minerva

Pentagon officials have signed a three-year agreement with the National Science Foundation to coordinate operations on the Minerva project, a Defense Department initiative to fund social science research on subjects that may be relevant to US national security interests. Learn more:

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08594/nsf08594.htm?govDel=USNSF_38.

AAA President Setha Low will be discussing the Minerva program during a conference call on Thursday, July 31, 2-3 pm. For more information or to sign up for the call, email jsteffensen@aaanet.org.

Committee for Human Rights Releases Letter on Tibet

The AAA's Committee for Human Rights (CfHR) issued a statement on the protests that spread throughout China's Tibetan regions last spring. The statement urges the government of the People's Republic to address some of the underlying cultural, economic, political, and religious issues that fueled the violence. To read the letter, go to: <http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/cfhr/upload/Tibet-Statement.pdf>.

CfHR Responds to Death Threats to Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation

The Committee for Human Rights drafted a letter in response to death threats sent to the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation for their efforts to document past and present human rights abuses by illegal armed forces. FAFG has been receiving threats since 2002, and their attempts to address these issues through the Public Ministry (Guatemalan Ministerio Publico) have been unsuccessful. CfHR's letter to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala will hopefully prompt a more intense investigation. For more information, go to:

<http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/cfhr/AAA-Responds-to-Threats-to-Anthropology-Foundation-in-Guatemala.cfm>.

AAA Backs Global AIDS Legislation

The AAA addressed a letter to Senate majority leader Harry Reid, requesting that he urge his fellow Senators to reject any amendments to the Global AIDS Bill that would decrease funds for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The bill was expected to pass the Senate floor prior to the G-8 Summit, but several Republicans stopped the bill in its tracks. These Senators are retaining their holds on the bill because of concerns over its \$50 billion price tag and its family-planning and prevention programs.

AAA “Pulse of the Planet” Series

Scholars from the “Pulse of the Planet” session at AAA’s 2008 annual meeting are turning their conference papers into op-ed columns that will be published between May and the middle of November in CounterPunch, an online news magazine. The articles aim to reshape public debate during the presidential race and draw attention to critical issues in human rights and environmental policy. You can read the second op-ed titled, “The Human Right to Eat,” by Joan Mencher of City University of New York’s Graduate Center at <http://www.counterpunch.org/mencher06282008.html>.

What’s Coming Up?

Second Quarterly Media Conference Call: AAA President Setha Low and Executive Director Bill Davis will discuss news in the AAA and anthropology during the second quarterly teleconference to be held July 31 from 2-3 pm. Topics include discussion on the Pentagon’s Minerva project and an update on world food problems with Sol Katz, co-chair of the AAA Task Force on World Food Problems. To register and receive call-in information, email jsteffensen@aanet.org.

San Francisco to Host 2008 Annual Meeting: Save the date! The AAA 2008 annual meeting will be held November 19-23 at the San Francisco Hilton and Towers in San Francisco, CA.. To register for press credentials, please contact Jennifer Steffensen at 703-528-1902 ext. 3039 or jsteffensen@aanet.org.

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