

Human Rights Watch

Defending and Protecting Human Rights

DEDICATED TO DEFENDING AND PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD,

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is one of the world's leading independent organizations. With offices around the world, HRW, established a presence in Southern California with the foundation of the Human Rights Watch Council, 20 years ago.

"I was recently introduced to the Human Rights Watch group by long time friends, Judy and Rob Egenolf," shared Al Keys, HRW supporter and SB REALTOR. "I was very impressed with the organization because of the strength, commitment, and high focused energy of the staff. As a result I recently became a supporter."

The Council is a network of committees across 17 cities in Asia, Europe, and North America. The California Committee was co-founded in Los Angeles by Jane Olson and Stanley Sheinbaum in 1989, and expanded to Santa Barbara in 2005.

Santa Barbara Committee members meet regularly to learn about human right abuses, sponsor policy discussions, and generate support for Human Rights Watch and its mission through fundraising, outreach, and advocacy.

"It's important to have an organization like HRW in our community because

Santa Barbara, my community, is unique," shared Keys. "While we have our share of issues, we also have what appears to be a large number of people who are committed to elevating all people's rights and fair treatment through contributions, effective organizations, time, talent, and expertise."

As part of their commitment to human rights, the committee hosts an annual dinner, Voices of Justice, that celebrates the valor of individuals who put their lives on the line to defend the rights of others.

Last year, for the first time, the honorees were presented with the Alison Des Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism. The award was named for an HRW activist that died in a plane crash.

Elena Milashina a reporter for *Novaya Gazeta*, Russia's leading independent newspaper and Daniel Bekele, a lawyer and activist from Ethiopia were honored at the 2009 Santa Barbara Committee dinner.

Bekele was recognized for continuously challenging the Ethiopian government to uphold the civil and political rights that protect all people and Milashina for her courage to confront Russia's deeply problematic human rights record.

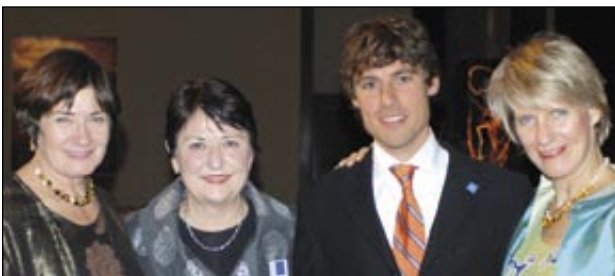


Elena Milashina, Russia, Alison Des Forges Award Recipient



Christopher Albin-Lackey, Senior Researcher, Africa and **Daniel Bekele**, Ethiopia, Alison Des Forges Award Recipient

For more information call 284-4232 or visit www.hrw.org.



Jane Olson, International Board of Directors Chair; **Victoria Riskin**, SB Committee Chair; **Paul Lynch**, Cage Free Productions; and **Carroll Bogert**, Associate Director



Tanya Lokshina, Deputy Director, Moscow and **Susan J. Rose**, SB Committee Vice Chair



Back: **Anne Lise Keys**; **Rob Egenolf**; **David Krouse**; **Linda Hatch Krouse**; **Joyce Dudley**, DA candidate; **Roger Durling**, SBIFF Executive Director; **John Michael Cohen**; and **Derek Westen**. Front: **Al Keys**; **Dr. Dan Launspach**; **Judy Egenolf**; **Marcia Cohen**; and **Beth Westen**.

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