



## Voice Your Opinion

1) How should the international community react to Iranian President Ahmadinejad's statement at the United Nations General Assembly that called the June election "glorious" and disregarded the millions of Iranians protesting in the streets accusing the election process as fraudulent?

2) Bono, lead singer of popular band U2, leads several human rights campaigns and incorporates this into his concerts. Is merging pop culture with social activism an effective tool for change? Would it work in your country?

Email your responses to [wymdemocracy@gmail.com](mailto:wymdemocracy@gmail.com) to be shared in next month's edition.

## Cool Websites

- <http://www.tigweb.org/>

Connect with a social network for positive change.

- <http://www.byshr.org/>

Support the work of youth activists in Bahrain.

- <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/manuals/protection>

Learn how to protect yourself as a human rights defender.

## Youth Spotlight: Esraa Fattah Ahmed Rashid

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 marked the beginning of a new form of revolution through the use of Facebook, a social networking site well known among the world's youth. Thirty year old Esraa Abdel Fattah promoted through her Facebook group, "April 6- General Strike for Egyptian People," a call for an active strike in Egypt. Esraa wanted to not only mobilize the workers whose wages could not keep up with the doubling, almost tripling food prices, but also to call upon the youth of the country to stand up against an oppressive regime. This young activist often asked herself whether or not Egyptians could unite under a particular issue to create pressure on the government. After being arrested at the April 6th strike and spending two weeks in jail, she is back in action fighting for social justice through a campaign called "My vote...is my call." "The next elections," Esraa explains, "inspires me to come back again. I believe that the next election is the most im-

portant election in Egyptian political life." Mobilizing Egypt's youth to promote transparent elections and international monitoring is now on Esraa's agenda, an objective she wishes to achieve without, once again, having to put her freedom on the line. The next parliamentary election will be held in 2010, and presidential election in 2011.

\*To learn more about the youth movement in Egypt stay tuned for video clips from our World Youth Day for Democracy celebration featuring Esraa as a speaker.



**Esraa peacefully protesting**

Checkout our website for the full interview with Esraa.

## Stay Alive and Spread the Word Campaign

Youth Forum Zimbabwe recently launched a nationwide campaign titled "Stay Alive and Spread the Word" targeting youth in the country's political provinces. This campaign focuses on distributing an educational reader on constitutionalism, transitional justice, the global political agreement, and human rights in a package that includes a male and female condom. Through this, Youth Forum Zimbabwe encourages young people to remain focused in the fight for democracy whilst not forgetting to take necessary measures to protect themselves against HIV/Aids and encourages youth to interconnect HIV/Aids discourse with the national political discussion. Distribution will be followed up with focus groups in all regions that initiate a debate to identify key issues related to youth that should be brought to the attention of the national policy debate.

## 10 Ways to Celebrate World Youth Day for Democracy on October 18

1. Start a political mural and ask others to add their vision of democracy to it!
2. Use sidewalk chalk to write a message important to you or simply a celebratory remark in your town square or neighborhood.
3. Conduct an impromptu street skit to raise awareness of an issue in your community. Ask others to participate!
4. Hold a forum with a government official or civil society leader.
5. Bring local youth together and discuss issues relevant to you and to your community.
6. Be a photo journalist! Take pictures of political events or even the daily lives of people in your neighborhood and share these on Facebook, etc.
7. Wear a white wrist band, expressing Cuba's democracy movement "Cambio." (change)
8. In solidarity for democracy activists in Iran wear green.
9. Get involved in a political campaign or start your own!
10. Volunteer in your community.

Help us document youth contributions to democracy by sending pictures to be compiled into a World Youth Day for Democracy music video!  
Share stories of your celebration to be highlighted in the upcoming newsletter!

## **Asia Youth Caucus**



Dozens of young activists from Asia gathered together along with over one hundred other democracy and human rights activists in Asia at the third biennial assembly of the World Forum for Democratization in Asia. The young activists actively participated in workshop discussions on issues, such as the role of media in defending civil society, civic participation, and ASEAN human rights mechanism, which resulted in the WFDA Seoul Declaration (<http://biennial.wfda.net/?FID=14>). Youth participants also organized a youth caucus, during which they discussed how they could sustain their networking efforts and build regional solidarity among them.

**Staying connected is as easy as 1-2-3!**

- 1) Join our new Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=19044568697&ref=mf>
- 2) Visit our new Website: [www.wymdonline.org](http://www.wymdonline.org)
- 3) Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/WYMD>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Cecilia@ned.org](mailto:Cecilia@ned.org) or [Beth@ned.org](mailto:Beth@ned.org). We are here to support your work anyway possible, whether it is helping out with a campaign or connecting you to other activists in your area or beyond!

Essay contest winners will be announced on October 18, in conjunction with World Youth Day for Democracy, through Facebook, [wymdonline.org](http://www.wymdonline.org), and Twitter. Stay connected and find out who won!



**WYMD**

## **Message from the Editor**

### ***Greetings!***

***As many of you know, we have begun a major campaign to vamp up the efforts of the World Youth Movement for Democracy. Many exciting developments have come from this: an essay contest with over 400 contestants, our active Facebook page, a new website ([wymdonline.org](http://wymdonline.org)), connecting on Twitter, and much more! We hope to continue providing activities and information that is useful to our members, but in order to do this we need to hear from you. What tools would be***

***useful for your work? What features would you like to see on our website? How can we be an effective networking tool for you?***

***We are here to support you! We can help publicize your organization's event through our newsletter, website, or Facebook. We can connect you with like-minded activists in your region to partner in your efforts, or we can connect you with activists in other parts of the world to exchange ideas with or to offer technical advise. Or if you have specific needs for a project,***

***please let us know and we will try to accommodate your request!***

***We, as youth, are capable of creating a lasting impact in our communities, countries, and the world! Let us unite to make that change together as a global force for democracy and human rights everywhere!***

***Until next month,***

***B e t h     D a v i s  
M a n a g i n g     E d i t o r***

## **Upcoming Events**

***Oct. 16, 3:30pm-5pm:  
Celebration of World Youth Day for Democracy: Voices of Youth Activism.  
Location: Washington, DC  
Contact: [wymdemocracy@gmail.com](mailto:wymdemocracy@gmail.com)***

***Oct. 21, 9am-12pm:  
Defense, Security, and Justice: How to organize national and regional defense in a global world  
Location: Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Contact:  
[posgrdos@epoca.org.ar](mailto:posgrdos@epoca.org.ar)***

***Oct. 30, 8:50am-11:50pm:  
El Qella el Mondassa Conference  
Location: Cairo, Egypt  
Contact: [shabab6april.mov@gmail.com](mailto:shabab6april.mov@gmail.com)***