



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## **Amnesty International of the USA Inc. Francita Schermann Papers11002635**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.  
Description is written in: English.

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Summary .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: Death Penalty .....	6
Series II: General .....	8

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Schermann, Francita
<b>Title:</b>	Amnesty International of the USA Inc. Francita Schermann Papers
<b>ID:</b>	11002635
<b>ID:</b>	HR#0001.42
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1984-2006
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1991-2000
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.75 linear feet 3 record cartons and 1 small box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection documents Francita Shermann's work with AIUSA, primarily on issues relating to the death penalty and police brutality in the United States and South America.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); AIUSA Francita Shermann Papers, 1984-2006; Box and Folder; Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Sister Francita Shermann worked primarily on issues relating to the death penalty and police brutality in the United States and South America. She ministered to and visited prisoners and educated others about the death penalty. One case she worked on was that of Leonard Peltier, a member of the American Indian Movement who was charged with murder after a shootout between law enforcement and AIM. Amnesty International considered Pelteir a political prisoner.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Summary

---

Materials include clippings and articles on methods of execution, wrongful convictions, and death penalty cases in several states, general information on police brutality, International human rights publications, and slides.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

This collection is arranged into 2 series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Revision Description

EAD document created by CCR. 2021-04-27

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from Amnesty International of the USA, Inc.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Francita Schermann. Method of acquisition--Deposit;; Date of acquisition--2006.

### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Carolyn Smith in 2014. Finding aid written by Carolyn Smith in June 2018.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection has no access restrictions.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

All original copies of audio / moving image media / born digital materials are closed until reformatting. Please email [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

See Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research (CHRDR) page for more information about all AIUSA collections: [https://library.columbia.edu/libraries/chrdr/archive\\_collections/aiusa.html](https://library.columbia.edu/libraries/chrdr/archive_collections/aiusa.html)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Capital punishment
- Police brutality
- Human rights
- Correspondence
- Death row
- Lethal injection (Execution)
- Amnesty International USA
- Amnesty International

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series I: Death Penalty, 1989-2006

#### Scope and Contents

This series includes articles by and about death row inmate Michael Ross, clippings and articles on other death row inmates, capital punishment methods, wrongful convictions, and copies of death certificates, among other documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Michael B. Ross--Articles and Correspondence, 1998-2004 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 1	folder 1-2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Includes audiocassette		
Death Penalty Press, 1992-2000	box 1	folder 3-4

Physical Description: 2 folders

Emission Control Ltd., 1989-1997 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 1	folder 5-6
Individuals, 1992-2002 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 1	folder 7-8
Frankie Parker, 1992 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Contains photographs	box 1	folder 9
Harold McQueen, 1997	box 1	folder 10
"Shall Suffer Death", 1995-1997	box 1	folder 11
"How They Die"--Clippings, Research on Death Penalty, 1994-2003 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 1	folder 12-14
"How They Die"--Clippings, Research on Death Penalty, 1994-2003 <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 2	folder 1-4
General Resources, 1993-2000 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 2	folder 5-6
Executioners and Death Certificates, 1991-1994	box 2	folder 7
Roger Keith Colman, 1992	box 2	folder 8
Wrongful Convictions, 1998-1999	box 2	folder 9
Innocent Cases, 1991-2006 <u>Physical Description</u> : 5 folders	box 2	folder 10-14
Victims, 1996-2003 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 2	folder 15-16
Arkansas, 1992-1997 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 2	folder 17-19
Alabama, 1989-2006	box 3	folder 1
Church, 1997-2006	box 3	folder 2
Tennessee, 1995-2000	box 3	folder 3
Ohio, 1992-2001	box 3	folder 4
Juveniles, 2004	box 3	folder 5
Rehab, 1997-2005	box 3	folder 6
Death Penalty Press and Publicity, 2000	box 3	folder 7

Of Interest--Billy Neal Moore, 1992-1995	box 3	folder 8
Of Interest--Death Penalty, 1993-2002 <u>Physical Description</u> : 6 folders	box 3	folder 9-14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series II: General, 1984-2003

### Scope and Contents

This series contains a variety of information, including photographs, mailings, and other materials relating to human rights violations in Peru; reports and other information on police brutality in the USA, including AIUSA hearings in Los Angeles; a report on the case of Leonard Peltier prepared by the Leonard Pelteir Defense Committee; and slides of unidentified events.

Title/Description	Instances	
Peru--Abuse, 1984-1991 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Includes photographs	box 3	folder 15
Domestic Publications, 1990-1999	box 3	folder 16
Press/Letters, 1999-2000	box 3	folder 17
Police Brutality Hearings, 1999	box 3	folder 18
Publications on International Human Rights, 1989-2003	box 3	folder 19
Police Brutality, 1998	box 3	folder 20
Case of Leonard Peltier, 1999	box 3	folder 21
Unidentified Events--Slides, undated	box 4	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)