

## Chapter 5. Human Rights Activists

### Supplemental Resources:

### Activities, Study Questions, Critical Thinking, Research Suggestions, Discussion Topics, Readings

#### Chapter 5.1 An Introduction to Human Rights Activists

1. What human rights activities would you have liked to add to the list? Why?

#### Chapter 5.2 Wangari Maathai, Kenya

1. Why do you think Wangari Maathai was so successful in establishing the GBM in Kenya?
2. How has Maathai worked to alleviate the African crisis using a multi-faceted approach?
  - a. Do you think her approach can be successful? Explain.
3. How did Maathai weave the environment and women into her solution to the African crisis?

#### Chapter 5.3 Shirin Ebadi, Iran

1. What do you think was Shirin Ebadi's greatest obstacle in her human rights work in Iran?
2. Why did Iranians repudiate modernization as a path for their society and instead choose Islamic fundamentalism?
  - a. Do you think this was the right choice?
3. What do you think was the appeal of Ayatollah Khomeini?
  - a. What were the problems that many of Ayatollah's supporters wanted him to address?
  - b. Do you think he provided answers to the problems that many of his supporters faced?
  - c. Are Iranians today facing some of the same problems today as they did during the time of the revolution?
  - d. What are these problems?

#### Chapter 5.4 Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma

1. How would you describe the significance of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma's fight for freedom?
2. If you were Suu Kyi, what strategies would you use to resist the military government of Burma?

#### Chapter 5.5 Rigoberta Menchu, Guatemala

1. What do you think was Rigoberta Menchu's biggest contribution to promoting human rights for indigenous peoples?
2. How was her struggle different from others described in this chapter?
3. Why have indigenous peoples been discriminated and victimized so intensely?
4. Imagine you are an indigenous person (or perhaps you are an indigenous person), what difficulties do you face in adjusting to the modern world?
  - a. How would you like the modern world to adjust to you?

#### Chapter 5.6 Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh

1. What problems did Yunus have with the academic world that he was trained and worked in?
2. What problems did Yunus have with the way banks were structured?
3. What are the reasons for the success of Yunus's bank?
  - a. In what ways is it totally unique?
4. Why did Yunus encounter criticism from development organizations and projects?
  - a. How did he address this criticism?

5. Conduct research to find other banks or organizations that help the poor.
  - a. What are their strategies?
  - b. What strategies have proven successful?
6. If you were a development aid director with millions of dollars to “help” the poor, what programs would you devise? (good group project)

### **Chapter 5.7 His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Tibet**

1. Looking at the first 15 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, do you think the Dalai Lama’s dream of peace and dialogue will come true?
  - a. What will it take to make it come true?
  - b. Is this a vision you embrace?
2. Do you think that the Dalai Lama has contributed to human rights? Explain.
3. If you were the Dalai Lama, how would you contribute to the world wide human rights campaign?
4. What obstacles has China erected to thwart human rights in Tibet?
  - a. If you were a mediator with China, would suggestions or demands would you make?
  - b. How would you follow through on this suggestions or demands?