



Physicians for Social Responsibility
Los Angeles

MEDIA ADVISORY
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ANTI-TORTURE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE CHAMPIONS HONORED IN L.A. JUNE 7

Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan and others recognized at prestigious *Heroes for Health* gala

LOS ANGELES, CA — Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) is proud to honor four remarkable individuals at the nonprofit's annual awards gala, *Heroes for Health*, at the Los Angeles' Millennium Biltmore Hotel, June 7, 2009.

"Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles considers this year's honorees to be among the world's most innovative thought leaders and change makers," says Martha Dina Argüello, PSR-LA Executive Director. "The courage and effectiveness of these individuals has changed the quality of life for many on the planet today."

- Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan will be presented with the Healing the Planet Award (via video) for her many extraordinary efforts for world peace and justice, including promoting Arab-Western relations, conflict prevention, sustainable development, poverty eradication, human rights and disarmament. Most recently she has taken leadership in the Global Zero campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- Jose Quiroga, M.D. will be presented with the Socially Responsible Medicine Award for his dedication to treating victims of torture and advocacy for a more peaceful world. As Chilean President Salvador Allende's personal physician, Dr. Quiroga narrowly escaped the Pinochet coup and emigrated to the United States, where he volunteered to treat victims of torture at UCLA and Venice Family Clinic. In 1980, he co-founded the Program for Torture Victims, where he currently serves as Medical Director.
- Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. will be presented with the Environmental Health Champion Award for her expertise and authorship on the environmental links to cancer. Steingraber's highly acclaimed book, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment* presents cancer as a human rights issue. It was the first to bring together data on toxic releases with newly released data from U.S. cancer registries.
- Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will be presented with the Founders Award for championing preventive policies to protect public health throughout California. As a state senator, Ridley-Thomas' leadership was critical to helping PSR-LA pass legislation condemning medical professionals' participation in torture. He has also authored legislation to help prevent childhood lead poisoning and advocates for better access to healthcare for all communities.

The 2009 gala awards dinner is dedicated to the memory of Professor James Warf, a Manhattan Project scientist who became a lifelong nuclear abolitionist and peace activist.

Physicians for Social Responsibility Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles forms a community of conscience committed to eliminating weapons of mass destruction, preserving a sustainable environment, addressing public health reform and reducing violence and its causes. Membership in the Los Angeles chapter offers a history of innovative action. More information at www.psrla.org.

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