



For Immediate Release  
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## **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tiananmen: The Ensuing Struggle for the Right to Freedom of Expression**

Portland, OR – In the spring of 1989, pro-democracy demonstrations that were started by students in Tiananmen Square spread across China and ended by a military crackdown. On June 5, 1989, one day after the Chinese army cleared Tiananmen Square, an unarmed young man walked in front of a stream of tanks and stood his grounds. This historic moment was captured on film and became the icon of the crackdown.

Twenty years have passed. There is still no definite information about the identity and whereabouts of the young man. Attempts to mark the anniversary of the crackdown have been suppressed. Public debate or discussion about what happened in 1989 is banned. An estimate of 50 individuals who were involved in the demonstrations remain in prison. Meanwhile, China put forth an economic reform that brought wealth to the urban areas while rural residents struggle to hold on to their land, family and humanity. The crackdown on freedom of expression spread from printed media to the Internet. Today, students in China have little idea about what happened to the previous generation of students twenty years ago. Human rights defenders are constantly harassed and intimidated physically and emotionally with some of them sent to prison or put under house arrest.

The local Portland **Amnesty International Group 48** will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tiananmen with a film presentation of the **PBS Frontline** documentary, “**The Tank Man**”. Before and after the film, **Portland State University Political Science Professor, Bruce Gilley** will provide his expert analysis on the Tiananmen crackdown and the ensuing struggle for freedom of expression and human rights. This event will be held in the **US Bank Room at the Central Library** (801 SW 10th Avenue, Portland) on **Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 2pm**. This event is cosponsored by the World Affairs Council of Oregon. It is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Group 48 at 503-227-1878 or online at [aipdx.org](http://aipdx.org).

### **Additional information:**

Bruce Gilley is an Assistant Professor of Political Science in the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. His research centers on democracy, legitimacy, and global politics, and he is a specialist on the comparative politics of China and Asia. He is the author of four university-press books. His articles have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Journal of Contemporary China*, and the *European Journal of Political Research*. He was a Commonwealth Scholar at Oxford University from 1989 to 1991 and a Woodrow Wilson Scholar at Princeton University from 2004 to 2006.

Group 48 is the local Portland group of Amnesty International USA – the US section of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning grassroots activist organization campaigning for human rights worldwide. Group 48 has been in existence since 1973. Its work started with prisoners of conscience and expanded to generate awareness for human rights abuses happening in several regions of the world. Its current focuses include: the death penalty in Oregon, Central Africa, China, Central America, Indonesia/East Timor, and Darfur. Individual cases include Shi Tao of China and Guantanamo detainees.

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