

April 10, 2005

Contact:
Annabelle Stevens
213/624-0612
310/435-6996 (cell)

**THE GLEITSMAN FOUNDATION 2005 INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVIST AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO HAN DONGFANG AND
PATRICK ALLEY, CHARMIAN GOOCH AND SIMON TAYLOR FOR
THEIR INSPIRED ACTIVISM**

Los Angeles --- Alan Gleitsman, founder of The Gleitsman Foundation(www.gleitsman.org), a non-profit organization that recognizes and encourages activism worldwide, announced today that the Honorees of the 2005 International Activist Award are:

Han Dongfang, founder of the China Labour Bulletin and unrivalled leader of the worker's movement in China. Ceremony to take place May 5th at 5PM at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong.

Patrick Alley, Charmian Gooch and Simon Taylor, the founders of Global Witness, which has led campaigns to stop the abusive way that natural resources have been used to fund wars, corrupt regimes and human rights violations in many parts of the world. Ceremony to take place May 12th at 6:45PM at the Clore Foyer at Tate Britain in London.

The Honorees were selected by the International Activist Award Board of Judges which includes former United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, physicist and human rights activist Fang Lizhi, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Shimon Peres, Mairead Maguire, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Adolfo Perez Esquivel.

Honorees equally share an award of \$100,000 and each will also receive a sculpture designed by Maya Lin, the creator of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC.

Explaining the choices for the 2005 International Activist Award, Gleitsman stated, "In a world beset by ethnic strife, poverty and corruption, our Honorees are beacons of hope to those striving to better their lives. By recognizing such exemplary activism, we hope to inspire others to follow in their footsteps and correct other injustices."

Winners of the 2003 award which focused on those working toward the global eradication of poverty were Fazel Abed (BRAC), Dr. Jaya Arunachalam (Working Women's Forum), Roman Imboden (Multifunctional Platform) and Roy Prosterman (Rural Development Institute). Former Honorees include such world figures as then-African National Congress president Nelson Mandela and future Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jose Ramos-Horta.

Additional information regarding honorees includes:

HAN DONGFANG, founder of China Labor Bulletin

Han Dongfang is a leading advocate for workers' rights and independent trade unions in mainland China. He began his activist career in Tiananmen Square in May, 1989, as co-founder and spokesperson for the Beijing Workers Autonomous Federation, China's first independent labor organization since the founding of the People's Republic. He was jailed for two years after the Tiananmen crackdown and now lives in Hong Kong, having been denied re-entry to his homeland since 1993. In 1994, he founded China Labor Bulletin, a Hong Kong-based group whose main work now includes supporting mainland Chinese workers in lawsuits against employers and government; providing legal defense for arrested Chinese worker activists; conducting trade union education and organizing work among Chinese workers; and producing research reports on labor issues and worker's struggles in China. In 1997, Han began producing regular radio broadcasts for Radio Free Asia on the topic of workers' rights and labor relations. Today, his thrice-weekly radio show - in which he interviews workers and local government officials on issues ranging from strikes and protests to the continuing carnage in China's coalmining industry - is heard by tens of millions of listeners across mainland China.

PATRICK ALLEY, CHARMIAN GOOCH and SIMON TAYLOR, founders of Global Witness

From a background in environmental investigative reporting, Alley, Gooch and Taylor created Global Witness in 1992 to address structural problems underlying some of the world's worst humanitarian and environmental crises. Now leading a team of thirty, they are helping to solve global problems affecting millions of people through detailed research, on-the-ground investigations, and highly-focused, solution-based campaigning. Their achievements include: exposing and helping end the role of the illegal timber trade in supporting the Cambodian civil war, thereby aiding the demise of the Khmer Rouge; exposing the extent to which diamonds fund conflict in countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone and leading to an international import/export regime to eliminate illegally traded diamonds (the Kimberley Process);

encouraging transparency in the oil and extractive industries so populations of oil-rich countries like Angola can hold their government accountable concerning where the income is spent. By exposing the roots of conflict and corruption, refusing to accept that some problems are too large to tackle, or attitudes too entrenched to be challenged, they have sought not front-line relief from the consequences of conflict and corruption, but long-term and lasting solutions to bring about their end.

#

#

#