

**Speech by Ana Makins-Sagan, granddaughter of Ginetta Sagan
Amnesty International USA AGM Denver Colorado 2012**

This is my fourth year representing the Ginetta Sagan Fund and the Sagan Family at an AGM, and each year, I am humbled by your reception and your memories of Ginetta from those who knew her. The Ginetta I knew was not the Ginetta you knew. The Ginetta I knew was 'grandma,' who spent hours in her kitchen with me perched on a step stool stirring cake batter, or pouring over seed catalogues for roses – although she was known to smuggle roses in from Italy once she stopped smuggling people out.

But the person who she is remembered for here today is someone very different. Someone who was determined to bring to light injustices and human abuses worldwide, someone who put her life on the line for others to be free, and someone whose tenacious spirit would have moved mountains if they needed moving.

In a letter about Ginetta written by President Jimmy Carter he said: "her legacy will be the legions of women, children, and men whose lives have been saved or liberated through her courageous fight for those who are oppressed." While I don't disagree, I also believe her legacy is here in this room, those who have been inspired to fight – peacefully of course – for the lives and rights of political prisoners and basic human dignities worldwide.

And this year, the legacy is carried forward by one person in particular who embodies both the caring and warmth of the 'grandma' Ginetta and the fierce compassion and dedication of the 'human rights activist' Ginetta. And that person is Jenni Williams.

As co-founder of WOZA – Women of Zimbabwe Arise – Jenni has bravely dedicated her life to an organization that empowers leadership and speaking up for one's rights and freedoms. Founded on the notions of courage, visibility, creativity and love, WOZA has grown into an internationally recognized organization.

On every Valentine's Day since 2003, WOZA members – now 80,000 strong, and including both women and men – have marched the streets of Zimbabwe's largest cities, singing songs and handing out red roses to symbolize love. These protests are met with violence and arrests, neither of which deters the committed activists. Jenni has been arrested over 41 times. She has been beaten, imprisoned without food or medical supplies and threatened with execution.

And still she perseveres.

It is with great respect, honor and humility that I present this year's award to Jenni Williams of Zimbabwe.