

## **Press Release**

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### **Groundbreaking International Hunger Eradication Law To Be Presented At Portland State**

On Wednesday, November 29, the Division of Political Science at Portland State University will present a program on the International Food Security Treaty (IFST), a proposed plan to employ enforceable international law to achieve drastic reduction of world hunger.

The program will feature Oregon resident John Teton, founder and director of the International Food Security Treaty Campaign. Mr. Teton will speak on “Shock Waves of Hope: Ending Hunger with the Aid of International Law” and take questions from the audience.

Supporters describe the IFST as the critical missing link in the world’s efforts to overcome hunger, a global public health problem with more victims than all the world’s wars and crimes combined. Based on existing international covenants, the IFST was developed in consultation with food security advocates from around the world. It is designed to be a legally binding international agreement, delineating the responsibilities of nations to prevent starvation and malnutrition, with enforcement provisions to ensure that they are carried out. Examples of legally prohibited activity would be the use of starvation as a weapon, as happened in Somalia in 1992, or channeling famine-preventing food supplies away from civilians to support military forces, as has happened more recently in North Korea and the Sudan.

United Nations Undersecretary-General Maurice Strong, an expert in global commerce and a veteran in the field of international law, has stated “I’m very sympathetic to (the IFST)...as the centerpiece of a whole system by which the capacity of the earth to feed its people is translated into a real commitment to do something, because there’s no fundamental need for hunger now, and certainly none for starvation.” Statements from some members of the Oregon Congressional delegation and other U.S. Congresspeople and Senators, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, and other prominent backers of the IFST, along with information about the Treaty itself, can be found on the Campaign's website at [www.treaty.org](http://www.treaty.org).

After graduating from Harvard and working in the film industry in New York, Mr. Teton came to California and Oregon in the 1970s where he has worked as a writer, filmmaker, and teacher. He has previously appeared on behalf of the IFST Campaign at numerous universities including the law schools of Harvard and the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, and at briefings in Washington, D.C. including two before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He is the author of the novel *Upsurge*, in the notes for which the IFST Principles first emerged. The Nov. 29 event at Portland State is the first IFST presentation in Oregon.

The presentation will take place at 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Room 333 at the Smith Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, near Harrison in downtown Portland. The public is invited and admission is free.