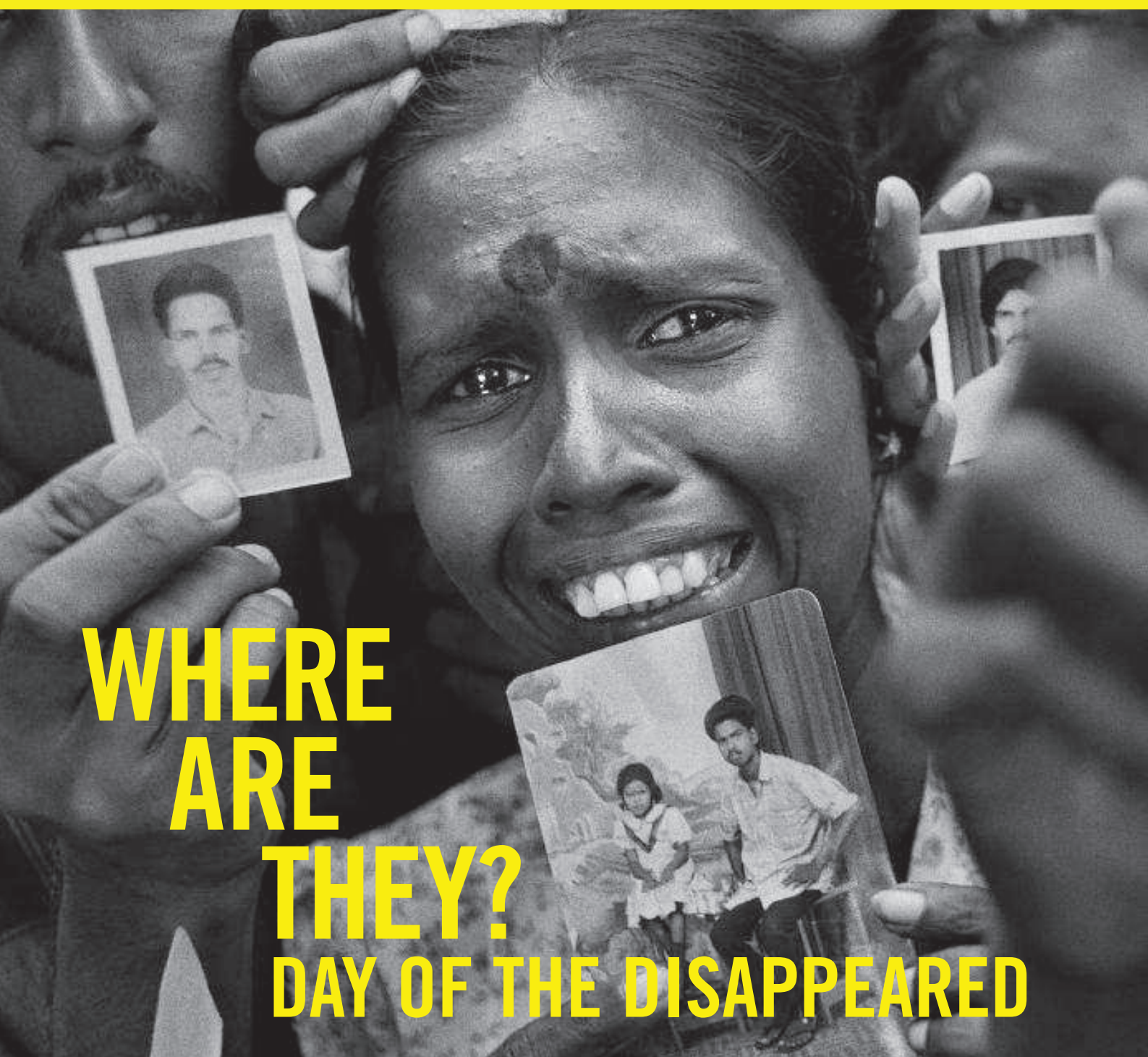


WIRE

FOR ACTIVISTS AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009 VOLUME 39 ISSUE 004

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



**WHERE
ARE
THEY?
DAY OF THE DISAPPEARED**

THE PRACTICE OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE IS USED BY GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD AS A TOOL OF REPRESSION TO SILENCE DISSENT AND ELIMINATE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, AS WELL AS TO PERSECUTE ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL GROUPS. IT MUST STOP NOW.



TO READ MORE GO TO WWW.AMNESTY.ORG/EN/ENFORCED-DISAPPEARANCES

THIS IS YOUR WIRE

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- » Do you have photos or articles that you would like to share with other members?
- » And finally, have you visited the new blog www.amnesty.org/livewire?

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Cover photo: Tamil internally displaced people hold up photographs of male relatives who were abducted by Sri Lankan security forces after a raid on their camp, Chenkaladi, in 1996. The war in Sri Lanka between the Sinhalese dominated government and the Tamil Tiger rebels has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths. Thousands more have disappeared.
© Martin Adler/Panos Pictures

This page: Argentina's Mothers of Plaza de Mayo hold torches as they rally early Monday, 30 April 2007, to mark the 30th anniversary of their first protest around Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires to demand the return of their disappeared children. Nearly 13,000 people are officially listed as dead or missing from the so-called dirty war in which the state carried out illegal detentions, torture and executions of political opponents. Rights groups say the toll is closer to 30,000.

GETTING WIRE

Would you like know more about Amnesty International's campaigns or use the WIRE actionzine for your own activism?

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INSIDE THIS WIRE

DAY OF THE DISAPPEARED

All over the world, families wait for years and even decades to find out the whereabouts of their loved ones. Join in our demand for justice for victims of enforced disappearances. Read more about it and find out what you can do on **PAGE 2**.



NICARAGUA: A CRUEL BETRAYAL

Read about the total ban on abortion in Nicaragua that is putting women and girls in danger and violating their human rights. Call on the authorities to repeal the new law on **PAGE 7**.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
9 AUGUST 2009

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ACT NOW

Pull out, sign and send the three postcards in our insert. Please use our poster on **9 AUGUST**, International Day of the World's Indigenous People. On **30 AUGUST**, Day of the Disappeared, turn it over and use the poster on the other side.

WORLDWIDE APPEALS
READ, DISTRIBUTE, ACT NOW
SEE OUR INSERT

CONGOLESE MINERALS TAINTED BY ABUSE

WIRE examines how mineral exploitation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is triggering ongoing conflict and human rights abuses in the east. **PAGE 8**.

CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS IN CHINA

Find out how the authorities in China are preventing human rights lawyers from doing their work and show your solidarity with human rights defenders who are affected by the crackdown. **PAGE 19**.



WHAT ELSE?

Read our Q&A with human rights defender USMAN HAMID (**PAGE 13**); find out about forced evictions in Indonesia (**PAGE 18**) and about Spain's harsh detention regime (**PAGE 18**) and get top tips on effective letter-writing on our **ACTIVISM PAGE (PAGE 14)**.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Indigenous women in Canada and the USA continue to experience high levels of violence and official indifference to their rights. This situation must change now. **PAGE 15**.





These pages and overleaf:
Some of the hundreds of cases of disappearances Amnesty International has worked on. For a full list of all those pictured turn to the back cover. All images © Private unless otherwise indicated.

© Asociación Pro-búsqueda

A WOUND THAT NEVER HEALS



© Amnesty International

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DISAPPEARED, ON 30 AUGUST 2009, IS THE TIME TO DEMAND JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES



It has been more than 30 years since Tita Radilla Martinez last saw her father, Rosendo Radilla. He was 60 years old when he was forcibly disappeared in August 1974. A social activist and former mayor of Atoyac municipality, Rosendo Radilla was last seen in a military barracks a few days after he was illegally detained at a military roadblock outside Atoyac, Guerrero state, Mexico. Fellow detainees reported that he was tortured.

"People ask 'why don't you forgive?'" says Tita Radilla Martinez. "Because they don't tell me what they did to my father. Is he dead or alive? I don't know. I remember he would often feel cold. When he was detained I thought about that. Is he cold, hungry or thirsty? Is he in pain? How is he? We've spent our whole life like this. They say 'Don't reopen the wound'. 'Reopen'? The wound is open, it never healed."

Hundreds of people disappeared during Mexico's "dirty war" of the 1960s-80s. As in other enforced disappearance cases, successive Mexican governments have refused to clarify what happened to Rosendo Radilla. But his family has also refused to give up and has taken his case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This year, they hope that the court ruling

will force the Mexican government to tell them the truth and ensure their right to justice and reparation.

"We are not unearthing the past", says Tita Radilla Martinez. "The past has always been present. We don't know how these 30 years have gone by. We're always thinking, maybe tomorrow. We've been waiting, counting the days."

Rosendo Radilla's family is not alone. All around the world, families are waiting to find out what happened to those who have been taken away by agents of the state or by people acting with its support or acquiescence. The authorities deny any knowledge of their detention or whereabouts. Friends and relatives have no means to find out what has happened to them.

The practice of enforced disappearance is used by governments around the world as a tool of repression to silence dissent and eliminate political opposition, as well as to persecute ethnic, religious and political groups. As the international community marks the 26th International Day of the Disappeared on 30 August 2009, past cases remain unresolved even as new cases emerge.

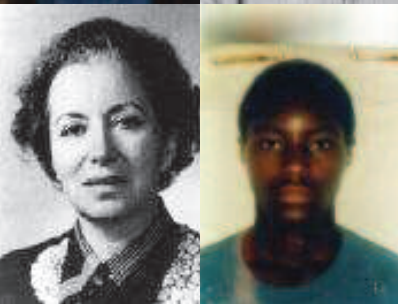
LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF UNCERTAINTY

People who have disappeared are beyond the protection of the law. Anything could happen to them and often does: many are tortured and many are killed.

Nirmala (not her real name), a 30-year-old Sri Lankan, was driven away from her home by soldiers in June 2008. Nobody knew where she was. In fact, she was taken to a prison and subjected to torture, including rape. The soldiers wanted her to say she had helped the armed opposition group, the Tamil Tigers. Other detainees around her were also being tortured. After a month in detention, a soldier entered her cell, blindfolded her and drove her away. Nirmala thought she was going to be shot, but she was released. Her family managed to find her and bribed her captors to let her go. She has since fled Sri Lanka and is a refugee in the UK. "Stories like mine happen every day in Sri Lanka", she says. "I want the world to know, so it can be stopped".

The families and friends of those who disappear are left in an anguish of uncertainty, unable to grieve and go on with their lives. They often find themselves isolated, struggling for justice against authorities who simply deny that anything ever happened.

Chief Ebrima Manneh, a Gambian journalist, was arrested in July 2006 for trying to publish a BBC article critical of the Gambian government. His whereabouts remain unknown despite a landmark ruling by a West African regional court ordering the Gambian government to release him and pay damages. The government has yet to comply, while the suffering of Ebrima Manneh's family continues.



'WE'RE ALWAYS THINKING, MAYBE TOMORROW. WE'VE BEEN WAITING, COUNTING THE DAYS.'

His mother says she finds it hard to enjoy anything because her son is constantly on her mind. The family told Amnesty International that they felt increasingly isolated because other people were afraid to associate with them. They also faced hardship because they depended on Ebrima Manneh's salary.

A TOOL OF FEAR

In armed conflicts, enforced disappearances have been used – sometimes on a mass scale – in the interests of one ethnic, religious or political group. During the armed conflict in Kosovo in 1999, more than 3,000 ethnic Albanians were the victims of enforced disappearances at the hands of Serbian police, paramilitary and military forces. More than 800 Serbs, Roma and others were abducted by armed ethnic Albanian groups. Some 1,900 families in Kosovo and Serbia are still waiting to find out what happened to their relatives.

Even when a body has been recovered and identified, few prosecutions follow. Sanje Berisha, from Gjakovë (also known in Serbian as Đakovica), remembers the fateful day in June 1999: "They ordered the women and children into the road, and the men to stay inside. They arrested 11 men. Ilir Berisha, my son, was the youngest at 17." His body, buried by the Serbian police in a mass grave, was exhumed in Batajnica, Serbia, and returned for reburial in Kosovo in September 2006. No one has been brought to justice for his death.

Enforced disappearances as well as other grave human rights violations often take place in connection with counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism operations.

Chechnya, which tried to secede from the Russian Federation in 1991, has since been ravaged by two armed conflicts and a counter-terror operation. Both Russian federal forces and Chechen law enforcement officials have been implicated in enforced disappearances, which run into the thousands. A complete list of those who disappeared has yet to be compiled and the authorities are resisting requests to establish a forensic laboratory for genetic identification. Fear of reprisals prevents individuals from speaking out and makes gathering information about human rights violations both dangerous and difficult. Makhmadsalors Delilovich Masaev did speak out: in an interview with an independent newspaper, *Novaya Gazeta*, published in July 2008, he accused the authorities of ill-treating him when he was held in incommunicado detention for nearly

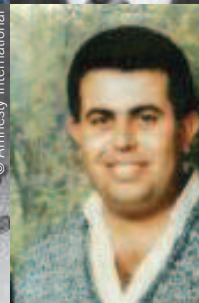
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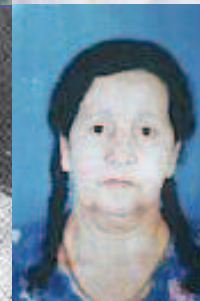
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four months in 2006. He is thought to have been held at an unofficial detention facility in Tsenterei controlled by the Chechen Presidential Security Service. Ramzan Kadyrov, former Prime Minister and now President of Chechnya, was the head of the Security Service at the time of his detention. One month after the interview, in August 2008, Makhmadsalors Delilovich Masaev was seized by men in camouflage uniform. He has not been seen since.

In the Philippines, more than 1,600 people have disappeared since the 1970s, mostly during counter-insurgency operations against left-leaning or secessionist groups. James Balao, an Indigenous Peoples' rights activist and researcher, is one of the latest victims of disappearance. In September 2008, while driving to visit his family in La Trinidad, Benguet province, he was stopped and bundled into a white van by armed and uniformed men claiming to be police officers. Eye-witnesses to his abduction signed affidavits describing his capture and are now in hiding in fear of being persecuted.



UN CONVENTION BRINGS HOPE

It is easy to feel powerless when confronted with the scale and duration of enforced disappearances. However, there is a glimmer of hope. In 2006 the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The Convention addresses the violations linked to an enforced disappearance and the problems facing those who try to investigate and hold perpetrators to account. It also recognizes the families' rights to know the truth about the fate of a disappeared person and to obtain reparations. The Convention obliges states to protect witnesses and to hold any person involved in an enforced disappearance criminally responsible. It also requires states to institute stringent safeguards for people deprived of their liberty; to search for the disappeared person and, if they have died, to locate, respect and return the remains. The Convention includes a universal jurisdiction clause – to prosecute suspected perpetrators wherever they are, regardless of where they may have committed the crime. A Committee on Enforced Disappearances will oversee the Convention's implementation and will review complaints from individuals and states.

As of mid June 2009, the Convention is now only 10 ratifications away from entering into force. All governments should ratify it as soon as possible. Ratifying the Convention will send a powerful signal that enforced disappearances will not be tolerated and will give those searching for their loved ones a much needed new tool. [W](#)



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ACT NOW

Please sign and send the postcard to the President of Mexico, Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa. The postcard calls on him to ensure that Rosendo Radilla's family have full access to truth, justice and reparation. You can watch *12.511 Radilla Case: An Open Wound from Mexico's Dirty War*, on www.witness.org/dirtywar

Join Amnesty International's campaign for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. To read more, go to www.amnesty.org/en/enforced-disappearances

To find out which countries are yet to ratify the Convention and to join a country-by-country campaign go to <http://www.icaed.org>

ALGERIA: LONG WAIT FOR JUSTICE

THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES IN ALGERIA STILL AWAIT NEWS OF RELATIVES WHO DISAPPEARED FOLLOWING ARREST BY SECURITY FORCES OR STATE ARMED MILITIAS DURING THE INTERNAL CONFLICT THAT RAVAGED THE COUNTRY IN THE 1990S.

Adel Mahi was a high-school student when he was arrested by security forces near his home in Oran, western Algeria, on 28 February 1995. His relatives, despite their tireless efforts, have never received an official response about his whereabouts and so cannot properly mourn his loss.

The enforced disappearance of thousands of people remains one of the grimmest legacies of an internal conflict that claimed up to 200,000 lives, according to government estimates. During the conflict, sparked by the cancellation of parliamentary elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (Front Islamique du Salut, FIS) was set to win, grave human rights abuses were committed by all sides.

Toufik Belmokhtar was just 20 when a group of security men arrested him at his home in Algiers on 23 November 1993. Two days earlier he was reportedly detained briefly and told to shave his beard, which was viewed as symbolizing support for the banned FIS. As with the many other cases of enforced disappearance, no investigation was ever held and the perpetrators were never held to account.

Instead of taking action to ensure that such grave abuses are never repeated, the Algerian authorities have adopted a series of amnesty measures in the name of "peace and national reconciliation". These measures entrench impunity and exonerate perpetrators of abuses.

In their efforts to obliterate even the memory of massacres, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrests and other abuses that marked the 1990s, the Algerian authorities are even muzzling the right to freedom of expression. Ordinance 06-01 of February 2006 implementing the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation renders complaints against security forces inadmissible in court. Additionally, it threatens anyone who criticizes the actions of the security forces during the conflict with up to five years in prison.

After years of trying without success to obtain answers about their loved ones, members of families of the disappeared, many of them women, have broken the wall of silence. They have spoken out, formed associations of families of the disappeared and demonstrated to demand their right to truth, justice and reparation.

In response, the authorities have offered them financial compensation conditional on the presentation of a death certificate. A number of



Toufik Belmokhtar (left), Abdelkrim Aribi

families have rejected this approach: some out of principle, others out of fear that it will end all hope that investigations will be carried out and perpetrators brought to justice. Other families have accepted the compensation because of the strains caused by losing their relative, in many cases the family's sole breadwinner.

The wife of Abdelkrim Aribi, for example, accepted the financial compensation so that she could provide for her daughter. Abdelkrim Aribi disappeared on 28 August 1995 after he was arrested at his home in Algiers, reportedly by security officers in military dress. A few weeks later his wife, now on her own, gave birth to their first

A demonstration organized by families of victims of enforced disappearance in the city of Relizane, in the west of Algeria, November 2000.

child. Since then, her efforts to obtain official information about her husband's whereabouts have been without success.

Amnesty International supports the struggle of these families for truth and justice, and continues to call for investigations to be conducted into all cases of enforced disappearance, for perpetrators to be held to account, and for victims and their families to be provided with full reparation.

Amnesty International believes that genuine national reconciliation cannot be achieved as long as the authorities refuse to establish the truth about past crimes and provide justice for the victims.

ACT NOW

Please sign and send the attached postcard to Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, calling on him to clarify the fate of the disappeared in Algeria.

To read Amnesty International's report: *A legacy of impunity: a threat to Algeria's future*, go to <http://snipr.com/k5m6e>



BLOG

CHAT

STAY INFORMED

Go to www.amnesty.org/livewire to catch up with what people around the movement are doing, watch footage and listen to audio clips from actions, missions, high-level meetings and events.

SEEKING JUSTICE AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Michael Chik blogs about Amnesty International's panel discussion on Sri Lanka at the UN

On 12 June, Amnesty International launched a report called *'Twenty years of make-believe: Sri Lanka's Commissions of Inquiry'*. The report highlights decades of the Sri Lankan government's failure to pursue accountability and justice in the face of widespread human rights abuses. In conjunction with the launch of the report, Amnesty International travelled to the UN Human Rights Council and hosted a panel discussion on impunity and rule of law in Sri Lanka.

A highlight of the event was the opportunity it provided Dr Manoharan, father of one of five youths killed by Sri Lankan security forces at Trincomalee beach in 2006, to confront officials from the Sri Lankan government and ask them why nobody had been held accountable for his son's tragic murder. It was a powerful moment for those at the event and an important step in Dr Manoharan's search for justice.

Continue reading on www.amnesty.org/livewire

REACTION TO YOUTUBE VIDEO OF EXPULSION

Michael Chik blogs about police conduct in Spain

A video posted on www.Youtube.com this week graphically brings home the often degrading nature of forced expulsions of irregular migrants. The footage of a man lying on his stomach on the airport tarmac, his arms and legs tied together behind his back and apparently being gagged, was taken by a passenger waiting for flight IB3722 to Dakar at Madrid airport on 15 June. He is eventually picked up off the ground by two police officers, still tied up, and put in the back of the police van, more like a piece of luggage than a human being. At one point in the film it appears that a police officer rests his foot on the man's back after roughly rolling him onto his stomach.

What is truly shocking about this film, however, is that most of the actions of the police officers are not unlawful under Spanish guidelines. The dehumanizing and brutal procedure you see is in line with Spanish

police protocols for forced deportations which, contrary to the recommendations of various Council of Europe bodies, does not explicitly prohibit the use of gags or restraint techniques. Such techniques not only increase the risk of suffocation if used inappropriately, but are also a real security risk during take-off and landing.

Watch the video on www.amnesty.org/livewire

DEMANDING DIGNITY WITH AN E-ACTION FROM KENYA

Evangelia Papada blogs from Nairobi

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya. The Demand Dignity campaign has officially been launched and we have switched on our campaign engines. Amnesty International has just published a report on informal settlements in Kenya and Secretary General Irene Khan is here.



A member of the Soweto Forum going door to door, explains Amnesty International's SMS action to Peter, a slum dweller, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2009.

We are asking people to send a free SMS to 3221 and tell the Kenyan Government what they think living with Dignity means. Their voices are automatically uploaded onto www.demanddignity.org where they join the voices of thousands others from all around the world.

We have trained over 70 volunteers from community-based organizations who in turn trained over a 100 of their peers to carry out the action. We are equipped with leaflets, postcards, and a video camera crew and our aim is to collect people's voices.

Continue reading on www.amnesty.org/livewire

A CRUEL BETRAYAL OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

IN JULY 2008 A TOTAL BAN ON ALL ABORTION CAME INTO FORCE IN NICARAGUA. THE LAW ALLOWS FOR NO EXCEPTIONS. WOMEN AND GIRLS WHOSE LIVES OR HEALTH ARE IN DANGER AND THOSE WHO BECOME PREGNANT AS A RESULT OF RAPE NOW HAVE NO ACCESS TO LEGAL ABORTION SERVICES.

Nicaragua is now one of a tiny handful of countries where all abortion in all circumstances is banned. A change in the law in 2006 revoked women's entitlement to legal abortion services in certain circumstances, such as when their lives or health were in danger or when the pregnancy was the result of rape. Overnight, a provision which had helped safeguard women's lives and health for over a century was torn up.

The ban came into effect in July 2008 with the introduction of a revised penal code. It also introduced prison terms for any health professional or woman found guilty of providing or obtaining an abortion.

The new penal code also put medical professionals at risk of criminal prosecution in any case where medical care intended to preserve life or health caused harm to the foetus. As a result, where they might once have relied on obvious medical indications to make a decision, doctors may now feel obliged to seek a second or even third opinion before daring to take action. Some may even feel justified in refusing treatment. For the women and girls waiting for treatment, these delays not only inflict further anguish and unnecessary and prolonged suffering, they can also put health and life at risk. One doctor described the atmosphere of fear and insecurity created by the new law, stating simply: "We can lose our licence to practise medicine, our freedom and our reputation, simply because when it was necessary we acted."

Nicaraguan health professionals have found themselves on the front line of the struggle to protect women and girls' lives and wellbeing. Ministry of Health protocols for dealing with obstetric complications are now in direct conflict with the law. As one doctor explained to Amnesty International: "The Ministry of Health is effectively asking that doctors commit a crime and become criminals... If I do not



comply with the Obstetric Protocols I risk being disciplined by MINSa [Ministry of Health] and if I do not comply with the law I risk prosecution by the state."

Pregnant Nicaraguan women and girls have been cruelly betrayed by a law that denies them access to timely essential medical treatment that could avert permanent harm to their health and even prevent loss of life.

Survivors of sexual violence are now denied any choice in how to manage the consequences of rape or incest. According to government statistics, more than half of reported rapes involve girls under 18. The consequences of rape on such young girls are profound. A psychiatrist working with young rape survivors explained the impact of such attacks: "Many of those who have become pregnant as a result of rape have to

A young survivor of sexual violence at the women's centre she attends for support and counselling, Nicaragua, 2008.

leave school. They do not have the capacity to concentrate, and many of them tell us that they do not even have the will to continue with their lives."

ACT NOW

Please write to the Nicaraguan authorities calling on them to repeal the new law and reform the penal code to ensure that women and girls seeking or obtaining an abortion and medical practitioners providing safe abortion services are not criminalized.

Please write to:
Daniel Ortega Saavedra
Presidente de la República
Reperto El Carmen
Costado oeste del Parque El Carmen
Managua, Nicaragua

Fax: +505 2266 3102

Ing. René Núñez Téllez
Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional
Asamblea Nacional de la República de
Nicaragua
Avenida Bolívar, Apto. Postal 4659
Managua, Nicaragua
Fax: +505 2228-3039
(say "tono de fax, por favor")

Read more at www.demanddignity.org





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CONGOLESE MINERALS TAINTED BY ABUSE

MINING OPERATIONS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) SHOULD BE HELPING TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNTRY MEETS THE NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE. INSTEAD, MINERAL EXPLOITATION IS A SOURCE OF ONGOING CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE EAST.

Alfred is 10 years old. Congolese army soldiers used him to collect money from miners and scavenge through rock-piles at a mine in Walungu Territory, South Kivu Province. In November 2008, the soldiers accused Alfred of stealing US\$5. They broke Alfred's jaw with a rifle butt, slit his cheek open with a knife, and held him for four days without any medical care. A children's NGO eventually arranged hospital treatment and reunited him with his family in February 2009. The soldiers have not been prosecuted.

Such human rights abuses are occurring daily in mining sites throughout eastern DRC. Conditions in these small-scale and informal mines are extremely dangerous. Children and women break rocks for as little as 60 cents a day. Armed groups and government forces profit directly from

the mining trade and are responsible for rapes, killings, torture and forced labour.

The civilian population in South Kivu pays a grave human price for living in a mineral-rich area. The struggle between rival armies and armed groups to control the mineral wealth – gold, cassiterite (tin), and coltan in particular – has fuelled armed conflict for the past 15 years. The Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda or FDLR), Rwandan Hutu fighters who fled to eastern DRC after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, rely on mines in remote locations to fund their military activities.

Profits are diverted to the army or armed groups, including through illegal "taxes". An army sergeant told Amnesty International about systematic military extortion at a large mine in Walungu territory, saying that profits were split

between two army brigades and the regional army headquarters in Bukavu.

Shabunda territory in South Kivu has some of the richest mineral deposits. Yet, with a population of around 700,000, it has no courthouse, no prison, one dilapidated hospital, roads that are barely passable, and no electricity or water supply.

Coltan from eastern DRC is refined, usually in south-east Asia, and used by multinationals worldwide in products such as mobile phones, laptops, and video game consoles. Cassiterite is used for soldering electronic goods. Despite pressure, individuals and companies in the supply chain do not yet exclude minerals tainted by human rights abuse.

A revised national Mining Code should improve and help regulate mining operations, while a government scheme – the Small-scale Mining Technical Assistance and Training

ACT NOW

Please ask the Congolese President to investigate allegations of human rights violations by army personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice; end illegal activities by military personnel, including senior commanders, involved in the mineral trade; and give SAESSCAM more resources and task it with identifying mining sites controlled by the military and armed groups. Please write to:

Son Excellence Joseph KABILA
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
Palais de la Nation, Avenue de Lemera
Kinshasa-Gombe
République Démocratique du Congo
E-mail: presipp@yahoo.fr

Please ask your own government to urge MONUC to deploy troops to mining sites and airstrips in eastern DRC, to help protect civilians and stop the illegal activities associated with military and armed groups' involvement in the mineral trade. Call on your government to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1856 (2008) requiring states "to take appropriate steps to end the illicit trade in natural resources, including if necessary through judicial means".

www.demanddignity.org

Cassiterite is weighed in the mining town of Tchonka, South Kivu, before being packed for shipment by small aircraft to the provincial capital, Bukavu, DRC, April 2009.

Service (SAESSCAM) – helps miners with legal advice and safety training. SAESSCAM is under-resourced and, because of persistent insecurity, has had only limited impact in the east.

In South Kivu the human rights and humanitarian situation is deteriorating as the Congolese army, supported by the UN peacekeeping force, MONUC, prepares a military offensive against the FDLR. The past months have seen an increased number of rapes attributed to both the army and the FDLR, and growing indications that the FDLR is prepared to launch brutal reprisal attacks against the civilian population.

GENUINE PEOPLE



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Khanty women race as part of the traditional events and competitions during "Fishing and Hunting Day" that take place all over the Khanty-Mansiysk region of Siberia, March 2007.



A group of demonstrators protest against abuses committed by the army during Guatemala's internal armed conflict (1960-1996) when at least 200,000 people were killed or disappeared. The whereabouts of more than 6,000 people still remain unknown. Efforts to bring those responsible to justice are continually thwarted and the majority of cases remain unresolved.

**WE WANT
ANSWER
NOW!**

**DAY OF THE
DISAPPEARED
30 AUGUST 20**

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

9 AUGUST 2009

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

AMNESTY
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DIGNITY DEMAND DIGNITY DEMAND DIGNITY DEMAND DIGNITY DEMAND DIGNITY



USMAN HAMID

Q WHAT SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS?

A The late 1990s was a time of political unrest and government repression in Indonesia. In 1998, student protesters were shot by armed forces at the University of Trisakti, where I was studying agrarian law. It was a peaceful protest – I couldn't tolerate this attack on them. I felt I had to do something [...] Then I met Munir Said Thalib, head of Kontras (Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence) and the brightest activist at that time of political turbulence. He said we should be investigating such crimes using a human rights framework – not a military one. He inspired me to go to Aceh where I met others who faced similar repression. Eventually, I became a volunteer for Kontras.

Q WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA?

A Militarism. The struggle for human rights is the struggle against militarism. Linked closely to this is the issue of enforced disappearances which has been at the heart of Indonesia's political reform agenda since 1997. To preserve [former President] Suharto's political power, the armed forces deprived several students and political activists of their liberty. They were accused of destabilizing the government. The impact of enforced disappearances has been critical. The children of the disappeared have grown up with an uncertain future. Many families felt they had not only lost their loved ones, but their futures as well.

Despite the transition from military dictatorship to civilian rule in Indonesia, it took nearly a decade to convince the National Commission on Human Rights to fully investigate disappearance cases. But we at Kontras will never stop. In 2008, the House of Representatives set up a Special Committee on Enforced Disappearance. We will continue our campaign to discover the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared and to prosecute perpetrators.

Q WHAT IMPACT DOES YOUR WORK HAVE ON YOUR LIFE AND/OR YOUR FAMILY?

A In the beginning, my mother was so worried, she asked me to stop my human rights work. But then she became my main supporter. My wife is very involved in the struggle for gender equality. Since my mother passed away, my wife is the one who gives me strength. The murder of my predecessor, Munir, spread a lot of fear, which grows on fertile ground in a repressive state. As a human being, I have fear. Everyone has fear. Fear silences people. But I learnt from Munir that solidarity with others can conquer fear. His humanity conquered his fear.

Q WHAT DOES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEAN TO YOU?

A It's an inspiration, a reminder of the long and constant struggle for freedom. You can't change everything in one night. Amnesty International helps those who have suffered from violence [to] feel strong, like they have friends everywhere, and [it] helps them to keep the hope alive.

Q DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR OUR READERS?

A Do something to improve things. Munir was someone just like us. And what happened to him could happen to anyone. It could be me or you next. So do something. Don't wait to be a victim of political violence.

Q WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT YOUR ACTIVISM HAS TAUGHT YOU?

A Change takes time. Change needs patience. The struggle for humanity is a long road. But with persistence and fidelity we can get there.



©Muhammad Harris

“ FEAR SILENCES PEOPLE.
BUT SOLIDARITY
WITH OTHERS CAN
CONQUER FEAR. ”

Usman Hamid is Director of Kontras, a leading human rights organization in Indonesia. His predecessor, Munir Said Thalib, was assassinated in 2004. His case remains unresolved.

HOW TO HOW TO HOW TO

THE ART OF LETTER-WRITING

Hundreds of thousands of Amnesty International activists and members around the world challenge cruelty and injustice by writing letters. Now you can do it too! Here are a few simple guidelines to help you write clear and effective letters.

BEGINNING YOUR LETTER

- Start by identifying yourself, or Amnesty International, or by referring to the particular case.
- If possible, give your name and address. This shows that the letter is genuine and personal, and shows the open nature of Amnesty International's activities. You don't have to give your name and address if you have concerns about your own security.

MAKING YOUR REQUEST

- The central part of your letter should make a specific request to the person you are writing to.

ENDING YOUR LETTER

- Try to include a phrase that encourages a reply. Make sure your name is clearly legible. "Yours respectfully" or "Yours sincerely" are the best endings.

AFTER SENDING YOUR LETTER

- Once in a while you may get a reply! If the reply is positive, send a positive letter back. However, do not despair if you do not get a response at all. Someone has read your letter, and if it is one of hundreds or thousands of others, it will have an impact.
- Updates on cases, where available, are given on www.amnesty.org

For specific cases of human rights violations and information on what to include in your letter and to whom you can address it, please go to www.amnesty.org/en/how-you-can-help

IF YOU GET A RESPONSE, PLEASE SEND A COPY TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DO

- follow Amnesty International's instructions on each particular case.
- be quick. Speed is important, especially if you are responding to a case that is urgent.
- give the full name of the prisoner or individual/s at risk.
- mention that you are an Amnesty International member or write as a concerned individual.
- ask for a reply.
- write in English or your native tongue or use an accurate translation.
- be positive and clear about your request.

DON'T

- write in an aggressive or offensive tone.
- discuss ideology or politics in your letter. Amnesty International opposes human rights violations, not governments or political systems.
- use formal or elaborate phrases. Write in a natural style and keep to the point.



Mahjoub Sharif, Sudanese poet and former prisoner of conscience, and his wife Amira Jazouli at the International Secretariat in August 2008, with just some of the 2,000 cards of solidarity he received from Amnesty International members during his detention in December 1990.

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Amnesty International's next letter-writing marathon is 10 December 2009.

On the day of the letter-writing marathon, people take a few minutes to write a short letter, fax or email on behalf of individuals whose human rights are currently being violated. Join them!

The Online Communities Team will begin recruiting volunteers in September 2009 to organize letter-writing marathon events in their own community. As a volunteer, you will receive training, a comprehensive guide to letter-writing and leaflets on all the cases on which you can take action.

To organize a letter-writing event, you will need to follow these simple steps:

- Contact Online.Communities@amnesty.org
- Select a day on or around 10 December 2009.
- Select a location that has plenty of space to write and stamp letters.
- Publicize your event through the November MyCommunity e-Newsletter and invite people in your local area to attend the event.
- Write as many letters as possible and fax or mail them.

Keep us posted! Please let us know your country and how many letters, emails or faxes you or your groups have written by emailing online.communities@amnesty.org



A letter-writing marathon from Amnesty International South Korea, December 2006.

DIGNITY, SECURITY AND JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN NOW

THE AUTHORITIES IN THE USA AND CANADA ARE FAILING TO PROTECT INDIGENOUS WOMEN FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE. SURVIVORS ARE FREQUENTLY DENIED JUSTICE AND THEIR VOICES ARE OFTEN LEFT UNHEARD

In July 2006, an Alaskan Native woman in the city of Fairbanks reported to the police that she had been raped by a non-Native man. She gave a description of the perpetrator and city police officers told her they were going to look for him. She waited for the police to return and when they failed to do so, she went to the emergency room for treatment.

A support worker told Amnesty International that the woman had bruises all over her body and was so traumatized that she was talking very quickly. The Sexual Assault Response Team "treated her like a drunk Native woman first and a rape victim second," the support worker said. The woman was not intoxicated.

The support worker said that the woman was given some painkillers and some money to go to a non-Native shelter, which turned her away because they also assumed she was drunk. "This is why Native women don't report. It's creating a breeding ground for sexual predators," she added.

The US Department of Justice's own statistics indicate that Native American and Alaskan Native women are more than two and a half times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted

Annual vigil for missing and murdered Indigenous women, Ottawa, Canada, October 2008



than women in the USA in general. More than one in three will be raped during their lifetime. In at least 86 per cent of cases, Native women report that the perpetrators are non-Native men. Native American and Alaskan Native victims of sexual violence find access to legal redress and even medical attention extremely difficult. Impunity for perpetrators and indifference towards survivors create a climate where sexual violence is seen as normal and inescapable rather than criminal, and where women do not seek justice because they know they will be met with inaction.

This is not only a public health issue, or criminal justice issue, but a serious issue of human rights.

Indigenous Peoples in the USA face deeply entrenched marginalization – the result of a long history of systematic abuses and persecution. Indigenous women's experience of sexual violence is shaped by this legacy of appalling and widespread human rights abuses. This experience has been compounded by the federal government's steady erosion of tribal government authority and its chronic under-resourcing of law enforcement agencies and service providers which should protect Indigenous women from sexual violence.

Although some progress has been made since Amnesty International published its 2007 report *Maze of Injustice*, there are still two immediate and critical steps that the US authorities must take. "What we need to see now is the enactment



Above: Helen Betty Osborne was sexually assaulted and killed when she was 19 years old in 1971. Her cousin Felicia Solomon (*above left*) was killed in 2003.

Right: Drumming in support of the International Declaration of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Ottawa, Canada, 2006.

of the Tribal Law and Order Act, a law that seeks to address the jurisdictional issues that prevent the full and prompt investigation of rape," says Charon Asetoyer, Executive Director of the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center. "Also, Indian Health Service providers lack clear and standardized protocols for treating victims of sexual violence and do not regularly provide survivors with forensic sexual assault examinations, which need to be free and timely. If Native women survivors cannot access these examinations, sexual assault cases are almost certain not to be prosecuted."

A PATTERN OF VIOLENCE

Indigenous women's organizations in Canada, like those in the USA, have long struggled to draw attention to violence against Indigenous women. Canadian police and public officials have also long been aware of a pattern of racist violence against Indigenous women in Canadian cities, but have done little to prevent it.



Helen Betty Osborne was a 19-year-old student and dreamed of becoming a teacher. On 12 November 1971, she was abducted by four non-Indigenous men in the town of The Pas, Manitoba, who sexually assaulted and killed her. "Betty Osborne would be alive today had she not been an Aboriginal woman," the Manitoba Justice Inquiry said of her killing. "The men who abducted Osborne believed that young Aboriginal women were objects with no human value beyond sexual gratification."

Three decades later, on 25 March 2003, Helen Betty Osborne's 16-year-old cousin Felicia Solomon went missing in Winnipeg. The family said that the Winnipeg police did not treat the case seriously when they first reported her missing. The police disputed the family's claim. However, the first posters seeking information on Felicia Solomon's disappearance were distributed by her family, not the police. Parts of her body were found three months later. Her killer has not been identified.

The statistics of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada are shocking.



Government figures show that young Indigenous women are five times more likely than other women of the same age to die violently. Many factors contribute to this violence, including a long history of discrimination and impoverishment, and the persistent failure of many police forces to respond quickly and effectively when Indigenous women are reported missing.

Indigenous women need to be part of the solution. "Governments in Canada – federal and provincial – must work with Indigenous women's organizations to develop a national plan of action to stop violence against Indigenous women," says Beverley Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the clearest, most authoritative statement on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. It affirms rights that are

fundamental to sustaining the life of Indigenous communities, including the right to self-determination, the right to participate in and consent to decisions affecting their communities, and respect for Indigenous cultures. The Declaration also contains specific provisions on the safety and security of Indigenous women and other sectors of Indigenous communities who are at particular risk of human rights violations.

However, when the Declaration was brought before the UN General Assembly in 2007, the USA and Canada voted against its adoption. One hundred and forty-three other states voted in favour.

"The continued refusal of Canada and the USA to support the Declaration sends a clear message to all states that Indigenous Peoples' rights are not rights to be respected," says Claire Charters, Indigenous women's activist of Ngati Whakaue, New Zealand. "These governments don't recognize Indigenous women's rights as human rights but rather second class rights to be upheld or discarded at will." ^W

ACT NOW

International Day of the World's Indigenous People is on 9 August 2009. Mark the day by calling on the governments of the USA and Canada to implement immediate measures to stop violence against Indigenous women.

Please write to:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1A 0A2

and

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

In your letters, note the following points:

- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the clearest, most authoritative statement on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Declaration provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the concerns of Indigenous women. It emphasizes principles of equality for Indigenous women and principles of consultation and consent in the formulation of government law and policy affecting Indigenous women.
- The government must support, without qualification, the Declaration and make a public statement to that effect in the UN General Assembly.

In your letter to the Canadian Prime Minister, please emphasize that his government must immediately enter into discussions with Indigenous women's organizations. It must address their specific concerns, including the formulation of national and state/provincial strategies on violence against Indigenous women; the immediate and thorough investigation of, and provision of treatment for, all cases of rape and violence against Indigenous women; and support for front-line Indigenous women's groups.

In your letter to the US President, please urge him to support the Tribal Law and Order Act. Please also emphasize the urgent need for Indian Health Service providers to establish clear protocols for treating Native American and Alaska Native women survivors of sexual violence and provide free and timely forensic sexual assault examinations.



FORCIBLY EVICTED IN INDONESIA

On 18 December 2008, residents of Suluk Bongkal village in Riau province, Indonesia, were evicted by around 700 police firing bullets and tear gas. Two helicopters dropped what is thought to be a fire accelerant on the village, burning 300 homes to the ground. Bulldozers then flattened the area completely. Local sources reported that a two-year-old died after she fell down a well during the confrontation, while a two-month-old baby died from burn injuries.

The villagers had been engaged in a land dispute with PT Arara Abadi, a pulpwood supplier, since the Forestry Ministry gave the company management rights over the land in 1996. No resolution to the dispute had been reached preceding the eviction, which was carried out without prior warning.

While most of those initially arrested have been released, on 16 January 2009 at least 75 villagers were charged with illegally claiming land. If convicted, they could face up to 15 years' imprisonment.

On 30 December, the National Human Rights Commission found that the police had committed human rights

Police forcibly evict hundreds of residents from Suluk Bongkal village, Riau province, Indonesia, December 2008.

violations. However, none of the police officers involved in the eviction have been brought to justice. This lack of police accountability undermines key reforms that have taken place over the last 10 years to develop an effective police force.

A new Amnesty International report, *Unfinished Business: Police accountability in Indonesia*, highlights how the establishment of an independent complaints mechanism to investigate human rights violations by the police is crucial to effective policing.

ACT NOW

Call on the Indonesian authorities to conduct an independent investigation into reports of police using excessive force during the eviction and bring those responsible to justice.

Please write to:

Police Brigadier General
Adjie Rustam Ramdja
Head of the Riau Regional Police (Polda)
Jl. Senepelan 10 Riau, Indonesia
Fax: +62-761-31783

Drs H.Syamsurizal, MM
Head of Bengkalis district (Bupati)
Sekretariat Daerah
Jl. Ahmad Yani No.70
Bengkalis 28712, Riau, Indonesia
Fax: +62-766-21669
Email: setda@bengkalis.go.id

www.demanddignity.org



SPAIN'S HARSH DETENTION REGIME

Spanish law allows for detainees to be held incommunicado, which means they have no effective access to a lawyer or to a doctor of their choice, and their family is not told that they have been arrested or where they are being held.

Detainees can be held incommunicado for up to 13 days if suspected of terrorism-related offences, or up to five days on any other charges.

This law violates international human rights standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. It also means Spain has one of the most restrictive detention regimes in the European Union.

In 2006 Khadija Podd and her husband Mohamed Fahsi were living in Vilanova i la Geltrú near Barcelona. One night, while his wife was away, Mohammed Fahsi was arrested on suspicion of terrorism-related offences. He was held incommunicado for four days, during which his family had no idea where he was. He was visited once by a state-appointed lawyer who was not allowed to speak to him. The doctor who examined him refused to believe his claims that he was being ill-treated.

Mohammed Fahsi says he was kept blindfolded at all times and was

insulted and threatened by Civil Guard officers. He says that while in his cell he was forced to remain standing with his hands on the wall, or to do press-ups to the point of exhaustion. Every time he tried to sit down, a Civil Guard officer would make him stand again. He was never allowed to sleep. During interrogations, he was told that his wife and children would be sent to the desert in Morocco and he would never see them again.

More than three years later, Mohammed Fahsi remains in detention awaiting trial. His complaints of torture have never been investigated.

ACT NOW

Call on the Spanish Minister of Justice to repeal legislation permitting incommunicado detention, and to investigate the torture allegations of Mohammed Fahsi.

For further information, visit <http://snipr.com/nccup> and watch the video where Khadija Podd tells their story.

Above: Mohammed Mrabet Fahsi with his children Sakira and Musa, taken in Vilanova i la Geltrú, Spain, May 2004.



CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS IN CHINA

THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO CRACK DOWN ON LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS THAT WORK ON CASES INVOLVING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. TAKE ACTION NOW AND DEMAND THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT PROTECTS THE RIGHT OF LAWYERS TO CARRY OUT THEIR WORK.

There are more than 140,000 lawyers in China but only a small proportion are brave enough to represent victims of human rights violations and human rights defenders detained for peacefully exercising their freedom of expression. Often, these individuals' rights are violated by corrupt local authorities who, in some cases, collude with the business community and criminal thugs in order to reap as much benefit as possible from the flourishing economy.

Human rights lawyers ensure that due process is followed and challenge laws, regulations and policies that contradict constitutional rights. But they are harassed, intimidated, assaulted, abducted, disappeared, placed under surveillance and house arrest and can face criminal charges and disbarment for protecting the rights of others.

In the early hours of 3 June 2009, police detained lawyers Lan Zhixue and Tang Jitian in the offices of an NGO in Beijing. They released Lan Zhixue in the late afternoon the same day but detained Tang Jitian until later

that night. Police followed Tang Jitian after his release and detained him again at approximately 2:30am on 4 June. He was kept in hotels in Haidian and Chaoyang districts and guarded by more than 10 internal security police until his release at approximately 7:00pm on 7 June.

In another case, on 13 May 2009, a group of Jiangjin district police officers in Chongqing beat up and took Beijing-based lawyers Zhang Kai and Li Chunfu from their client's house in handcuffs. The client's father was a 66-year-old Falun Gong practitioner, a spiritual movement outlawed by the authorities, who had died suddenly in custody in Chongqing's Xishanping Re-education Through Labour camp on 28 January 2009.

On 13 April 2009 two other Beijing-based lawyers, Cheng Hai and Zhou Peng, were attacked by at least four individuals who claimed to be from a government agency charged with coordinating the offices of the police and courts in Chengdu, Sichuan province. The lawyers were on their way to meet a client's family when they were attacked.

FALL INTO LINE OR BE DISBARRED

Chinese law requires lawyers and law firms to have their licences to practice law reassessed every year. Justice bureaux at the local level formulate their own rules to codify the review criteria and process. In Beijing, for example, there are seven criteria against which lawyers are reviewed. Among them, there is a catch-all clause that allows the Beijing Lawyers Association, a government-controlled body that manages the legal profession, to arbitrarily decide whether a lawyer passes the review.

As of this year's deadline on 31 May 2009, at least 18 human rights lawyers had not passed the reassessment. Without a license, lawyers are restricted in their ability to represent those seeking to obtain justice and redress for violations of their human rights.

The reasons given by the authorities to explain why the lawyers and law firms failed to pass the review were not related to professional conduct. The reasons given included advocating for the democratic election of Beijing Lawyers Association Executive Committee

Lawyers action in support of Li Chunfu and Zhang Kai, Beijing, May 2009.

members and taking on cases of mass public interest without reporting to the local justice bureau.

ACT NOW

Please write to China's Ministry of Justice, urging China to ensure that the criteria and process for renewing lawyers' licenses are transparent and based solely on professional qualifications and conduct. Urge the Ministry of Justice and the Chinese government to protect lawyers' right to carry out their legal work without harassment, intimidation, violence or fear of criminal prosecution.

Please write to:

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China
WU Aiyang Buzhang, Sifabu
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu, Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65292345
Email: pfmaster@legalinfo.gov.cn

DID YOU KNOW?

WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The World Coalition against the Death Penalty, of which Amnesty International is a member, will organize a day of local actions around the world on 10 October 2009, World Day against the Death Penalty. The theme this year is "teaching abolition".

Find out more on www.worldcoalition.org and in the next issue of WIRE.

PRESSURE WORKS: ISRAEL HANDS OVER CLUSTER BOMB MAPS

Israeli forces fired up to one million cluster bombs into south Lebanon during Israel's war with Hizbullah in 2006. In May 2009, thanks to international pressure, the Israeli authorities finally handed over to the UN the data and maps that show the exact locations where the cluster bombs were fired.

This information can save lives. Residential areas and fields in south Lebanon were littered with up to four millions cluster sub-munitions (bomblets) – many of which failed to explode.

At least 31 civilians, including seven children, have been killed by unexploded ordnance since the ceasefire on 14 August 2006. Another 14 people – Lebanese army de-mining experts, members of the UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon and mine clearance personnel – were also killed in similar explosions. Around 200 people have been injured.

The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon is analyzing the data from Israel. The information, if accurate and comprehensive, will assist them to clear the affected areas.

The UN has repeatedly asked Israel to hand over maps of the exact locations of its cluster bombs strikes. Amnesty International's members have also campaigned for Israel to hand over maps and other data showing exactly where the bombs are.

To read more about Amnesty International's campaigning on this issue go to our website <http://snipr.com/kuwh2>

For more information, go to www.maccsl.org/

URGENT: UNLOCK THE CAMPS IN SRI LANKA

Three hundred thousand people displaced by the fighting in Sri Lanka are now held by the government in de facto detention camps. They are living without adequate protection, food, water, or medical care. Many of them have survived weeks under heavy combat and are badly injured, malnourished and traumatized.

They cannot leave the camps, where conditions are described by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon as "appalling".

You can help. Go online and take action now. To read more, go to <http://crisis.amnesty.org>



In Turkey, refugees and asylum-seekers face serious barriers in gaining access to health care, adequate housing, education and work. Severe restrictions and the cost of permit renewals and other documentation mean that they are unable to fully exercise their economic and social rights.

Please sign and send the postcard to the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and call on him to abolish fees for residence permits and related fines.

To read more about refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey go to our website <http://snipr.com/kx0mm>



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign for human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.



Irene Khan, Amnesty International Secretary General, with women in a Nairobi informal settlement, Kenya, June 2009.

© Amnesty International

WHETHER IN A HIGH-PROFILE CONFLICT OR A FORGOTTEN CORNER OF THE GLOBE, **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** CAMPAIGNS FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM FOR ALL AND SEEKS TO GALVANIZE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Activists around the world have shown that it is possible to resist the dangerous forces that are undermining human rights. Be part of this movement. Combat those who peddle fear and hate.

- Join Amnesty International and become part of a worldwide movement campaigning for an end to human rights violations. Help us make a difference.

Together we can make our voices heard.

I am interested in receiving further information on becoming a member of Amnesty International

NAME

ADDRESS

COUNTRY

EMAIL

www.amnesty.org

Please return this form to the Amnesty International office in your country.

For a full list of the offices worldwide please go to www.amnesty.org/en/worldwide-sites

If there is no office in your country, you can become an International Member and join our International Members' online community.

To do this, please visit: www.amnesty.org/en/join where you will be able to access joining information and sign up online in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Or alternatively write to:
Online Communities Team, Amnesty International,
International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street,
London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom

To be an International Member you need to agree to an International Members Code of Conduct. The Code is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish at: www.amnesty.org/en/code-of-conduct



DISAPPEARED

PAGE 2 (LEFT TO RIGHT, FROM TOP)

FASIAL FARAZ, PAKISTAN, **BASHIR MUTSOLGOV**, RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
ALBION KUMNOVA, KOSOVO, **EBRIMA MANNEH**, GAMBIA
FARAJI MUHAMMED SALEM BEH-BREIKA, MOROCCO, **IBRAGIM GAZDIEV**, RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
JORGE JULIO LOPEZ, ARGENTINA, **ANA JULIA MEJIA RAMIREZ**, EL SALVADOR
SALAH SAKER, ALGERIA, **JEAN DIANDY**, SENEGAL, **BISHNU PUKAR SHRESTHA**, NEPAL

PAGE 3 (LEFT TO RIGHT, FROM TOP)

MASOOD AHMAD JANJUA, PAKISTAN, **TANIOS CAMILLE AL-HABER**, SYRIA,
ALAIDE FOPPA, GUATEMALA, **ALEXIS ETIENNE DIATTA**, SENEGAL,
AMINAT DUGAEVA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, **USAMA FAKHRI MUSTAFA BZUR**, SYRIA,
PUSHPARAJAH KANDIAH, SRI LANKA, **MILAN NEPALI**, NEPAL,
JIHAD GEORGE 'EID, SYRIA, **ASTER FISSEHATSION**, ETHIOPIA, **ARNOLDO XI**, GUATEMALA,
ALE SURESH MAGAR, NEPAL, **ANTOINE NIAFOUNA**, SENEGAL, **BEKIM BUNJAKU**, KOSOVO,
NUHA NA'IM 'ALI, SYRIA, **HAKIM CHERGUIT**, ALGERIA, **JESUS PIEDRA IBARRA**, MEXICO

PAGE 4 (LEFT TO RIGHT, FROM TOP)

KIRUBAKARAN GIANESALINO YAM, SRI LANKA,
BULAT CHILAEV, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, **JAMES BALAO**, INDONESIA,
JAFAR SADDIQ HAMZAH, INDONESIA, **GRATIEN RUHORAHOZA**, RWANDA,
ALI LAKHDAR-CHAOUCH, ALGERIA, **WAFI' FAHMI 'ALI 'ABIDAT**, SYRIA
MAYRA ANGELINA GUTIERREZ HERNANDEZ, GUATEMALA,
ABDELKRIM ARIBI, ALGERIA, **GOPALAPILLAI JEYARATNAM**, SRI LANKA,
'IMAD IBRAHIM 'ABD AL-HADI HAMAD, SYRIA
SARANI MANGA BADIAN, SENEGAL, **SRI JEGAM KANDIAH**, SRI LANKA
MUNZIR SHARIF QASIM NAZAL, SYRIA,
HOUCINE EL-MANOUDI, MOROCCO, **DOUIA GAT BENAZIZA**, ALGERIA,
MOISE NDOYE DIATTA, SENEGAL, **TOUFIK BELMOKHTAR**, ALGERIA,
RUBÉN GUILLERMO JURADO ARMENDÁRIZ, MEXICO,
KETHESWARAN KATHIVAVETPILLAI, SRI LANKA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



PAKISTAN

ATIQU-UR REHMAN

SCIENTIST DISAPPEARED



© Amnesty International

On 25 June 2004 Atiq-ur Rehman, a scientist working for Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, went to the market to buy food for his wedding guests. He was due to be married later that day but he never returned home. According to police, he is being held in the custody of an intelligence agency.

Since Pakistan joined the US-led "war on terror" in late 2001, hundreds of people suspected of links to terrorist activity have been arbitrarily detained and held in secret detention facilities. They have no access to their families, lawyers or the courts, are outside the protection of the law and are at risk of torture and other

ill-treatment. When Atiq-ur Rehman's family approached the local police, they were told they could not lodge a complaint. Instead, he was declared missing. The police appear not to have investigated his disappearance. Various officials have met with the family but have simply referred them to another authority. Army officials advised them to keep quiet and avoid publicity and legal proceedings.

In June 2006 his family filed a habeas corpus petition with the Lahore High Court. During a hearing in the Supreme Court on 11 May 2007, the Deputy Attorney General stated that Atiq-ur Rehman was untraceable.

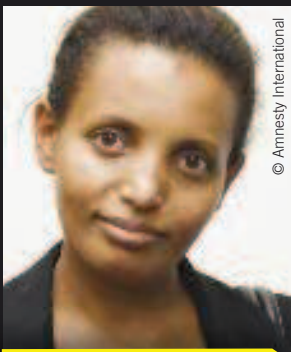
Please write, calling for the Pakistani authorities to make known the whereabouts of Atiq-ur Rehman to his family. Ask that he is either released immediately, or charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a fair trial. Send appeals to:

Prime Minister Gilani
Pakistan Secretariat
Constitution Avenue
Islamabad
Pakistan
Fax: +92-519213780
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

ETHIOPIA

BIRTUKAN MIDEKSA

LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGNER



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Birtukan Mideksa is currently being held in solitary confinement while serving a life sentence following the revocation of a pardon she received in mid-2007. She was convicted for co-leading opposition protests against the 2005 election results, during which some 187 demonstrators and at least six police were killed. She was sentenced in 2006 alongside other opposition leaders, journalists and human rights defenders.

In mid-2007 the majority of those found guilty, including Birtukan Mideksa, signed letters of apology and were subsequently pardoned and released. However, the exact terms of their pardons remain unclear.

In November 2008 Birtukan Mideksa spoke at a public meeting in Sweden, describing the negotiations that led to her release, including

the letter of apology she had signed. Upon her return to Addis Ababa, the government of Ethiopia gave her three days to retract her statement, which she refused to do. On 28 December she was rearrested. Her pardon was then revoked and her original life sentence re-imposed.

She is currently being held in a cell said to measure two metres square, which previous inmates say is often unbearably hot. Amnesty International is concerned that, despite being allowed visits from her four-year-old daughter, her mother and her sister, she is at risk of ill-treatment because of her overall isolation. Amnesty International considers her a prisoner of conscience.

The European Commission could use its significant influence with the Ethiopian

government to press for Birtukan Mideksa's release.

Please write to Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, requesting that he use all diplomatic means to press the Ethiopian government to release Birtukan Mideksa immediately and unconditionally. Send appeals to:

Louis Michel
European Commissioner for
Development and Humanitarian Aid
Berlaymont 10 / 165
1049 Brussels
Belgium

SAUDI ARABIA

SULIAMON OLYFEMI

MIGRANT WORKER FACES IMMINENT EXECUTION



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Nigerian national Suliamon Olyfemi is at risk of imminent execution in Saudi Arabia following an unfair trial. He was detained during a mass arrest of African nationals in September 2002 after a policeman died in an alleged dispute with migrant workers. He has always maintained his innocence.

After his arrest, Suliamon Olyfemi was made to put his fingerprints on documents written in Arabic, a language he could not understand. It is possible that the fingerprints served as a signature, and that the documents were used against him during his trial. The trial itself was conducted in Arabic and no interpretation or translation was provided. Suliamon Olyfemi was not given any legal representation and in late 2004 he was sentenced to death.

In 2007 the Saudi Arabian Human Rights Commission said that Suliamon Olyfemi's death sentence had been upheld by the Court of Cassation and ratified by the Supreme Judicial Council. Suliamon Olyfemi has therefore exhausted all levels of appeal and could be executed at any time. Amnesty International is particularly concerned about his situation after the recent executions of five men, including a Chadian national whose death sentence Amnesty International had urged the Saudi Arabian authorities to commute. So far this year, at least 48 people have been executed in Saudi Arabia, including 15 foreign nationals.

Please write to the Head of State, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, calling for Suliamon Olyfemi's death sentence to be commuted. Please also write to the Nigerian authorities,

asking them to raise the case with their Saudi Arabian counterparts. Send appeals to:

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Salutation: Your Majesty

His Excellency Olyfemi Adeniji
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maputo Street, Zone 3, Wuse District
PMB 130
Abuja, Federal Capital Territory
Nigeria
Salutation: Your Excellency

COLOMBIA

MOVIMIENTO NACIONAL DE VÍCTIMAS DE CRÍMENES DE ESTADO, MOVICE

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK

The National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado, MOVICE) is a coalition of more than 200 non-governmental human rights and social organizations. Formed in 2004, MOVICE campaigns for truth, justice and reparation for the countless victims of human rights violations committed by the security forces and paramilitary groups in Colombia's long-running armed conflict. The conflict continues to pit security forces and paramilitaries against guerrilla groups.

On 7 May 2009, a pamphlet signed by a paramilitary group was circulated in Bogotá. It contained a list of people and organizations that were ordered to leave the area or be killed, including a number of organizations belonging to MOVICE.

On 11 May 2009, the daughter of Aída Quilcué, leader of an Indigenous rights organization that is part of MOVICE, was threatened at gunpoint outside her home. This occurred after Aída Quilcué raised concerns at the UN Human Rights Council about human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples. Her husband, Edwin Legarda, was killed by army troops in controversial circumstances in December 2008.

Members of MOVICE were also included in lists of human rights defenders and organizations in military intelligence files discovered in the Departments of Caquetá and Antioquia in May 2009. Those named on the lists were accused of being linked to the guerrilla group FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia). The Corporación Jurídica Libertad

(Liberty Legal Corporation), a member of MOVICE from Medellín, and Domingo Emilio Pérez Cuellar, president of MOVICE in Caquetá, were among those listed.

Please write, urging the authorities to take effective measures to protect members of MOVICE. Call for immediate investigations into the attacks against human rights defenders in Colombia. Send appeals to:

Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Carrera 8 No.7-26
Bogotá
Colombia
Fax: +57 1 337 5890
Salutation: Dear President Uribe

KOSOVO

DAKA ASANI

ABDUCTED AND KILLED

Daka Asani, a member of the Romani community in Kosovo, was abducted from the local market in the town of Uroševac/Ferizaj on 1 August 1999. In 2000, his body was exhumed from a single unmarked grave near Pristina. Remains of 176 other Albanians, Serbs and Roma were also found at the site.

Daka Asani's body was identified from DNA samples given by his family. His remains were returned to his family on 1 December 2006. They were told he had died from multiple gunshot wounds to the head and torso.

This is one of thousands of cases of enforced disappearance and abduction which took place around the time of the 1999 armed conflict in Kosovo. Approximately 3,000 ethnic

Albanians disappeared at the hands of the Serbian authorities, and around 800 Serbs and Roma were abducted by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) was originally responsible for investigating cases of enforced disappearance and abductions. Following pressure from Amnesty International, UNMIK began investigations into a number of cases. In December 2008 a European Union Rule of Law Mission, known as EULEX, took over responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes in Kosovo.

Despite repeated requests from his family, the abduction and death of Daka Asani have never been investigated.

Please write to the head of EULEX, calling for the abduction and death of Daka Asani to be promptly investigated, and for those responsible to be brought to justice. Send appeals to:

Head of EULEX Kosovo
Yves de Kermabon
St. Mbreteresha Teuta 21
Tauk Bahqe, Road to Germia
P.O. Box 268
Pristina
Kosovo
Fax: +381 38 513 9333
Email: info@eupt-kosovo.eu
Salutation: Dear Mr de Kermabon

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

FATHER TOMISLAV MATANOVIĆ

PRIEST'S FAMILY MURDERED

Father Tomislav Matanović, a Croatian Catholic parish priest from Prijedor in Bosnia and Herzegovina was arrested by local police on 24 August 1995. He was detained in a police station overnight and taken to his parents' house the following day. He was placed under house arrest along with his father Josip and mother Božena. All three remained under police guard until 19 September, when they were taken to the Urije police station. They were then subjected to enforced disappearance.

In September 2001, the remains of three handcuffed bodies were found in the bottom of a well in the village of Bišćani. Forensic tests revealed that they were the bodies of the Matanović family. They had been shot at close

range and ballistic tests show that they were shot with police-issue guns. The handcuffs on the bodies were also of the type issued to the police, suggesting that those responsible for the extrajudicial executions of the Matanović family were police officers.

An investigation of 11 police officers is ongoing. It has reportedly been established that these police officers were the last people to see the Matanović family alive.

Over a decade after the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, at least 13,000 people are still missing. Many of them are victims of enforced disappearance committed by members of armies, police forces and paramilitary groups involved in the 1992-95 war.

Please write, urging the Chief Prosecutor, in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior, to promptly conclude the investigation into the murder of Tomislav Matanović and his parents and bring the perpetrators to justice. Send appeals to:

Chief Prosecutor of Republika Srpska
Amor Bukić
Vladike Platona bb
78000 Banja Luka
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Fax: +387 51 316 168
Email: rjt@inecco.net



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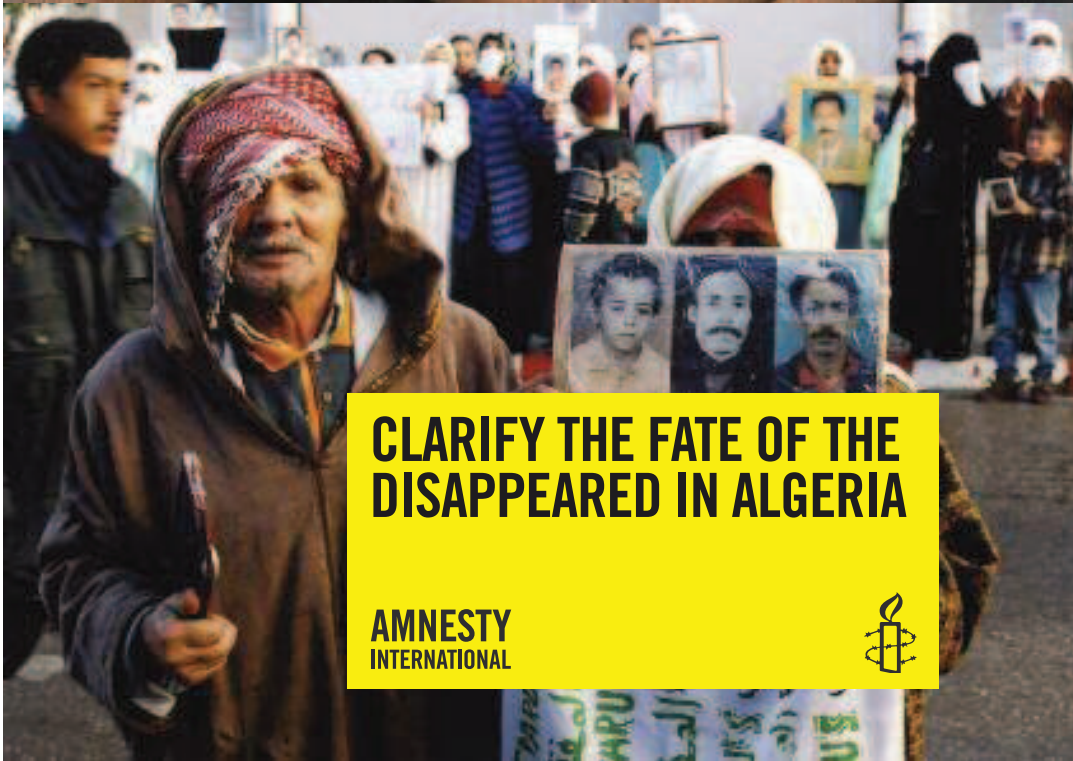


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TURKEY: END FEES FOR REFUGEES

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



CLARIFY THE FATE OF THE DISAPPEARED IN ALGERIA

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



'I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM'

TITA RADILLA MARTINEZ

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL





Dear President,

In 1974, Rosendo Radilla was illegally detained and forcibly disappeared from Atoyac, Guerrero state. He was 60 years old at the time.

The Mexican authorities have consistently failed to clarify Rosendo Radilla's fate or hold those responsible for his disappearance to account. In search of justice, his family have taken the case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. A ruling on the case is expected this year.

I call on you to ensure that all obstacles preventing the family having full access to truth, justice and reparations are lifted and that renewed action is taken to resolve this case.

I also urge you to ensure that your government upholds its international human rights obligations to end impunity for serious human rights violations.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

Señor Presidente:

En 1974, Rosendo Radilla fue detenido ilegalmente y víctima de desaparición forzada en Atoyac, estado de Guerrero. En aquel entonces tenía 60 años.

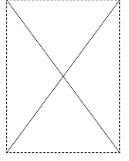
Las autoridades mexicanas no han esclarecido nunca la suerte de Rosendo Radilla ni han hecho rendir cuentas ante la justicia a los responsables de su desaparición. Buscando justicia, su familia llevó el caso ante la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos. Se espera que este año la Corte emita un fallo sobre el asunto.

Quisiera acordarle que se asegure de que se retiren todos los obstáculos que pudieran impedir que la familia de Rosendo Radilla tenga pleno acceso a la verdad, la justicia y las reparaciones, y que se adoptarán acciones renovadas para resolver el caso.

Le insto además a que se asegure de que su gobierno cumple las obligaciones internacionales que tiene contraídas en materia de derechos humanos al objeto de acabar con la impunidad por las violaciones graves a los derechos humanos.

Atentamente,

Nombre _____
Dirección _____
Correo-e _____



Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa
Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Residencia Oficial de "Los Pinos", Casa Miguel Alemán
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
México D.F., C.P. 11850
MÉXICO

Index: AMR 41/034/2009

Image: Tita Radilla Martinez, the daughter of Rosendo Radilla. Image by Gabriel Hernández Tinajero taken from the film *12.511 Radilla Case: An Open Wound from Mexico's Dirty War*. © CMDPDH/WITNESS Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. www.amnesty.org

TURKEY: END FEES FOR REFUGEES

Dear Prime Minister,

I am concerned that asylum-seekers and refugees in Turkey do not have full access to their economic and social rights. Severe restrictions prevent them from enjoying their rights to health, adequate housing, education and work.

As a first step, I call on you to abolish fees for residence permits and related fines, allowing asylum-seekers and refugees to exercise their social rights.

Yours sincerely,

Sayın Başbakan,

Türkiye'deki sığınmacı ve mültecilerin, ekonomik ve sosyal haklara erişimlerini bari kayıtlıdır. Ciddi bir takım kısıtlamalar nedeniyle, sığınmacı ve mülteciler sağlık, barınma, eğitim ve çalışma haklarından yararlanamamaktadırlar.

Bir ilk adım olarak, sizi sığınmacı ve mülteciye uygulanan ikamet harcı ve ilgili cezai ücretleri kaldırın. Ciddi bir takım kısıtlamalar sosyal haklarına erişimlerini sağlamaya davet ediyorum.

Saygılarımla,

Name: _____
Country: _____

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Your Excellency,

I urge you to seize the opportunity of your third term as President to respond to the demands of the families of thousands of victims of enforced disappearance for their right to truth, justice and reparation.

I am concerned that provisions within Ordinance 01-06 effectively prevent the emergence of truth about the fate of the disappeared and the establishment of justice. I therefore call on you to amend or repeal such provisions, as recommended by the UN Human Rights Committee in 2007.

I believe that there can be no genuine national reconciliation after the damaging internal conflict of the 1990s if the Algerian authorities refuse to clarify the fate of the disappeared and provide families with effective remedy.

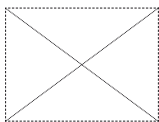
Yours sincerely,

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

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Image: An Algerian couple demonstrating with the families of the disappeared in Relizane, western Algeria, November 2000. © Amnesty International Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. www.amnesty.org

Abdelaziz Bouteflika
President of Algeria
El Mouradia
Algiers
Algeria



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Image: Sudanese asylum-seeker holding a residence permit, March 2008. © Amnesty International Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom. www.amnesty.org

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Office of the Prime Minister
Başbakanlık
06573 Ankara
Turkey

