

# CONNECTING BEYOND BORDERS: YOUTH-LED ACTIVISM CAMPS

YOUTH CASE STUDY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MOROCCO



## SUMMARY

Amnesty International Morocco have been organising International Youth Camps for the past 20 years. The camps bring together around 40 young activists from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe for a week of campaigning, mobilization capacity-building and sharing of best practices. In 2018 the camp was completely youth-led, being designed and delivered by members of Amnesty Morocco's National Youth Committee.



## DESCRIPTION

The annual International Youth Camp organised by Amnesty Morocco creates connections between the youth movements of various Amnesty sections and inspires young activists to share best practices and learn from one another.

The camps are organized by Amnesty Morocco in collaboration with their National Youth Committee, a group of seven youth leaders elected by Amnesty's Morocco's youth movement on an annual basis. The camps are youth-led; the Committee members meet virtually to organize the logistics and session content in advance, and at the camps they deliver the sessions and carry out monitoring and evaluation analysis. Throughout the process they are supported as needed by Amnesty Morocco's staff with a youth brief.

Amnesty Morocco share the invitation with Amnesty sections and regional offices in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe which have collaborated with or supported their actions and campaigns, inviting them to send 1 or 2 youth delegates to participate in the camps. Each Amnesty section runs their own selection process based on activism experience, involvement with Amnesty's actions, and age (18-25); in 2018 youth activists from Amnesty Norway, Italy, France, Switzerland

and the Netherlands attended. At the camps participants take part in capacity-building workshops, presentations, and campaigning actions alongside the Moroccan youth activists, and share updates and tips from the Amnesty youth movement in their countries. As an outcome from the camp, the participants plan international actions to be implemented collaboratively and leaders are selected to follow up on the progress of these action plans.

"I have learned so much from the camp which enables me now to carry on trainings for other youth in my group and better defend human rights"  
- Salima, youth activist from Amnesty Morocco

## OBJECTIVES

- Encourage young people to share experiences and good practices to inspire one another and reinforce international human rights youth activists networks.
- Raise awareness about human rights issues and develop understanding of Amnesty International's global campaigns.

- Create a space for young people to build their capacities in campaigning, activism and strategic planning.
- Build networks at the national, regional, and international level and encourage collaborative activism.
- Create an international collaboration plan of action to be implemented after the camp.

## IMPACT

- After the success of the national youth committee planning of the camps, young people have been increasingly engaged in all phases of Amnesty Morocco's campaigns, from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation.
- Some of the youth participants have become national and international youth leaders after the camp, such as being elected to Amnesty Morocco's National Youth Committee.
- After the camp, young activists have become more involved in Amnesty Morocco's campaigns and actions.
- Some of the previous camps participants have successfully further developed their knowledge and engagement within Amnesty Morocco and are now part of governance committees and the National Board.

"It was an insightful and motivating experience to work together in solidarity on an action about the rif-region in Morocco. The results we could achieve as a team in such a limited time-frame were really impressive!" - Tristan, youth activist, Amnesty Netherlands

## TIPS AND TRICKS

- *Use participatory approaches at youth camps!* Young people become more engaged with the sessions and it inspires new members to want to become more involved with the organization.
- *Ensure diversity!* Invite young activists from various countries and the sessions will be very enriching for the participants. They will all have different experiences and approaches to share.
- *Encourage cooperation among youth movements!* When young people with different backgrounds and ideas come together, new and innovative projects are developed.

- *Create space for young people to plan, organize and lead activities!* Young people are capable of planning and carrying out large events such as an international youth camp very successfully.



## IKRAM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ikram, a youth activist from Amnesty International Morocco, was part of the Youth Camp Organizing & facilitation team: "I've already participated in a number of youth forums and camps organized by Amnesty International Morocco, but the 2018 camp was even more special and one of my greatest experiences because I was part of organizing team that contributed to its success. There was nothing more rewarding than witnessing how everyone was engaging with each other, how satisfied we all have been with the outcomes. And knowing that we, five young Moroccan activists, were the driving force behind it made all of the hard work worth it and that's why we love working with Amnesty International. What an incredible feeling!"

## STAKEHOLDERS

- *Amnesty Morocco's National Youth Committee* plans, organises, and leads most of the International Youth Camps.
- *Amnesty Morocco's youth activists* with Human Rights Education and event planning experiences.
- *Amnesty Morocco's staff.*
- *Amnesty Sections from Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)* carry out the selection process of the participants.
- *Amnesty MENA regional office* promote the youth camps through networks.

## INFORMATION

Contact Salah Abdellaoui, Director of Amnesty International Morocco, for more information:  
[Amorocco@sections.amnesty.org](mailto:Amorocco@sections.amnesty.org)

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