

January–March 2015

WIRED

TOGETHER AGAINST INJUSTICE



#OpenToSyria

What we can do
for Syria's refugees.

Central African Republic

What next for a country where
so many have lost so much?

Amnesty's money

Where it comes from and
how we spend it.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



WIRE

is Amnesty's global magazine, published four times a year to inform, empower and inspire people worldwide to take injustice personally.

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Cover image: *Tariq, a Syrian refugee living temporarily in Jordan, pictured with his baby daughter and son. The family are waiting and hoping for the life-changing opportunity to settle down in another country. Read their story on page 8.*

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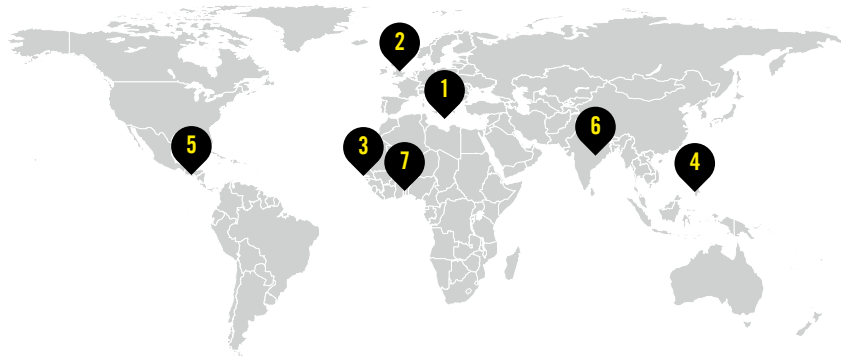
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AMNESTY AROUND THE WORLD



A NEW YEAR'S WISH

“In 2015, Chinese citizens should think about establishing [political] parties and the right to vote. And human rights lawyers and the public should work more closely together to intervene when things happen.”

Hu Jia, activist and former prisoner of conscience, China

1 DON'T LET PEOPLE DROWN!



3,419 refugees and migrants drowned in the Mediterranean in 2014. After rescuing more than 100,000 people at sea in 2014, Italy was set to end its search and rescue operation on 1 January 2015. A new EU plan focuses on patrolling borders, instead of saving lives. More than 110,000 people have signed our petition asking EU leaders to come up with a better plan.

Let's keep up the pressure – please sign and share here: <http://bit.ly/FortressEurope> and join the conversation on Twitter using #SOSEurope

2 PUSSY RIOT VISIT LONDON

Pussy Riot's Nadya Tolokonnikova and Masha Alyokhina (right) show their support for our #SpeakOut for Russia campaign. During a recent visit to London, UK, they thanked Amnesty's supporters for all the letters they received in prison. As members of the feminist punk group, the two women were imprisoned after performing a protest song in Moscow's main Orthodox cathedral, criticizing President Vladimir Putin.



People worldwide came out in force at the end of last year calling for the United Arab Emirates government to free Dr Mohammed al-Roken. A human rights lawyer jailed for 10 years, he was featured in WIRE Nov/Dec 2014 and

in our global Write for Rights campaign. Here's just one of the lovely messages we received for him on Twitter and Facebook:

“I had the chance to meet and work with Dr al-Roken several times. I have a lot of respect and admiration for him and wanted to thank all those who are helping with this campaign. We are all thinking about you Dr. al-Roken!”

Noemie Crottaz, via Facebook

3 GAMBIAN JOURNALISTS WALK FREE



Great news came as Gambian journalists Sainey M.K. Marenah and Musa Sheriff were acquitted in November after nearly a year on trial. They were arrested in January 2014 after reporting that youth supporters were defecting from Gambia's ruling party to join the opposition. They faced up to 15 years in jail and heavy fines. Many thanks to everyone who spoke out for the two men, such as these activists (left). "Words can't express how I feel," said Sainey. "I am walking home a free man."

4 STOP TORTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Our global Stop Torture campaign recently turned its gaze on the Philippines, where Amnesty revealed that almost anyone arrested by the police is at risk of torture. With that in mind, Amnesty members around the world came together to raise money to fund four billboards (one pictured below) in various cities in the Philippines, to publicize that police torture is happening to people like us and goes unpunished. Within days, the Philippine Senate had announced an inquiry into 'widespread police torture'.

A welcome first step!

www.amnesty.org/stoptorture



5 EL SALVADOR'S ABORTION BAN



Meet Gloria. She's serving 30 years in a Salvadoran prison on charges of homicide, because she was suspected of having an abortion when she miscarried. Find out why thousands of Amnesty supporters signed our petition calling for an end to El Salvador's total abortion ban: <http://bit.ly/GloriasStory>

6 TOWARDS JUSTICE FOR BHOPAL



Protesters march on 2 December 2014 to mark the 30th anniversary of a deadly gas leak in Bhopal, India – one of the world's worst industrial disasters. Survivors claimed a huge victory when the Indian government promised in November to revise its death and injury figures in line with medical data – a significant step towards ensuring proper compensation.

7 STOPPING TORTURE IN TOGO

Togo is making torture a crime! This fantastic announcement came 26 years after the country first signed up to the UN Convention against Torture. The government decided to start working on a new law to ban torture last year, after a court ordered it to pay victims compensation. And that historic ruling came thanks to Amnesty Togo and its partner organizations, who brought together people who had been tortured to demand justice.

CHELSEA MANNING'S PREDICTION FOR 2015

“The scapegoating and persecution of LGBTI people will grow as politicians exploit our vulnerability – a chilling reality that keeps me awake at night. In the New Year I hope we can support the LGBTI community to speak out and resist the state-sanctioned ‘legitimacy’ of discrimination.”

2014 IN NUMBERS

336,000

Amnesty supporters pushing for President Vladimir Putin to stop Russia's crackdown on free speech.

130

States that have signed the global Arms Trade Treaty, which became law on 24 December 2014.

1 million+

Voices worldwide calling for Meriam Ibrahim, a Christian sentenced to death in Sudan, to be released.

14,000

Hectares of land returned to Paraguay's Sawhoyamaya indigenous community after more than 20 years.

44

Percentage of people worldwide who feared being tortured in custody.

DO YOU KNOW?

How much land has been stolen from people in Colombia during the last 50 years?

Find the answer and the rest of our quiz on pages 28-29.

BEHIND THE SCENES

HONG KONG'S POLITELY PASSIONATE PROTESTERS



Edwin at the 'Lennon Wall' in Admiralty, a major protest site in Hong Kong. Named after the Beatle, John Lennon, the wall was covered in Post-its with messages from people supporting the pro-democracy protests.

Edwin Chau from Amnesty's East Asia office on being at Hong Kong's historic demonstrations during the last few months of 2014.

The Hong Kong protesters were branded the "politest protesters", and I couldn't agree more. Since the first peaceful sit-in on 1 July – when 511 people were arrested – I monitored the so-called "Occupy Central" movement.

It started as a week-long protest in late September against what students felt were restrictive rules for Hong Kong's Chief Executive's election in 2017.

Then the police used tear-gas, catapulting the protests into the international spotlight. Days before, I felt the tension as police tried to stop a crowd marching peacefully. What happened next surprised me: As the police diverted thousands into a shopping mall filled with high-end brands, they simply passed through quietly. Peaceful assembly at its finest!

Many nights since then, I was out on the streets, among the colourful tents occupying concrete road, self-made supply stations where students handed

out surgical masks, biscuits or water, and the creative artworks on every available space in the business district.

I was impressed that young Hong Kong people – probably more known for focusing on material success than on civic participation – came out to protest week after week, sacrificing both time and comfort.

My colleagues and I focused on making sure people could protest peacefully, without fear harassment or attacks. We criticized the Hong Kong police for using unnecessary force and failing to stop violent attacks and sexual assaults on protesters in October.

After 11 weeks, police cleared out the last major protest site on 11 December. Life – and the traffic – quickly returned to their usual frenetic pace. But this huge event is not forgotten. For Amnesty, it has demonstrated that having a base here means we can respond quickly whenever a voice for human rights is needed.

DIARY DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES

22

JANUARY

US President Barack Obama orders the closure of Guantanamo Bay detention centre, 2009 (it's still open)

25

JANUARY

Egypt's revolution begins, 2011

11

FEBRUARY

Nelson Mandela freed, South Africa, 1990

19

FEBRUARY

Chinese New Year

25

FEBRUARY

Amnesty's 2014/15 annual report published:
www.amnesty.org

1

MARCH

International Death Penalty Abolition Day

8

MARCH

International Women's Day

15

MARCH

Syria's conflict starts, 2011

21

MARCH

International Day to Eliminate Racism

EDITORIAL

NEW YEAR, NEW WIRE!

Notice anything different about this issue of WIRE? Here's a tip: We've got a new look, a new size and a wider mix of articles – from our new campaign for Syrian refugees and where Amnesty gets its money from, to facts and figures that help make sense of the conflicts in Gaza and the Central African Republic. You'll find updates about Amnesty's campaigning worldwide, insights and interviews with people we work with, and fantastic photography.

All of this results from your feedback – nearly 650 people worldwide shared your views and told us what kind of magazine you want WIRE to be.

A big thank you to everyone who filled in our survey! Find out who won three lucky-dip survey prizes on our brand new reader pages (p. 28–29), see some of our favourite tweets and Facebook posts from 2014, take our quick quiz, and much more.

Please keep your ideas coming in (thewire@amnesty.org), send us your stories, and tell us what you think of the new WIRE. This is your global magazine, published four times a year, all about how we can make a difference together.

Kristin (editor)
[@khulaas](https://twitter.com/khulaas)



© Pierre Andrieu/AFP/Getty Images

Chinese New Year celebration, Paris, France, 2014

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CAMPAIGN: #OPENTOSYRIA

ALIVE AND KICKING

What can the world do for Syria's refugees?

It's a warm, sunny November afternoon in the dusty Jordanian desert. In a huge, tin-roofed building, rows of girls and boys stand barefoot on the concrete floor – chubby-cheeked five-year olds alongside chubbier teenagers.

Most are dressed in immaculate white suits with different coloured belts tied at the waist.

As the Taekwondo class begins, everyone practises their kicks (see right), focusing their feet at cushions held chest high by adult teachers. The orderly atmosphere is infused with excitement as more children turn up, creating small pockets of chaos.

We are in a small corner of Zaatari, a vast camp for Syrian refugees run by the Jordanian government and the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR. Opened in July 2012, it's now home to more than 80,000 people. Over half are children.

For them, a normal daily life is a distant memory. Many here have lost everything, including the people they love: 190,000 people have been killed since this devastating conflict began.

As it enters its fifth year in March 2015, no one knows when – or if – Syria's 3.8 million refugees now sheltering in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey can go home.

Meanwhile, thanks to a small South Korean NGO, 150 children in Zaatari

camp can keep busy learning a martial art four times a week. Its Taekwondo Academy (ZATA – @ZaatariTA on Twitter) simply sets out to give them hope while they wait for their future to begin.

Learning Taekwondo won't solve the huge problems in this isolated desert city – poverty, trauma, surviving the winter. But it is a positive contribution that clearly works: the kids here are happy and energetic.

Their seven teachers include Mahmoud, a refugee from Daraa, a Syrian city across the border. "The most important things here are the children's education and manners, and to make friends," he says. "Some don't go to school or have much family, so we bring them here and they behave well." >>





A GLIMMER OF HOPE

Tariq and Neda* (pictured below with their three children) also fled from Daraa. They now live in Irbid, Jordan's second largest city. Tucked away down a side street, their building's steep stairs lead to a small third floor flat.

A multitude of shoes outside speak of the 21 people living here: their seven-month old twin daughters, two-year-old son and extended family, all sharing five rooms.

Tariq welcomes us into a sparse living room decorated with brown wallpaper and ochre floor cushions, offering us coffee. While the children play, he tells us that being arrested and tortured in Syria for 24 days felt like 24 years: "They beat me in sensitive areas and burned me with cigarette butts".

He fled to Jordan in March 2012 and earned enough for his relatives to join him. But he lost his job when Jordan's government started preventing Syrians from working. Now hosting almost 620,000 refugees, the country is feeling the pressure.

Tariq and Neda feel frustrated and worried, but there is a glimmer of hope: they have been identified by the UNHCR to settle permanently in another country.

Resettlement is a life-changing opportunity open to particularly vulnerable refugees – including torture survivors, people with serious medical conditions, women and children at risk of abuse.

But the process is painfully slow: just 7,000 Syrian refugees had settled abroad by August 2014. Most countries haven't opened their doors to a single one yet.

We think the world's wealthiest societies can do more for Syria's refugees. That's why our #OpenToSyria campaign will be urging their governments to lend countries like Jordan a hand by opening up to those who, like Tariq and his family, need it most.

Resettlement alone won't solve the Syrian refugee crisis. But like Zaatari's Taekwondo school, it's a tangible contribution that will help some of the most vulnerable people caught up in the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. [□](#)

** Names have been changed to protect the people featured.*

All images by Richard Burton
© Amnesty International





Neda holding one of her twin baby girls. The family spend much of their time in their small flat.



This little girl is one of the many relatives sharing a temporary home with Tariq and Neda in Irbid, Jordan.



ARE YOU #OPENTOSYRIA?

What is Amnesty pushing for?

We want the world's richest countries to open up to the 10% of Syria's refugees who need it most in 2015 and 2016 – 380,000 people in total.

Who are we targeting?

The governments of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, UK, Uruguay and the USA.

What can I do?

Look out for our new campaign on @AmnestyOnline and www.facebook.com/AmnestyGlobal from 4 February 2015.

NUMBER CRUNCHING

 **3.8M**

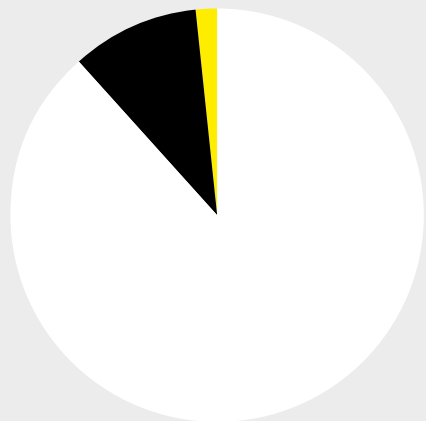
Syrian refugees now sheltering in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

 **380,000**

Particularly vulnerable Syrian refugees the UN has identified as needing to settle in another country

 **77,638**

Resettlement places offered globally so far



BORDERLIVES

Thousands of people who try to cross the world's borders are caught up in unlikely and mysterious places.

Who tells their stories, and why? We ask a photographer documenting Australia's "offshore" asylum detention centres, a film-maker working on the US/Mexico border, and Amnesty activists in Israel.





INSIGHT

AUSTRALIA

Photographer Vlad Sokhin documents human rights in the Pacific region:

“There are many Australian media reports about asylum-seekers, but not many pictures of them. I want to let these people exist, so others can see what difficulties they are going through.”



“It was strange to see people from the Middle East or Africa wearing their traditional clothes and walking on a remote Pacific island”, says Vlad. “I met Fetemeh (pictured left) at the picnic area near the supermarket in Ewa, Nauru. She was waiting for the bus back to her camp. We tried to chat through the Google translator.” Fetemeh is one of a few asylum-seekers released from Nauru’s detention centre on temporary visas.





© Vlad Sokhin/Panos

No one arriving by boat has been allowed to seek asylum in Australia since July 2013. Instead, the government has sent over 2,000 people to be locked up in two detention centres on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, and Nauru, a tiny country in the Pacific Ocean.

These centres were shrouded in secrecy until 2013, when Amnesty exposed how harsh and humiliating life in Manus is. One asylum-seeker died and around 150 others were injured when violence erupted there in February 2014. By the time we visited again in March, little had improved.

We were refused entry to Nauru in April 2014, where abuse has recently been reported. Women and children as young as four are detained there.

We are still keeping up the pressure on Australia to close its offshore detention centres. In November 2014, we submitted our concerns to the UN Committee

Against Torture. It later condemned Australia's immigration detention policy, making international headlines.

Through 24-hour internet adverts, our Secrets and Lives campaign has exposed 750,000 Australians to the human rights violations they pay millions of dollars for, but aren't allowed to see. Our supporters have also sent 20,000 letters asking Prime Minister Tony Abbott to close the Nauru and Manus detention centres.

It's time to find a different solution, and for the truth to come out.

www.thetruthaboutmanus.com

"The tents got unbearably hot. There were eight toilets for 400 people and sometimes no drinking water. I think the Australians deliberately forced us to live in such conditions so we would spread the word – don't try to enter Australia illegally, you will go to hell instead."

Mujtaba Hussein, pictured above.



Mujtaba Hussein, 21, a Shia Muslim from Burke, a Pakistani village near the Afghanistan border, says he fled because of Taliban killings. He spent 10 months in Nauru's detention centre. He now works loading containers for a local Nauru business, still dreaming of getting refugee status in Australia.

ISRAEL

By Adi Drori-Avraham,

Amnesty Israel's Refugees Campaigner

*“The Israeli government calls us infiltrators.
But we can tell a different story.”*

Idris, a refugee from Darfur.

Idris is from Darfur. To the Israeli government he is an “infiltrator” – the term used to describe Israel’s around 47,000 African refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Eritrea and Sudan.

Under Israel’s Anti-infiltration Law, asylum-seekers can be detained automatically and indefinitely.

Being an “infiltrator” means having no clear legal status, other than a piece of paper saying you have been conditionally released from prison. You get next to no health care or welfare services.

If you are a man, Eritrean or Sudanese and childless, you are also at constant risk of being taken to Holot, an isolated desert detention centre close to the Egyptian border.

More than 2,000 asylum-seekers are already held there, against international law.

But Idris is not an “infiltrator”. He is an asylum-seeker, activist and a passionate advocate for refugees’ rights – one of many working in partnership with Amnesty in Israel.

Through our human rights courses they can develop the knowledge, tools and language they need to see themselves as people with rights and get their voices heard.

“Amnesty Israel gives us basic knowledge about human rights that we’ve never had before,” says Taj, also from Darfur.

Participants can go on to do more advanced training on policy issues, building a website, documenting the arrests and racism they face, and creating short films which capture their stories and perspectives.

Many also join Activism United: weekly meetings where Israelis, Eritreans and Sudanese people plan ways to get their message across.

It’s an ongoing journey for all involved, and a two-way street. Because activists such as Idris and Taj are also keeping Amnesty connected to the frontline of a very harsh reality. By telling us about the dangers and difficulties they face every day, we’re learning how we can best help change things, together.



Asylum-seekers protest inside Holot detention centre, Negev desert, Israel, on World Refugee Day, 20 June 2014.



© Haim Schwarzerburg

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



© Marc Silver

Film director Marc Silver recently won Amnesty UK's Best Documentary award for *Who Is Dayani Cristal?* He explains why he wanted to tell the story of a migrant with a mysterious tattoo found dead in the Arizona desert.

I remember seeing an image of a Border Patrol agent holding a skull in a vast empty landscape of the Sonora desert [in Arizona, USA, near the Mexican border]. I thought following the investigation into an unidentified skull was a fascinating and poetic way of exploring the dehumaniation of migrants.

I asked myself: "What can a skull in an empty desert tell you about the world?" What drives people to leave their homes and set out on one of the most dangerous journeys in the world, and how do they end up alone and dying in such an inhospitable part of the planet?

Of the 2,000 bodies recovered from this desert over the last decade, 700 are still unidentified. Most migrants don't carry any identification, so it takes a lot of time and effort to repatriate remains to their families.

We wanted to follow the whole process from someone being discovered in the desert, to the forensic investigation, to returning the body and being there at the funeral. We also wanted to find a family and community who would share their story with us. >>



The skull of an unidentified migrant is discovered in the Sonora desert near Tucson, Arizona, near the border with Mexico, 2013.

"The US is investing billions of dollars in that inanimate [border] wall. Why not invest in human beings?"

Delver Antonio Sandres Turcios, pictured right holding his brother Yohan's photo.



WHO IS DAYANI CRISTAL?

A rancher had discovered the body with the “Dayani Cristal” tattoo while walking his cattle along a dry river bed. When I reviewed the footage I realised the power of the tattoo and asked myself “Who is Dayani Cristal?”

The man’s body was identified quickly compared to many others. The Honduran Government were also very helpful in finding his family, who were conscious that while the story was about their one family member, it is the same for many thousands of migrants around the world.

I wanted to tell a story that was local to the USA, but also universal in its themes – of life and death, love and commitment, and of the drive to better yourself and your family. These are things that everyone can empathize with. ▣

“They [the US authorities] calculated that if they could stem the flow of migration to California and Texas, people would not risk their lives crossing the remote parts of Arizona. Clearly they were wrong.”

Dr Bruce Anderson, Forensic Anthropologist with Arizona Medical Examiner’s office, in Who is Dayani Cristal?

FIND OUT MORE

- www.whoisdayanicristal.com
- [7 things you probably didn’t know about migrants: http://bit.ly/Migrants7Things](http://bit.ly/Migrants7Things)



The framed photo shows Yohan Sandres-Martinez – the man with the Dayani Cristal tattoo. He died alone in the desert, aged 29, just a 20 minute car-journey from Tucson, Arizona. He left behind his wife Kenia Yadina Cruz Rivas (left) and their three children.



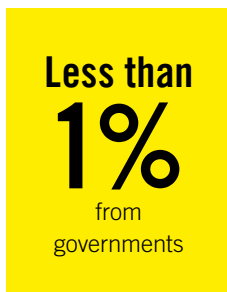


9 THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT WHERE AMNESTY'S MONEY COMES FROM

Amnesty is best known for our research and campaigning, but none of that work would be possible without the generous donations of our supporters.

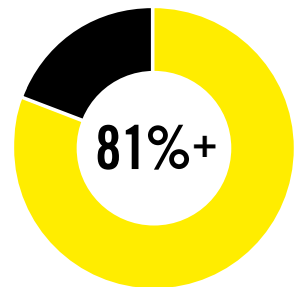
1. WE DON'T ACCEPT MONEY FROM GOVERNMENTS...

Other than in very limited circumstances, including human rights education, which make up less than 1% of our total income. We are fully independent of governments, political ideologies, economic interests and religions.



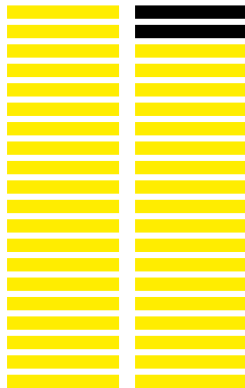
2. OVER 81% OF OUR INCOME COMES FROM INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

And much of this will be from regular monthly gifts. Having a steady, predictable flow of money means we can better plan our human rights research and campaigning.



3. 95% OF OUR INCOME IS 'UNRESTRICTED'

This means we are not asked to use it in a particular way, so we can spend most of our money wherever in the world the need is greatest. It also means we have the flexibility to respond quickly to emergency situations, such as the ongoing crisis in Syria.



7. THE TOP THREE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WE SPEND YOUR MONEY ON ARE:



Protecting refugees and migrants



Fighting abuses of legal systems



Promoting free speech

4. STREET FUNDRAISING WORKS



Last year, we raised at least €4 million from new supporters through face-to-face fundraising, despite how hard it can be. “People deliberately sidestep you, ignore you, avoid eye contact or run away,” says Hannah Diaz, who spent a day as a street fundraiser last year. “And you have to be fluent in Amnesty’s work. As the voice of the charity, you must have current information on reports and campaigns.”

“Inequality and indifference cannot go hand in hand. That’s why I donate to Amnesty.”

Ana Paula Frare, Amnesty donor, Brazil

5. DONATING MAKES YOU AN ACTIVIST

You don’t need to march down streets or wave a protest banner – by donating money you can fight for justice across the world.

6. OUR AVERAGE ANNUAL DONATION IS €90

That’s less than €1.73 a week. But without lots of these donations, our life-changing work on human rights wouldn’t be possible.



8. FOR EVERY €1 WE SPEND ON FUNDRAISING, WE RAISE ABOUT €3.40



What’s more, Amnesty supporters are very loyal and stay with us for a long time – highlighting their commitment to long-term human rights change.

9. IT’S REALLY EASY TO DONATE

Just go to amnesty.org/donate today and you’ll be part of a vibrant global movement, fighting for human rights worldwide.

ANALYSIS

WHAT NEXT FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC?

By Stephen Cockburn,
Amnesty's Deputy Director
for West and Central Africa





Thousands of people worldwide have helped Amnesty push the Central African Republic's raging conflict into the international spotlight. As the crisis enters another year, what is next for a country where so many have lost their lives, their homes and their loved ones?

Just three months old, Adeline's young baby boy was experiencing his first camp for people displaced by the conflict in Central African Republic (CAR). This was the third time Adeline had been forced to flee her home in less than a year.

A trader in one of the capital's bustling food markets, she fled Bangui's Castors neighbourhood with her six children in October 2014, when a group of armed men started looting houses. They beat a man to death outside her front door. "They started throwing grenades," she told us. "They fell just where my children had been playing."

Her tormentors came from the predominantly Muslim 'Seleka' militia (see *Who is who in this conflict?* on page 21). Men from predominantly Christian and animist 'Anti-balaka' gangs were responsible for previous attacks on her neighbourhood's Muslim community.

MURDEROUS DAYS

Like many, Adeline feared that October's upsurge of violence would bring CAR back to the murderous days of late 2013 and early 2014. Thousands were killed and almost a million people fled as the government crumbled. And then armed groups started killing people on an enormous scale.

The violence forced most of CAR's Muslims to file out of their neighbourhoods and board lorries packed with their belongings. Markets emptied as Muslim traders feared being attacked by the same people they used to feed. Civilians of other faiths were also murdered, raped and robbed.



Left: Adeline (with red headscarf) told us why she fled her home with her six children: “They started throwing grenades. They fell just where my children had been playing.”



The Catholic Church in Dekoa, central CAR. When Amnesty visited in October 2014, about 1,700 people were living in the church compound, and many more in the bush.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: A QUICK GUIDE

INDEPENDENCE From France, 1960	POPULATION Around 5M+	AREA 623,000 KM² — bigger than Spain
CAPITAL BANGUI	RELIGION	
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES Sango, French	80% earn a living from farming.	
NATURAL RESOURCES Timber, gold, oil, diamonds, iron, uranium, copper	LIFE EXPECTANCY 48 years	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING 180 out of 187

Amnesty’s researchers went out straight away to document the brutality. We campaigned loudly for a strong international peacekeeping force to protect people from predatory armed groups’ bullets, grenades and machetes.

And as the world’s eyes turned to CAR, more than 140,000 people worldwide signed our petitions pushing for international peacekeepers. In September, a UN force finally arrived.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

These international forces are making a difference, saving lives and preventing the violence from turning into something far worse. Yet with just two thirds of the 12,000 promised troops deployed, they still can’t do enough.

The reality of the situation is stark. Amnesty’s researcher, Joanne Mariner (follow @jgmariner on Twitter), recently met survivors of a Seleka attack on a Catholic church in Dekoa, a town in central CAR. Fourteen people had just been killed there by dozens of armed men. Outnumbered and outgunned, the UN forces guarding the church could only intervene to stop a full-scale massacre once French forces had arrived to help.

We continue to call for the UN to deploy the full 12,000 soldiers and police. But we also know that more troops won’t solve CAR’s problems completely. CAR needs justice: It’s the lack of it that drives the fighting, by making rich and powerful men out of armed bandits.



WHO IS WHO IN THIS CONFLICT?

SELEKA: A mainly Muslim militia. Seized power in March 2013 after a brutal campaign. Now split into several competing groups.

ANTI-BALAKA: Loosely-organized armed groups, mainly Christian/animist. Violence exploded after their December 2013 attack on Bangui.

MINUSCA: UN military and police peacekeepers deployed in September 2014 to protect civilians.

REVOLUTION AND JUSTICE (RJ): Former soldiers stationed in northern CAR and recruiting Anti-balaka fighters.

SANGARIS: French troops deployed in December 2013.

FACA: The national army, now re-establishing after breaking down in January 2014.

EUFOR-RCA: EU peacekeepers deployed in April 2014 until March 2015.

ARMED PEULHS: Peulh ethnic group members belonging to a Seleka spin-off group.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

People from Nguingo, a Bangui neighbourhood, know very well what no justice means. In October armed men killed three people, injured at least 20 others badly and burned down 28 houses and a church. Their two Commanders could carry out this attack despite Amnesty and UN experts having called for them to be investigated for serious violations earlier in 2014.

At least 30 people were killed in Bangui in early October alone. The violence was mainly orchestrated by senior militia leaders to exert political pressure, gain ministerial posts and seek prisoner releases. And it was carried out by people already suspected of terrible crimes, who are still free to prey on communities like Adeline's.

This is why Amnesty continues to call for investigations into at least 20 named leaders, from all sides of the conflict. We want a special court with international and national judges to be set up to try the most serious crimes, and for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to continue its investigations. And we say very clearly that creating peace and security requires justice and accountability.

THE FIGHT AHEAD

The wheels of justice turn slowly in CAR, so it is remarkable that they are moving at all. The UN and CAR Government have agreed to set up the very court we've been calling for, and the ICC is still there, investigating. Although most of the people we've named remain free of serious investigation, a few are now restricted by UN sanctions and travel bans.

But this is not enough for Adeline, or for the hundreds of thousands of others forced to leave their homes. She says going home would be difficult while her "neighbourhood is in chaos and there is no security". Security in CAR means more than UN guns – it means justice. In 2015, that will be Amnesty International's fight. ☐

Follow #CARcrisis on Twitter

GAZA FACT FILE



Smoke rises from Gaza after Israeli air strikes in July 2014.

Everything you wanted to know about the Gaza conflict, but were afraid to ask.

Where is Gaza?

Gaza is a narrow strip of land on the Mediterranean coast, bordering Egypt in the south, and Israel in the north and east. It's 41km long and just 11km wide.

How is it different to the West Bank?

Gaza and the West Bank make up the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). The West Bank is a separate territory bordering Jordan and Israel, and includes East Jerusalem.

Who's in charge?

Established in 1994, the Palestinian Authority (PA) was given control over civil affairs like health, education and internal security in parts of the OPT, including Gaza. However, Israel remains the occupying power in Gaza, effectively controlling the territory and population.

What is Hamas?

Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) is one of the largest political parties in the OPT. It beat the ruling Fatah party in 2006 elections, taking control of Gaza in 2007 following a bloody conflict. When Hamas set up its own law enforcement in Gaza, Israel imposed a blockade including a sea and land buffer zone. In June 2014, Fatah and Hamas formed a caretaker government for the West Bank and Gaza, pending parliamentary and presidential elections.

What is the blockade?

Israel wants its people to live free from the threat of attack from Hamas and other groups. Its answer is a crippling seven-year blockade on the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza. This separates families and means Gazans can't get basic necessities such as health care, housing and education.

What caused the recent conflict?

Tensions were exacerbated by several factors including Israel's continuing military occupation and seizure of land in the West Bank, the agreement between Fatah and Hamas

(rejected by Israel), and the increased international recognition of Palestine as a state. The conflict flared in July when three Israeli teenagers were killed in the West Bank (an incident later claimed by Hamas), and Israelis killed a Palestinian boy.

What happened during the conflict?

Operation Protective Edge was the third Israeli offensive against Gaza in less than six years. According to UN, 2,256 Palestinians were killed, almost three quarters of them civilians, and over 11,000 injured. Six civilians on the Israeli side were killed by indiscriminate rockets or mortars fired from Gaza. A total of 66 Israeli soldiers were killed in the fighting.

What potential war crimes were committed by Israel?

Israel's war crimes include disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks on Gaza's densely populated civilian areas. It attacked schools sheltering civilians and buildings it claimed were used by Hamas for military purposes. It also attacked hospitals and medical workers.

What potential war crimes were committed by Hamas?

Hamas and other Palestinian groups fired thousands of rockets and mortars into Israel and damaged a number of civilian homes. Palestinian armed groups also put civilians in danger by storing and firing rockets in residential areas, and unlawfully killed at least 23 Gazans accused of collaborating with Israel.

What is Amnesty calling for?

We need global support for an International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation into crimes committed in the conflict. In December, Palestine took a major step by accepting ICC jurisdiction over the OPT. In retaliation, Israel withheld \$127 million tax funds due to Palestine. We call on Israel and the world to ensure Palestinians are not punished for seeking justice.

FIND OUT MORE

Get the latest on our work in Gaza <http://bit.ly/AmnestyGaza>

 POPULATION

1.8 million people

Over 10 times
more densely populated
than Israel

 LOCATION



 DURING THE 50-DAY CONFLICT

ISRAEL

72
killed

8%
of them
civilians

GAZA

2,256
killed

Nearly
75%
civilians

CAMPAIGN

DO YOU OWN YOUR BODY?

By Jessie Macneil-Brown,
My Body My Rights Campaign Manager



© Amnesty International (Artist: Hikaru Cho/Photo: Jim Marks)

6-8 March 2014



© Jim Marks

We launch My Body My Rights launches in a village in Nepal and online, featuring stunning, specially commissioned body art by Japan-based artist Hikaru Cho (see above).

April 2014



© Amnesty International

We deliver a petition urging world leaders to protect young people's sexual and reproductive rights at the UN Commission on Population and Development. More than 280,000 people from over 165 countries signed it.

May 2014



© Amnesty International

We hand a petition calling for uterine prolapse to be recognized as a human rights issue to Nepal's government, signed by 102,518 Amnesty supporters around the world.

Stop for a moment and think about your body.

Do you have complete control over it? Can you choose your partner or make decisions about your sex life without being judged or attacked? Can you get the advice and health care you need to make sure you don't get pregnant unless you want to? Can you afford the contraception you need?

And how often do you ask your female friends to text you to say they're home safe after a night out?

One year ago Amnesty kicked off My Body My Rights, our campaign to stop governments and other people from making these kinds of decisions for us. Why? Because sexual and reproductive rights are human rights – they belong to us all.

From the villages of Nepal to a women's prison in El Salvador, we've spent the last year focusing on what happens when people are denied control over their bodies. And we're having an impact.

In October 2014 at the UN, Australia, Czech Republic, Iceland, Slovenia and Spain strongly urged the El Salvador government to repeal its total abortion ban, a ban which can see women imprisoned for over 40 years after suffering a miscarriage.

Last summer, we secured an impressive 198,000 signatures globally calling on Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to protect women and girls who have survived sexual violence. When we presented the petitions to the Tunisian government in November, we may have been speaking three different languages, but our message came through loud and clear.

ACTIVISTS WORLDWIDE

We have incredible activists all over the world, many of them young people at the sharp edge of efforts to control sexual and reproductive rights. That's why we've created a new educational resource – *Sexual and reproductive rights are human rights* – to help young people reach out to their peers, and claim control over their own bodies.

Take the Philippines. Amnesty youth activists there are pushing local government to properly apply a landmark 2012 law that gives people universal access to contraception and sex education. They're also using our new training resource to challenge traditional healing practices and attitudes that favour men over women.

In 2015, we will be in Burkina Faso working on improving access to contraception, and we will be tackling the ban on abortion in Ireland. We will continue our work in El Salvador, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Nepal. And we will keep an eye on world leaders as they decide on global development goals for the next 15 years.

Thanks to everyone who has already supported us. For those who haven't come on board yet, please join us. After all, if we don't control our own bodies, how can we control our own lives?

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

www.amnesty.org/mybodymyrights

September 2014



When Spain moves to restrict its abortion laws, 133,400 Amnesty supporters stand up in protest. The government later drops the proposed changes.

November 2014



Amnesty representatives (including Jessie, second right) hand over 198,000 signatures calling on Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to better protect women and girls who survive sexual violence.

Sept 2014–Jan 2015



Thousands worldwide join our call for El Salvador to overturn its total abortion ban – find out why here: <http://bit.ly/GloriasStory>

60-SECOND INTERVIEW

A RELUCTANT HERO

Amnesty supporters worldwide have written letters supporting U Kyaw Hla Aung in prison in Myanmar. This 75-year-old lawyer from the persecuted Rohingya minority has been jailed repeatedly for his peaceful political work. After being released last October, he tells us what he is fighting for.

What does it mean to be Rohingya in Myanmar?

People are afraid of us because we are Muslims. The government doesn't want to give us citizenship, even though we were born here and have lived in Rakhine State [western Myanmar] for a long time. They have been calling us Bengalis [from Bangladesh] since 1971. Their policy is to get the Rohingya people out of this country.

You were released from prison on 7 October 2014 after more than a year. Why were you there?

As I am a lawyer they disliked that I was meeting with ambassadors and journalists, so they made up a case against me and arrested me.

You received letters from Amnesty supporters worldwide. What did that mean to you?

I was very happy to receive the letters in prison – they encouraged me, my health and my morale. I am so thankful because the letters brought attention to me so that the prison authorities had to take care of me and my health.

You are married with seven children. How has your activism affected you and your family?

They hardly survived when I was in prison. My daughter had to travel to the prison every week to give money to the police, so I could get food.



Where do you live now?

I live in a bamboo hut in a camp for internally displaced people near Sittwe [the Rakhine state capital]. It's difficult for me to live here – I can't do things openly because the government is watching me. The community doesn't want me to leave, but my health isn't good, and my children can't get an education or medical help.

What needs to happen to help the Rohingya?

The government needs to give us citizenship and the international community should also recognize the Rohingya as citizens of Myanmar.

How would you describe yourself?

Don't write that I am the hero of the Rohingya community. I am doing these things for everybody.



U Kyaw Hla Aung holding his National Registration Card, a document from the 1950s that proves that he has lived in Myanmar for a long time.

FIND OUT MORE

Myanmar: the human rights story behind the spin (blog):
<http://bit.ly/MyanmarSpin>

OUR WORDS CHANGE LIVES

Amnesty supporters young and old wrote more than 2 million messages, emails and letters as part of Write for Rights, our global letter-writing marathon. Campaigners in more than 100 countries organized all kinds of activities, including letter-writing in Argentina (pictured), a 24-hour pyjama party in Chile, an all-night human rights event in Burkina Faso, and a live interview with Edward Snowden in France. Together, these actions will build pressure for human rights change across the world.

Find out more about our great events and see the impact we made at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights



ALL ABOUT YOU

Welcome to WIRE's new reader pages. We want to hear from you! Please email your feedback, photos, stories, thoughts and ideas to: thewire@amnesty.org



READER SURVEY PRIZE WINNERS

Thank you to the 645 people worldwide who helped us create the brand new magazine you are reading right now! And congratulations to our WIRE reader survey prize winners – Jay in India and Mwanganyi Thomas in Kenya, who each won an Amnesty goody bag, and Pierre in Belgium, who won a One World calendar, almanac and greeting card gift set.



ASK AN AMNESTY EXPERT

Do you have a question about Amnesty's work or about human rights? Email it to us and we'll ask one of our experts to respond in WIRE April–June 2015.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. How much land has been stolen from people in Colombia during the last 50 years?
2. Five years after Haiti's devastating earthquake, how many people are still living in makeshift camps?
3. How much does a journalist visa cost to Nauru, the country where Australia sends its "offshore" asylum-seekers?
4. Which country in the world hosts the most Syrian refugees?
5. How many supporters does Amnesty have worldwide?

See answers on right. >>



Answers:

1. Up to 8 million hectares of land have been stolen during Colombia's 50-year armed conflict – an area bigger than Costa Rica, or the same size as Austria. Find out more: <http://bit.ly/15LandFacts>

2. More than 85,000 Haitians are still living in makeshift camps. Over a quarter are at constant risk of being evicted. Sign our petition (in French): <http://ow.ly/GOWbx>

3. Independent investigations into conditions in Nauru's detention centre are not welcome: the price of a journalist visa to this small island nation recently rocketed from AUS\$200 to AUS\$8,000 (read our story on pages 12–13).

4. Turkey is now home to 1.6 million Syrians who have fled their country's devastating conflict. By contrast, 26 EU countries – excluding Sweden and Germany – had pledged to take 6,274 people combined as of December 2014 (see pages 6–9).

5. Amnesty has more than 7 million supporters worldwide.



Three six-year-old girls from a primary school in the mountains of Yun-lin county, Taiwan, show their love for human rights, December 2014. During Amnesty's global Write for Rights letter-writing event, they drew flowers and wrote letters to Paraskevi Kokoni, a Roma woman from Greece who suffered a racist attack. "Are you all right?" and "Please keep fighting!" said some of their messages.

“ THE THINGS YOU SAID ”

Some of our favourites from 2014:

"I'd like to say I'm not racist and don't discriminate but the notion of asylum-seekers has always bugged me. Though your blog has got me thinking. No one should be refused basic human rights because of the country they were born in and they certainly shouldn't be refused saving for the same reason. Thanks Amnesty (:"

Miss Jessica, on our Livewire blog

"As I head to #Ferguson, my thoughts go out to peaceful protesters under attack around the world."

Amnesty USA's @StevenWHawkins via Twitter

"Pregnancy shouldn't kill."

Ngozi Olivia Osuoha, via Facebook

FROM THE ARCHIVE

It doesn't get hipper than this: The New York City Breakers was one of the bands performing at Norwegian state broadcaster NRK's live 1984 TV telethon, which raised funds for Amnesty. Thirty years later, in October 2014, Amnesty Norway celebrated its 50th anniversary. It all started with a few passionate people from Oslo writing letters asking governments to release people jailed for their beliefs. Today, Amnesty has more than 100,000 supporters in Norway.



1 MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

No two people in this world are identical. We must stop dividing people into different groups. This may sound like utopia, but the people working with Amnesty International prove that there is another way: to fight injustice, no matter who it affects and no matter where on earth.

John Jeanette Solstad Remø, Norway, a transgender woman featured in Amnesty's Write for Rights 2014 campaign.

JOIN US!

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Find your national Amnesty office or become an international member www.amnesty.org/join

 www.facebook.com/AmnestyGlobal

 @AmnestyOnline

 <http://livewire.amnesty.org>

**'I DO NOT WANT
TO LIVE IN A WORLD
WHERE EVERYTHING
I SAY AND DO IS
RECORDED.'**

Edward Snowden
#surveillance