



1977
Prisoners of
Conscience Year



**amnesty
international**



"Every day, opening your paper in the morning, you read that somewhere in the world human beings are being thrown into prison, tortured or killed because their political or religious views are at variance with those of their government. . . . One experiences a feeling of unease and helplessness. Yet if disgust and disapproval could be translated into collective action, something effective might be done."

These words are of burning relevance today. Fifteen years ago, the british lawyer, Peter Benenson made this appeal for the first time. Amnesty International was founded.

NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE
OR TO CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT
OR PUNISHMENT.

Art.5 Declaration of Human Rights

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion: this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Art.18 Declaration of Human Rights

1977 Prisoners of Conscience Year

Obviously, for more than 15 years, each day for Amnesty International has been a prisoner of conscience day.

However, 1977 is characterised by a reinforced report on constant violations of Human Rights wherever they exist or begin to take shape.

After 15 years of growing efficiency and on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights the peoples of the world are called upon to prove that it is their will to see that international conventions are respected, and to bring to an end repression and torture in whatever countries, regimes or political systems they occur.

Every prisoner of conscience is an individual, a human being, who can only be helped by other individuals.

The more numerous we are to feel involved, the greater will the effect of our collective action become.

The Aims of Amnesty International

Amnesty is an international organization based on the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Its aims are as follows:

- to obtain the liberation of people detained because of their beliefs, whether political or religious, because of their colour or their language, on condition that they have neither used nor advocated violence;
- to demand fair trials within a reasonable time for all political prisoners;
- to oppose the use of the death sentence and to oppose torture and any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of any detainee.

Amnesty International has chosen 3 main lines of action:

1) Internationalism

Amnesty's action recognizes no frontiers. However in order to avoid involvement in internal political arguments, national sections may not in any circumstances intervene in their own countries.

2) Legality

From a legal standpoint Amnesty International is unassailable as it only seeks respect for national or international law.

3) Objectivity

Amnesty International is in action everywhere, under all systems of governments, it checks all the evidence which is collated and deals equally with all cases brought to its notice.

Amnesty's particular type of action entitles it to a distinctive place among other similar international organizations with which however it collaborates in certain cases.

You are interested in Amnesty and want to help

1977

Hundreds of thousands of people are imprisoned in the world: more than 100 states oppress a number of their inhabitants solely on the grounds of their opinions; torture is an institution in about 60 countries.

You can:

- 1) Actively associate yourself with those fighting for respect for Human Rights.
- 2) Help in the dissemination of the alarming reports of frequent violations of Human Rights and in making people aware of the unacceptable situation existing in many countries.
- 3) Form an Amnesty adoption group so as to participate directly in the freeing of prisoners.
- 4) Become a member of Amnesty and support the organization with your subscriptions and by joining in various activities.
- 5) Support Amnesty financially by a gift or a standing order payment.
- 6) Increase knowledge of Amnesty in your area and interest people in joining our organization.

Name

Street

City

Telephone

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Motor Car

