

HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# END MATERNAL MORTALITY

## JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Amnesty International is launching a new campaign in Sierra Leone – a campaign to end maternal mortality.

### WHY A CAMPAIGN TO END MATERNAL MORTALITY?

One in eight Sierra Leonean women dies during pregnancy and childbirth, a rate that is among the worst in the world. Many of these deaths could be prevented by prompt access to quality health care. This high rate of maternal mortality is not “normal”. It is not acceptable. Every woman in Sierra Leone has the right to a safe birth.

### WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

The government of Sierra Leone must end the needless loss of women’s lives during pregnancy and childbirth. It is the responsibility of the government to make health care available and accessible to all.

The government announced a policy to provide free health care to vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, in 2002. But this policy has not been put into practice.

Amnesty International is calling on the government of Sierra Leone to:

- Put into practice its policy of providing free health care for pregnant women.
- Ensure urgently that at least one hospital in every district can deliver emergency obstetric care to deal with complications arising in childbirth.
- Give women and girls information about their health and reproductive rights.
- Spend at least 15 per cent of its budget on health.
- Pay adequate salaries and improve working conditions of health workers.
- Address mismanagement of resources and publicize detailed information on allocation of funds for health care.
- End discrimination against women in all its forms.

# GET INVOLVED

Your voice can be heard! Refuse to accept current levels of maternal mortality and demand good quality maternal health care from your government.

This campaign is not just for women and girls. Men of Sierra Leone, if you want the best care for your wife, sister or daughter, join our campaign!

## THE CAMPAIGN CARAVAN

Amnesty International campaigners are travelling around Sierra Leone in late September and early October 2009. The campaign caravan will provide news and information about our campaign and talk with communities about how they can demand quality maternal health care.

The caravan will visit Freetown, Makeni, Kambia, Kabala, Bo and Kenema.

## ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a movement of more than two million people in 150 countries who campaign for human rights. We are committed to justice, equality and freedom. We press governments and other powerful groups to allow people to live in dignity. We do not provide health care services, but we campaign for the right to health as part of our global Demand Dignity campaign.

We are independent of any government, international organization or political party. We do not support any ideology, religion or other belief. We apply international human rights standards impartially to all situations.

## FIND OUT MORE:

Amnesty International works with a number of partner organizations in Sierra Leone. They include local human rights, women's rights and civil society organizations. You can get further details of our partners and the campaign from Amnesty International Sierra Leone (PO Box 1021, Freetown) or visit our websites: [www.demanddignity.org](http://www.demanddignity.org) and [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org).

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[www.demanddignity.org](http://www.demanddignity.org)

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**Amnesty International** is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of 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.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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