



together for
human rights

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL** 



A Uighur woman confronting police during protests in Ürümqi, Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang, northwestern China, July 2009.



be the
difference



Women sing and laugh on a Sunday afternoon in Kroo Bay, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

© Anna Kari

a vision of hope

Amnesty International's 3 million members and donors believe that human rights abuses anywhere are the concern of people everywhere. We work with and for each other to defend human rights.

Until every person can enjoy all of their rights, our candle of hope will continue to burn. It will burn until everyone can live in dignity; until every person's voice can be heard; until no one is tortured or executed.

This is the vision of Amnesty International.

Ignited by one man's outrage at the imprisonment of two Portuguese students for toasting freedom in 1961, we have grown into a global movement, mobilizing millions of supporters in more than 150 countries.

At the heart of Amnesty International is this idea: that we are at our most powerful when we stand together for human rights.



**I try to be a voice
for the voiceless.**

**I don't think I'm a special person,
I'm just dedicated to believing
that my community doesn't only
mean the people who live
on my street –
it means my global community.**

**And when someone is killed
in China or Uganda or Nigeria
or Georgia or Texas,
it kills a little of us.**

President Barack Obama signs the Tribal Law and Order Act, 29 July 2010, giving Indigenous women who have survived rape a better chance of obtaining justice. Amnesty International exposed endemic levels of sexual violence and widespread impunity for these crimes in its 2007 report *Maze of injustice*.

© AP Photo/
Pablo Martinez Monsivais



united against injustice

Our members take up human rights issues through letter-writing, online and offline campaigning, demonstrations, vigils and direct lobbying of those with power and influence. Locally, nationally and globally, we join together to mobilize public pressure and show international solidarity.

And together, we make a difference.

Hafez Ibrahim attended a wedding in his home town of Ta'izz in Yemen when he was 16 years old. At some point, the celebrations boiled over, a gun went off and a man was killed.

Hafez Ibrahim was arrested, tried and sentenced to death.

In 2007 he sent a text message to an Amnesty International researcher from his prison cell – he feared he would soon be executed.

He believes that Amnesty International's response saved his life. He is now studying law and says he will dedicate his life to defending human rights.

© Amnesty International



Since his release from prison, Hafez Ibrahim has gone on to be a human rights activist and study law at Sana'a University, Yemen



Amnesty International's tribute to the absent Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Liu Xiaobo, Oslo, Norway, 2010, where the Prize ceremony takes place. Liu, a democracy activist, is serving an 11-year prison sentence in China on subversion charges.

© Fredrik Naumann/PANOS

our campaign focus

we defend freedom of expression and association

The jailing of two students for toasting freedom led to the birth of Amnesty International. Today, people have more ways to express their ideas, but the powerful still use intimidation and violence to silence their critics.

we work to protect and defend women's rights

Despite greater equality, women and girls still face discrimination and violence. Many are denied their right to decide freely when to have children. For example, in Nicaragua, abortion is a criminal offence in all circumstances, even for survivors of rape and incest.

we campaign for the abolition of the death penalty everywhere

When Amnesty International was created in 1961, only nine countries had abolished the death penalty and few considered it a human rights issue. Fifty years on, the momentum for worldwide abolition is unstoppable.

A young woman signals that enough is enough after watching Mubarak's speech as it was broadcast in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt. From 25 January 2011, a non-violent 18-day protest movement eventually ended the 30-year rule of Hosni Mubarak and his National Democratic Party.





VEDANTA STOP FOILING HUMAN RIGHTS



Amnesty International activists wearing aluminium foil masks demonstrate outside the offices of Vedanta Resources in London, UK, 9 February 2010, to coincide with the launch in New Delhi of Amnesty International's report *Don't mine us out of existence: Bauxite mine and refinery devastate lives in India*.

Amnesty International

© Amnesty International

campaign focus

we demand justice

Those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other violations must be brought to justice – for the victim’s sake and to break the cycle of violence. Opportunities to end impunity have increased markedly under the new system of international justice, which we have influenced and supported. However, millions of victims around the world are still being ignored.

we campaign for corporate accountability

As part of our campaign to address the human rights abuses that drive and deepen poverty, we encourage corporations to respect human rights. Oil companies operating in the Niger Delta have allowed pollution to ruin crops, kill fish and contaminate food and drinking water. The oil industry must clean up its act, and the government must hold it to account.

© Stephen Morrison/FPACorbis



A survivor stands before hundreds of skulls at a Rwanda genocide memorial.



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DÉFENSEURS DES DROITS LGBT, LIBRES ET EN PRESION ÉCRIVÉS

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HUMAN RIGHTS A



ARE MY PRIDE

© Laurent HINI

Amnesty International activists take part in Gay Pride in Paris, France 2008.



**This project has
changed my world.**

**Undocumented migrants
are living in the shadows
of the citizens,
without rights or dignity.**

**They clean our local food store
on slave wages,
unprotected by labour legislation;
they pick the fruit we eat,
build the houses we live in
and wash the dishes
in our restaurants.**

**I learned to see
the invisible.**

changing minds changing lives

Amnesty International is a movement of people committed to freedom and justice. We work together in many different ways, so that all our supporters can be involved, wherever they live and whatever their age, background or skills.

These include:

- letter-writing campaigns
- email petitions, web actions and SMS campaigns
- public demonstrations
- human rights education activities
- concerts that raise awareness
- group and individual events to raise funds
- direct lobbying of officials
- partnerships with local campaigning groups
- school and student action activities


School children in Togo take part in Amnesty International's letter writing marathon, 2010.



how we work

We were founded in 1961 by a **single act** in support of human rights.

- By the end of 2010 we had more than **3 million** supporters, members and activists.
- Every day, in more than **150 countries** and territories around the world thousands of people take action for human rights.
- There are over **1,800** Amnesty International staff around the world, conducting research, lobbying governments, working with human rights activists, campaigning for justice. They work alongside **hundreds** of volunteers.
- Every year Amnesty International supporters write **hundreds of thousands** of letters in support of individuals at risk. In one letter-writing marathon, supporters from 51 countries sent over 636,000 appeals.



Amnesty International Nepal celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary with a candle display in Dharan, Nepal, January 2011.

“
**My period in
prison was
the hardest
time of my life**

**Knowing that there were people
around the world who shared my values
and supported my actions
was the main thing that
kept me going during that time.**

**The support I received in prison taught me
how important it is to support
human rights struggles and activists
around the world, how influential it is —
no matter how far away they are.**

”



our movement

We are a movement – a movement of activists speaking out and working with and for others; a movement of volunteers, supporters and donors fuelling our growth and sustainability.


We are democratic and self-governing – every member has a say in deciding what we do and how we do it.

Amnesty International is:

- independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion
- financially autonomous, thanks to the generous support of donations from individual members and supporters

We do not support or oppose any government or political system and neither do we necessarily support or oppose the views of those whose rights we seek to protect.

© Liva van Marle/Circle Up Now/Amnesty International



Dutch Amnesty International activists take part in the Beijing Olympics Campaign Global Day of Action, 12 July 2008.



“
**I have learnt
that activism solves a
lot of problems.**

**I learn,
I denounce violations of laws,
I alert people.
My family and friends see me as
a defender of those without a voice.
Many people come to ask me
for help.**

**I keep going because I have faith
and I want to see social change,
so that society recognizes and
respects human rights.**

”



unity is the key

Fifty years ago, one man, outraged by the injustices he saw, made an appeal to others to unite with him in common action.

He found a way to inspire people to act together and change the world. He saw the potential for using our rights – our freedom to act – to achieve extraordinary things.

Over the past 50 years, a global network of people has supported, celebrated and stood up for those that are willing to speak truth to power.

We have changed minds, changed laws and changed lives.

Each person makes a difference. Be the difference.



© Amnesty International

Young activists call for the abolition of the death penalty, Tangiers, Morocco, 2007.

**“your little letters and cards
are like bombs**

when they drop into the offices
of ministers and government officials.
when the cards and letters arrived
into our barracks they were like
rays of sunshine.

we need the sunshine...

please keep up your work
for Amnesty International!

Sanar Yurdatapan,
former prisoner of conscience in Turkey

**we are at our most powerful
when we stand together
for human rights,
united against injustice.**





Anti-government demonstrators throw a prisoner into the air to celebrate his release from police custody after he was pardoned by King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Pearl Roundabout, Manama, Bahrain, 23 February 2011.

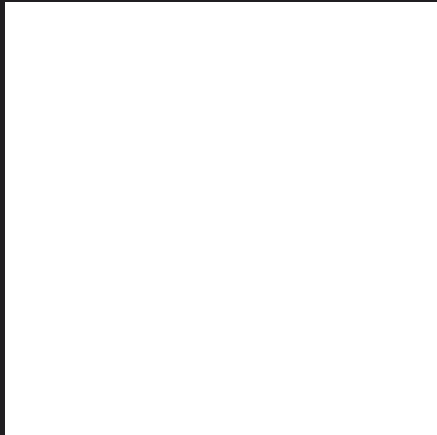
WHETHER IN A HIGH-PROFILE CONFLICT
OR A FORGOTTEN CORNER OF THE
GLOBE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGNS FOR JUSTICE, FREEDOM
AND DIGNITY FOR ALL AND SEEKS TO
MOBILIZE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO BUILD
A BETTER WORLD

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.



Front cover image: Young people hold a candlelit ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Manila, Philippines, 2008. © Private

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