

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FEBRUARY 12: 'DAY OF SOLIDARITY AND DEFIANCE' MASS RALLIES SUPPORTING PEACEFUL PROTESTORS IN EGYPT AND WIDER REGION

RALLIES ACROSS AT LEAST 30 CITIES IN 12 COUNTRIES

Thousands of Amnesty International supporters, Egyptian activists, trade unionists, students and others will come together on 12 February at rallies in at least 30 cities across the world to mark a "Global Day of Action" in solidarity with protestors in Egypt and the wider Middle East and North Africa region who are demanding greater human rights.

Protests will be held in cities across Australia, Benin, Canada, Germany, France, Mali, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, UK, the USA and others. Demonstrators have been asked to wear red, black or white (the colours of the Egyptian flag) clothing and face paint.

The rallies are organised by Amnesty International and supported by the International Trade Unions Congress, Human Rights Watch, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network and the Arab Program for Human Rights Activists among others.

In London, which is expected to see the largest demonstration, Salil Shetty, Amnesty International Secretary-General will address protestors in Trafalgar Square, where a large screen will provide a TV link-up with protestors in Egypt's Tahrir Square.

Salil Shetty, Amnesty International Secretary-General said:

"We are gathering in Trafalgar Square and public places like this around the world to demonstrate our solidarity with the people of Egypt and those across the region who are standing up for their human rights.

"Their demand and ours is for an end to repression and for fundamental human rights reforms so that all people can live in dignity. We stand in solidarity with the protestors and we stand in defiance against those who oppose human rights change.

"We want the people of Egypt to know that while governments outside Egypt may be wavering in their support for change, the people's movements are not."

Media contacts:

- If you are intending to send a reporter or photographer, please contact Amnesty's media team to confirm your attendance and arrange on-the-day interviews and photographs.
- Amnesty International's Press Office can be contacted on +44 20 7413 5577 or (out of hours) on + 44 7778 472 126
- For resources on demands for change in the Middle East and North Africa, including videos, blogs and background reports, please see <http://amnesty.org/en/middle-east-crisis>

Social media:

- In recognition of the part played by social media activists in the protests, people who cannot be present at the event are being asked to upload solidarity images to <http://amn.st/feb12global>.
- The event is being communicated on social media via the hashtag **#feb12Global**.

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