

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Briefing

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Make Some Noise: Amnesty International and music

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognised human rights.

Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of their human rights. The organization undertakes research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

Amnesty International is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion. It does not support or oppose any government or political system, nor does it support or oppose the views of the victims whose rights it seeks to protect. It is concerned solely with the impartial protection of human rights.

At the latest count, there were more than 1.8 million Amnesty International members, supporters and subscribers in over 150 countries and territories in every region of the world. Although they come from many different backgrounds and have widely different political and religious beliefs, they are united by a determination to actively campaign for a world where everyone enjoys human rights.

Amnesty International is a democratic, self-governing movement. Major policy decisions are taken by an International Council made up of representatives from all national sections.

Amnesty International's national sections and local volunteer groups are primarily responsible for raising funds for the organization's work, and the majority of Amnesty International's income comes from individual members and supporters. No funds are sought or accepted from governments for Amnesty International's work investigating and campaigning against human rights violations.

Amnesty International and music

Since its foundation in 1961, Amnesty International has long recognised the potential of music as a platform for change.

One of the organisation's earliest music events was Conspiracy of Hope. Staged to mark Amnesty International's 25th anniversary, the campaign featured Peter Gabriel, Sting, U2, Bob Dylan, Miles Davis and Madonna amongst others.

1998's worldwide Human Rights Now! tour celebrated the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and introduced the idea of basic human rights protection to millions of people

worldwide. The tour saw musicians Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Peter Gabriel, Tracy Chapman, and Youssou N'Dour join together in a series of live performances. Hundreds of thousands of people filled stadiums and crowded into fields for concerts from South America to Eastern Europe and from Africa to Asia.

Amnesty International's current US-based Music for Human Rights initiative has won backing from international artists across the musical spectrum. Paul McCartney, Radiohead, Missy Elliot, Metallica and No Doubt are just a handful of the artists showing their support for Amnesty International's work by participating in the project.

In Australia, the FREEDOM Festival has gone from strength to strength since 2003. The national annual music festival aims to raise funds and general awareness about Amnesty International's programmes worldwide – and empowers people to feel that they can make a difference.

Make Some Noise, the ground-breaking global project launching on Human Rights Day -- 10 December 2005 -- is the latest of Amnesty International's ventures in the music world. With The Black Eyed Peas, The Cure and Avril Lavigne amongst the internationally acclaimed artists recording contemporary versions of John Lennon classics, the initiative is set to be one of the most innovative musical projects of the decade.

Public Document

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