

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### 11 February: Amnesty International Demonstrations on Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa

#### *Events in at least 15 countries*

Thousands of Amnesty International supporters, diaspora groups, trade unionists, students and others will come together on 11 February at events in 15 countries across the world to mark a “Global Day of Action” in solidarity with protesters in the Middle East and North Africa who are demanding reforms and greater respect for human rights.

Events will be held in cities across Austria, Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Iceland, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Nepal, Norway, Paraguay, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

“Human rights were and are at the core of the demands for change in the Middle East and North Africa that have led to the extraordinary events of the last year,” said Salil Shetty, Amnesty International’s Secretary General.

“On the one-year anniversary of the fall of Hosni Mubarak, we are gathering in public places around the world to demonstrate our solidarity with people across the region who are continuing to stand up to brutal repression with courage and dignity.”

“We also stand in defiance against those who are opposing human rights change – we have documented a vicious pushback against human rights in countries such Egypt, while elsewhere, such as in Syria governments are brutally repressing protests. Those responsible must know that they will be held accountable for the abuses they have committed.”

“On Saturday, while celebrating the changes that have been achieved across the Middle East and North Africa in the last year, we will be focused on the key things that must be achieved in the year to come: reining in the use of security forces against protesters, combating torture and holding those responsible for abuses to account.”

#### **Highlights**

- In the **UK**, which is expected to see the largest demonstration, Salil Shetty, Amnesty International Secretary General will address protesters in [London's Trafalgar Square](#). There will be a **live link with protesters in Homs** and other areas of Syria.
- Flash-mobs will take part in up to 5 cities in **Finland**
- [5 cities](#) in **Norway** will hold protests:
- Activists in **Morocco** plan to stage a sit-in in one of Rabat’s central squares
- 35 Amnesty International groups will hold events in **Spain**, including at Madrid’s Plaza del Callao
- Activists in **Switzerland** will show solidarity with protesters in Egypt in an aerial art photograph spelling out the word Tahrir
- In addition to the countries holding public events, activists in many more countries will

carry out protest actions on **social media**. The day is being communicated on Twitter via the **hashtag** #feb11Global.

**For further information / resources**

- For further details on events in each country and contact details, please contact Amnesty International's **Press Office** on + 44 20 7413 5566 or email [press@amnesty.org](mailto:press@amnesty.org)
- Amnesty International **spokespeople** will be available from London to speak about the Global Day of Action.
- In January Amnesty International released its [Year of Rebellion](#) report, describing how governments across the region were willing in 2011 to deploy extreme violence in an attempt to resist unprecedented calls for fundamental reform.
- Amnesty International has produced a **5-minute film** [A year of rebellion. A year of hope](#) which can be viewed at [youtube.com/amnestyinternational](http://youtube.com/amnestyinternational)

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