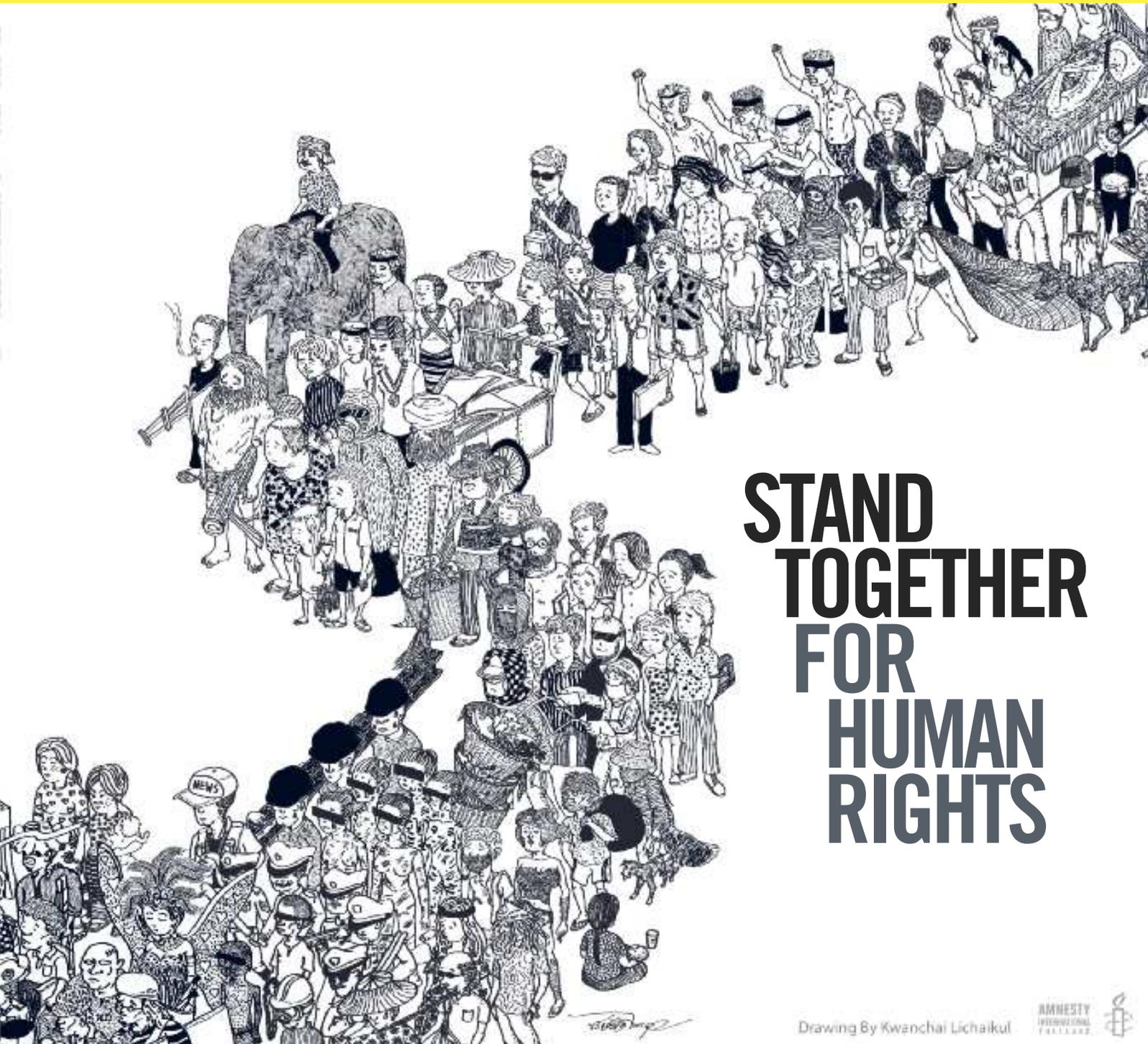


WIRED

FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS
AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2011 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 004

50 YEARS 

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



STAND
TOGETHER
FOR
HUMAN
RIGHTS

Drawing By Kwanchai Lichaikul

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL




Welcome to WIRE,

How best to celebrate fifty years of uniting against injustice?

That is what we were asking ourselves when preparing this special anniversary edition of WIRE. And we realized there is no better way to mark the past than by looking to the future.

Because our work is far from finished, and we know that everyone in the Amnesty international movement will not budge or tire until the human rights and liberties of everyone in our world stops being the play-thing of the rich and the powerful, and becomes rock-solid reality.

This is why the anniversary edition of WIRE outlines everything you need to know about the six campaigns where together we can make a difference. We let you know precisely why those issues were chosen, what the plans are, and when and how you can take action.

We have also produced a special supplement on Amnesty International's work in the Middle East and North Africa. Find it online on www.amnesty.org/stay-informed/enewsletters/the-wire

Yours,
WIRE team

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Cover photo: Detail from "People" by Thai artist Kwanchai Lichaikul, a poster celebrating Amnesty International's 50th anniversary. Design © Kwanchai Lichaikul/Amnesty International Thailand
Back cover: 1985 Amnesty International poster

GETTING WIRE

Would you like know more about Amnesty International's campaigns or use the WIRE for your own activism?

WIRE is available to download online at www.amnesty.org.

Institutions are welcome to purchase copies. The price for six copies a year for institutions is **£22/US\$34/€26**. Amnesty International sections can purchase copies for their own members. Email us on wire.subscribe@amnesty.org or call **+44 (0)20 7413 5814/5507**.

produced in Portugal. © Amnesty International/
Design: Susan Mendes and Rui Jorge Pedro Cecilio
This page: A street action in Berne by Amnesty International Switzerland to mark the organization's 50th anniversary, 28 May 2011.

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**ACT NOW
WORLDWIDE
APPEALS
READ,
DISTRIBUTE,
ACT
SEE OUR INSERT**



STUBBORN IRRITATING OUTRAGEOUS

That's us. We ask difficult questions, we don't put up with excuses, and we always want more – more justice, more dignity, more respect for rights.

We've been doing that for 50 years. And we won't stop until we get what we want.

1961

🗨️ Outraged by the imprisonment of two Portuguese students for toasting freedom, British lawyer Peter Benenson launches an "Appeal for Amnesty 1961" in *The Observer* newspaper on 28 May. The article is the birth of Amnesty International.

🌍 Patrice Lumumba, newly elected President of the Congo, is murdered. Building of the Berlin Wall begins.

© Guardian News and Media Limited



1962

🗨️ The Prisoner of Conscience Fund is established to provide relief to prisoners and their families. Amnesty International's first annual report highlights the cases of 210 prisoners.

🌍 The Cuban missile crisis brings the USA and the Soviet Union to the brink of war. Algeria gains independence from France.

© Amnesty International



© Amnesty International

© Laurent HINI

© Amnesty International

Fifty years ago, a middle-aged British lawyer was outraged to read in the newspaper that two Portuguese students had been imprisoned just for toasting to freedom. For him, the time had come to act.

On 28 May 1961, Peter Benenson launched the Appeal for Amnesty 1961 with the publication of an article "The Forgotten Prisoners" in *The Observer* newspaper. His article struck a nerve – he was not alone in his outrage. Many other ordinary people felt just as angry to hear of peaceful political dissidents being silenced by oppressive regimes.

This one man's decision to act offered an outlet for their frustration. They too wanted to light candles instead of cursing the darkness.

One by one, new members joined. Amnesty International was born. Letter-writing became our most powerful campaigning tool. Students, professionals and pensioners started writing to presidents and prime ministers to demand justice for prisoners. As envelopes with foreign stamps started to land on their desks, governments were forced to take notice. And when messages of support reached prison cells, those imprisoned knew they were no longer alone.

For the family of political prisoner Slava Aidov, the written notes of solidarity were a lifeline. Slava was sent to a Soviet labour camp in 1966 for attempting to print leaflets denouncing the regime. His wife Lera and daughter Marina were shunned by their neighbours because they were related to a political prisoner.

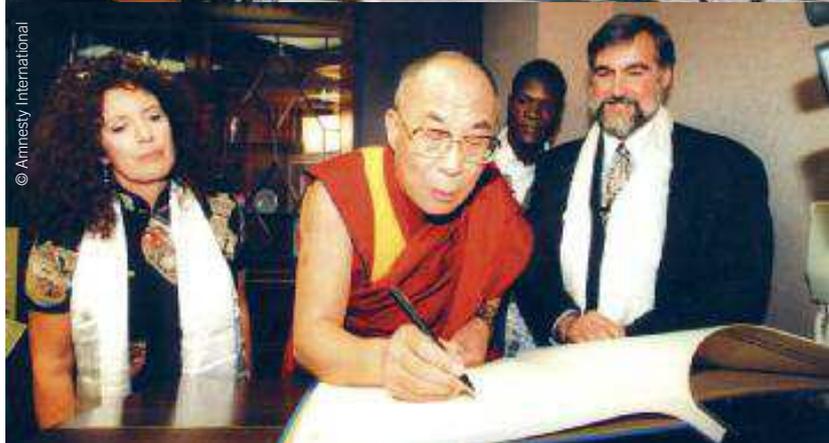
Marina was eight when the first postcard arrived. It read: "With love from Newbury. Berks. England. Harold and Olive." The couple had learned about Slava's imprisonment and the family's ordeal through Amnesty International.

"It was like something from another planet", Marina later said. "These letters were a sign that someone cared." After Slava's release in December 1971, the family continued corresponding with Harold and Olive Edwards for 15 years until the elderly couple died.

This story powerfully illustrates what our activism can do. There are more than 3 million ordinary people like Harold and Olive all over the world, who are willing and determined to act for human rights. They are Amnesty International members, supporters and activists.

On 28 May 2011, many of us marked Amnesty International's 50th birthday by raising another toast to freedom. The toast was not only a celebration, but also a public commitment to keep on pushing, campaigning and exposing the truth – that the lives of millions around the world are being destroyed because governments are not doing their job, which is to protect, respect and fulfil human rights.

During our anniversary year, we are getting louder and more persistent than ever.



1963

8 The International Secretariat is set up in London, UK. Ukrainian Archbishop Josyf Slipyi, who was sent 7,000 cards by Amnesty International members, is released from prison in Siberia.

One hundred and forty prisoners are released.

1 US President J.F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas. The Organization of African Unity is founded.

© Amnesty International



1964

8 The UN grants Amnesty International consultative status.

Now three years old, Amnesty International records a total of 329 prisoners released.

1 Civil rights activist Martin Luther King receives the Nobel Peace Prize. The Brazilian military overthrows President João Goulart in a coup, starting 21 years of dictatorship.



© Raoul Shate

© Amnesty International (Photo: Reuben Steains)



Together, we are stepping up our campaign against the death penalty – the ultimate denial of human rights – urging Belarus, China, Iran, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and the USA to take steps towards abolishing it.

We are pushing the oil industry to clean up their act in the Niger Delta, where a huge oil spill has devastated people’s lives, and for better oil industry regulation. We’ll demand justice for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who have suffered horrific human rights violations for two decades.

In support of Egyptian women demanding an equal voice in shaping their country’s future, we will urge Egypt’s Prime Minister not to sideline women ahead of the elections in September 2011. We’ll also defend women’s and girls’ rights in Nicaragua, where all abortion – even for rape survivors – is banned.

And in the true spirit of Peter Benenson’s decision to act, we will continue fighting for freedom of expression. Because 45 years after Slava Aidov’s arrest, people around the world are still being thrown in jail just for peacefully expressing their views.

With such an ambitious scope, our anniversary campaign involves hard work and commitment. Fifty years of Amnesty International have shown that we are at our most powerful when we stand together. Together, we have changed minds, changed laws and changed lives. We can do it this year too.

Page 2 from top: Amnesty International Human Rights Day rally, London, UK, 1978. Many of the placards depict the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Amnesty International activists take part in Gay Pride in Paris, 26 June 2011; The last remaining prisoners being released from Libertad Prison, Uruguay, March 1985.

Page 3 from top: Participants in Amnesty International India’s “Race for rights” action, India, December 1990; His Holiness the Dalai Lama signs the pledge to support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on its 50th anniversary as part of Amnesty International’s “Get Up, Sign Up!” campaign, Atlanta, USA, 11 May 1998; Amnesty International Nigeria during its campaign against human rights abuses in Sudan in Lagos, Nigeria, January 1996.

This page from top: Amnesty International founder, Peter Benenson, lights the original candle on the movement’s 20th anniversary, London, UK, May 1981. In the same year, France abolished the death penalty; Thousands attend rallies around the world as part of Amnesty International’s global day of action to demand respect for human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. London, UK, 12 February 2011.

1965

Amnesty International’s first reports focus on prison conditions in East Germany, Paraguay, Portugal (right), Rhodesia, Romania and South Africa.

The UK abolishes the death penalty for murder. India and Pakistan go to war over Kashmir. A military coup brings President Suharto to power in Indonesia, leading to the deaths of between 500,000 and a million people over the next year.

© Amnesty International



1966

Following resistance in the USA to military service in Vietnam, Amnesty International gives prisoner of conscience status to all who refuse to fight wars. An Amnesty International section is set up in the USA.

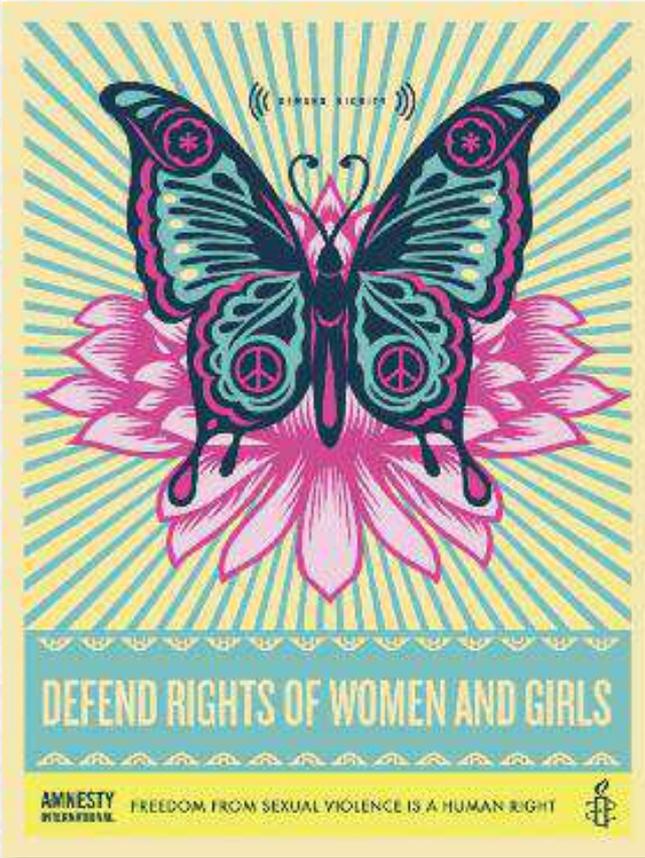
Amnesty International records its 1,000th prisoner released.

The Cultural Revolution is announced in China. The UN adopts the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

CAMPAIGN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

© Amnesty International (Design: Obeysgiant.com/Shepard Fairey)



The butterfly is the symbol of the solidarity campaign for women and girls in Nicaragua who will be demonstrating on 28 September 2011, the Day for the Decriminalization of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean.

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST
Share the link with friends
 Create a butterfly online to show support of women and girls in Nicaragua. It's easy – just go to www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/reproductive-rights

SEPTEMBER
 28th
Get updates!
 Day for the Decriminalization of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean. Women and girls will be demonstrating across Nicaragua with butterfly designs created by everyone at Amnesty International.

OCTOBER
My butterfly will be there!

NOVEMBER
 6th Presidential and parliamentary elections in Nicaragua

DECEMBER

JANUARY
 New Nicaraguan government officially takes office

FEBRUARY

MARCH
 8th International Women's Day – check www.amnesty.org for news and actions

APRIL

MAY
 28th Closing toast to freedom

Keep in touch with everyone on Twitter - @amnestyonline and @amnistiaonline and on Amnesty International's Facebook page and the Latin American Online Community on Facebook

1967

🕒 Fearing that intervention could jeopardize a prisoner's chance of release, Amnesty International refrains from adopting prisoners of conscience in China.

🌐 Amnesty International has 550 groups in 18 countries, and nearly 2,000 prisoner cases ongoing.

🌍 The Six Day War brings Israel victory over its Arab neighbours and control over East Jerusalem. Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara is executed. Civil war begins in Biafra, Nigeria.

1968

🕒 Amnesty International announces its opposition to the death penalty for political prisoners.

🌐 Mass student protests in Brazil, Mexico and across Europe. Martin Luther King assassinated. Soviet tanks invade Czechoslovakia.

© Amnesty International





© Amnesty International (Photo: Grace Gonzalez)

WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NICARAGUA NEED

YOUR YOUR YOUR VOICE, ACTION, SOLIDARITY

In Nicaragua, rape and sexual abuse are widespread and young girls are the ones at greatest risk. Those who commit such crimes do so with impunity. To make matters even worse, the government is failing to provide the necessary psychological, legal and social support to survivors of sexual violence to help them rebuild their lives.

For some women and girls made pregnant by rape, the idea of giving birth is unbearable. But they have been left with little choice since the law in Nicaragua made all forms of abortion in all circumstances a crime in 2008. The ban allows no exceptions. It applies not only when a pregnancy is the result of rape but also when continued pregnancy puts the life or health of the woman or girl at risk.

Girls and women who become pregnant through rape face a future as devoid of choice as the moment when they were raped. The government imposes lengthy prison terms for any girl seeking an abortion and, for those who want to continue with their pregnancy, there is little support available to aid their return to education or work afterwards.

Since 2008, Amnesty International has worked closely with partner organizations in Nicaragua on sexual and reproductive rights, including women's shelters, health professionals associations, and other organizations working in human rights, including the rights of women and children. This outstanding collaborative effort has achieved many successes during the last three years.

1969

 After campaigning by Amnesty International members, 2000 prisoners have been released since the organization's foundation.

 Colonel Mu'ammar al-Gaddafi comes to power in Libya. In South Vietnam the government detains thousands of civilians, many of them pacifists or advocates of a negotiated settlement.

© Joop Lieverst



1970

 Amnesty International now has sections in 27 countries.

 In September, Jordan expels the Palestinian Liberation Army and Palestinian civilians, the majority going to Lebanon and Syria. Salvador Allende is elected president of Chile.





© Amnesty International



© Amnesty International

In 2009, for example, we supported nine women human rights defenders who were facing legal proceedings for campaigning for women's right to access safe and effective sexual reproductive health services. Eventually, the charges were dropped. You can read more from three of them, Marta María Blandon, Martha Munguía and Ana María Pizarro, on page 8.

Over the last three years, five UN human rights expert bodies, including the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, have expressed serious concern about the total abortion ban and the high level of violence against women and girls in Nicaragua. This adds real weight to our demands that Nicaragua fulfil its obligations under international law.

This year, at a session organized by Amnesty International and 14 Nicaraguan and regional human rights organizations, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights urged Nicaragua to comply with its treaty obligations and to take action on sexual violence and to end the criminalization of all forms of abortion.

The dedicated work by activists on sexual and reproductive rights for women and girls in Nicaragua has already been inspiring: we witnessed street actions all over the world on International Women's Day; more than 200,000 signatures and postcards have been collected for petitions to the Nicaraguan authorities; and there have been speaking tours, collections of solidarity

From left above: Survivors of sexual violence with their carers and support staff at a women's centre in Nicaragua wear Amnesty International "Stop Violence Against Women" campaign badges; Amnesty International activists in Denmark form a human butterfly to show their solidarity with girls and women in Nicaragua, May 2011; Activists, members and staff at Amnesty International Peru holding the butterflies they created to send to girls and women in Nicaragua for their demonstrations on 28 September 2011.

messages and even fundraising actions to buy diaries for girls who have survived sexual violence.

At the end of July, we delivered to the Nicaraguan government the thousands of signatures demanding action to ensure the protection of women's and girls' rights.

In our 50th anniversary year we are keeping up the pressure. On 28 May, we launched our "Butterflies of hope" solidarity action. Our partners asked us to collect personalized paper butterflies from around the world so that they can be displayed at demonstrations on 28 September to demand the repeal of the total abortion ban and an end to sexual violence against women and girls. The events will take place on the Day for the Decriminalization of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean, and will provide a crucial opportunity for women's and girls' voices to be heard.

With presidential elections due in November 2011, the timing of our campaign provides a real opportunity to make sure that human rights stay at the top of the election agenda.

We will be pressuring the current government to listen to the demands of Nicaraguan women and girls, and talking to presidential candidates to ensure that they make commitments to human rights in their manifestos. Such commitments must include developing, resourcing and implementing a human rights plan which protects the rights of women, girls, men and boys equally; they must also contain the action points necessary to address sexual violence against children.

Once we have met with presidential candidates, heard the results of the elections, and talked with our partners about strategies for the future and what we can do to support them, there will be many more opportunities for us to stand in solidarity with women and girls in Nicaragua, voice our shared demands to the authorities and make change happen.

ACT NOW

Join our campaign. Go online and create a butterfly – women and girls in Nicaragua will use it at their demonstration on 28 September.

www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/reproductive-rights



© Marina Aidova

"When the first letter came it was like something from another planet"

Marina Aidova, speaking to Amnesty International 2006 about the letter-writing campaign to release her father, Slava Aidov. A prisoner of conscience, Slava Aidov was arrested in 1966 for attempting to obtain a printing press and printing leaflets denouncing the Soviet regime. He was released in 1971. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Marina Aidova went to Newbury in the UK to visit the couple who had sent her father his first postcard in prison.

1971



New Amnesty International sections are formed in Bangladesh, Mexico and South Korea.



Idi Amin comes to power in Uganda. Bangladesh born as independent state.

1972



Amnesty International launches a Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.



Martial law declared in the Philippines. US President Richard Nixon visits China.



ANA MARÍA PIZARRO, MARTA MARÍA BLANDÓN and MARTHA MUNGUÍA are defenders of sexual and reproductive rights in Nicaragua. In 2007, they faced criminal charges as a result of their work. This is what they have to say.

'WE ALL HAVE A ROLE IN CHANGING THE WORLD'

We need to come together to change the situation in Nicaragua.

MMB: When it comes to sexual and reproductive rights, all of our governments are very afraid. They think that advancing in this area could cause them to lose votes, credibility and the support of the most conservative sectors.

AMP: We have had conservative governments, liberal governments, governments that present themselves as leftist, but in terms of sexual and reproductive rights, each one was worse than the last.

MM: In January and February 2011 alone, it was reported that 63 girls were victims of sexual violence which resulted in pregnancy. That is so extreme it is difficult to believe. Sometimes I read the figures and say, it can't be, this can't be happening. The rapes and unwanted pregnancies are expressions of the inequality that we women are suffering. These are situations that need collective action.

Amnesty International helped us when we were persecuted for our work.

AMP: In 2007, I was accused of committing a crime by the current government, along with eight other women. For nine women from different organizations to be charged with these crimes amounted to political persecution. The first time I encountered Amnesty was during the course of our defending ourselves against these charges. After three years, the charges were dropped. Amnesty International offered us frank, sustained and successful support. Thousands of people sent cards to the president of Nicaragua, to the Prosecutor's Office, they sent solidarity cards from different countries in the world.

MM: For us, it meant that we were not alone and it gave strength to our action, because it wasn't just confronting the state for the violation of our rights, for political persecution, but it was the fact that we were recognized as human rights defenders for the first time. When Amnesty International recognized and treated us as human rights defenders, I felt very proud of that.

We won the battle with the help of Amnesty International because they gave us energy in our struggle, because they gave us energy to carry on, not to give up, and we were strengthened in our capacity to defend human rights.

MMB: Someone very close to the government, very close to the president, told me that when the thousands of cards were delivered to the office of the president, and when Amnesty International's report arrived, the floor moved for them, it had such an impact.

We are counting on your support to help others. You can tell the world what is happening here.

MMB: The girls and women of Nicaragua need you, they need your voices, they need your action and your solidarity to change the situation in this country. The butterflies are getting stronger and they will help to transform this society and the laws that continue to re-victimize girl victims and to protect abusers.

AMP: You can influence governments, through your campaigns and declarations. You can bring attention to our situation, so that inside the country, people know that international organizations are monitoring the situation.

Every solidarity action is very important. Nicaragua is in a very difficult situation with relation to violence against women. Impunity is the norm and there are many obstacles to justice. Every Amnesty member that sends a card, that sends a butterfly, that sends a letter, is showing their concern, and is giving us strength in Nicaragua to carry on fighting for the rights of girls and women.

Ana María Pizarro is the founder of SI Mujer, a feminist centre working to promote and defend the rights of women, offering education in sexual and reproductive rights and providing health services to women and girls, in solidarity with those living in poverty.

Marta María Blandón is director of IPAS Central America, an international organization working to improve health services, to empower women and to advocate for laws that improve women's access to services.

Martha Munguía is the coordinator of the Nicaraguan Alliance of Women's Centres, dedicated to ending violence against women and girls, and to providing legal and psychosocial support to women and girls survivors of sexual violence.

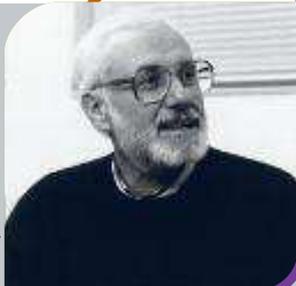
Clockwise from top right: Ana María Pizarro, Martha Munguía and Marta María Blandón. © Amnesty International (photo: Grace Gonzalez); Amnesty International; IPAS.

1973

 First Urgent Action issued, on behalf of Brazilian political prisoner Luiz Basiño Rossi (pictured right).

 Ceasefire agreed in Vietnam. General Augusto Pinochet becomes President of Chile after military coup.

© Amnesty International



1974

 Amnesty International publishes report on political oppression, executions and torture in Chile. Seán McBride, Chair of the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International, is awarded Nobel Peace Prize. Mümtaz Soysal (pictured right) of Turkey becomes the first former prisoner of conscience elected to the International Executive Committee.

 US President Richard Nixon resigns after Watergate scandal. Dictatorships in Portugal and Greece collapse.

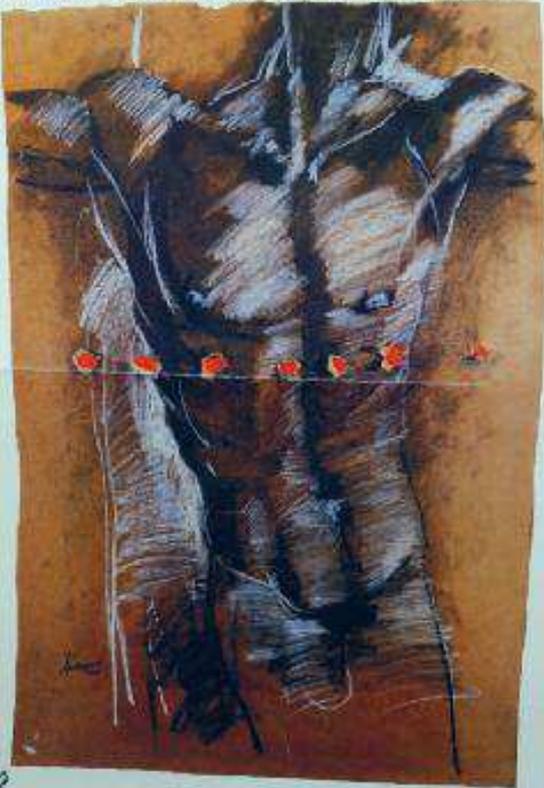
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UNITE AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

CAMPAIGN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CAMPAIGNHA INTERNACIONAL CONTRA A PENA DE MORTE



Amnistia Internacional

The design for this poster was donated to Amnesty International in Portugal by the sculptor José Rodrigues for the 1989 report *When the state kills*. As of December 2010, 96 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes, and more than two thirds have abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

© José Rodrigues

JUNE

JULY

Send link to my Friends on Facebook

Look online for Amnesty International's new report on the death penalty in the USA

AUGUST

Save Leng Guoquan – go to website and take action to stop his execution. *join in*
www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/death-penalty

SEPTEMBER

Pull together to act against the death penalty. Go online and sign a petition to the President of Belarus – tell him to end the use death penalty!!

post the link on twitter

www.amnesty.org/en/50/campaigns/death-penalty

OCTOBER

10th World Day Against the Death Penalty. *I'm in!*

NOVEMBER

New information on the use of the death penalty for drug-related offences in Iran available on the website. Cities for Life – cities around the world show their opposition to the death penalty.

DECEMBER

10th Delivering signatures on the petition to the President of Belarus. *Find out what's happening in my area*

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

28th Closing toast to freedom

Follow #amnesty50 @amnestyonline on twitter



1975

 Amnesty International now numbers 1,592 groups in 33 countries and more than 70,000 members in 65 countries.

 UN unanimously adopts the Declaration against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. General Francisco Franco dies in Spain. Khmer Rouge seize power in Cambodia.

Design © Geert Selsla



1976

 A worldwide campaign against torture in Uruguay is launched. In November, Amnesty International lists 167 trade unionists as imprisoned in 16 countries.

 In China, Mao Tse-Tung dies, marking a final end to the Cultural Revolution.

STAND UNITED AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY



States around the world are continuing to sentence people to death. Some governments still shoot, hang, electrocute, inject with lethal poisons, stone and decapitate people as punishment for criminal offences. What are we going to do about it? Put real pressure on some of these governments and join together to make real progress towards abolition of the death penalty. On 10 October 2011, World Day Against the Death Penalty, the entire Amnesty International movement will come together to say: enough. The death penalty has no place in our world. Every voice counts. Every action counts.

The plan is to focus on Belarus, China, Iran, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and the USA. In two of these countries – Belarus and Mongolia – there is a good chance that focused activism could push the authorities towards major changes to their policies.

In Saudi Arabia, China, Iran and the USA, progress towards abolition of the death penalty is slower. Yet with intensive campaigning, we can save people on death row from imminent executions and limit death sentences. We can

make these governments understand that the global community will not give up.

There is every reason to be optimistic. When Amnesty International was founded in 1961, only nine countries in the world had abolished the death penalty. At that time, capital punishment was not even considered a human rights issue. Fifty years later, 96 countries have abolished the death penalty, most recently Gabon in 2010. The number of countries carrying out executions has declined. The impact of regular people, standing up and calling for an end to the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment has been immense.

Amnesty International has been in total and unconditional opposition to the death penalty for 34 years. Our work encompasses a number of approaches. We campaign on behalf of individuals under sentence of death and work to strengthen international law and standards restricting the use of the death penalty. The movement campaigns for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, and responds to countries attempting to resume executions or reinstate the death penalty.

We are closely following the situation in Mongolia, where the president is urging the Parliament to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Ratification would mean committing Mongolia to abolish the death penalty from national legislation. We have been campaigning for this final step since President Tsakhia Elbegdorj called a halt to executions in January 2010.

In Belarus, Amnesty International is calling for the authorities to immediately suspend executions as a first step towards abolition, and to commute the death sentences of all those on death row. We are supporting a petition to the Belarusian authorities, launched by the NGO Human Rights Centre Viasna. Together, we are trying to collect as many signatures as we can by December 2011. The petition is available on our website (see details opposite).

The USA's federal system of government carries particular challenges for the campaign. The death penalty is used across numerous states and federal jurisdictions. While we will continue to work against individual executions at state level, we

1977

Amnesty International is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (pictured right). The Stockholm Conference calls on all governments to "bring about the immediate and total abolition of the death penalty".

General Zia overthrows Pakistan's first elected Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. In South Africa student leader Steve Biko dies of head injuries in police custody.

© Norsk Telegrambyrå



1978

Amnesty International is awarded the UN Human Rights prize for "outstanding contributions in the field of human rights".

Egypt and Israel reach peace agreement at Camp David in the USA.



© Private



Above: The Amnesty international movement has been working to abolish the death penalty for 34 years. Activists in Hong Kong March 2008.
Right: Suliamon Olyfemi (below) and Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa (top) are both on death row in Saudi Arabia.

SAVE LIVES CHANGE LAWS



will also send a clear message to the federal government – through US embassies around the world – that it should work to lead the country away from the death penalty.

In Iran, we will focus on the recent increase in the use of death sentences and executions, particularly for drug-related offences, in violation of international law.

Amnesty International activists are already working to stop the execution of Chinese trader of seafood Leng Guoquan, who was sentenced to death for drug trafficking following an unfair trial and alleged torture. Soon there will be an action available online in which everyone can take part.

SAVE SULIAMON AND SITI ZAINAB

Right now, we are working to save the lives of two people who are facing imminent execution in Saudi Arabia. Action is urgent. We need to put pressure on the Saudi Arabian government to commute their sentences.

Suliamon Olyfemi, from Nigeria, was detained during a mass arrest of foreign nationals in September 2002, after a police officer died in an alleged dispute with migrant workers. Suliamon has always maintained his innocence.

He had no legal representation and no access to translation or interpretation from Arabic, the language of the trial proceedings, making it impossible for him to understand the legal process, let alone defend himself in court in any meaningful way. He was sentenced to death in 2004.

Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa is a domestic worker and mother of two from Indonesia. She has been held in Medina Prison in Saudi Arabia since 1999. Siti allegedly confessed to the murder of her employer during police interrogation. She was subsequently convicted and sentenced to death.

Siti, who reportedly suffers from mental illness, did not have a lawyer to represent her in court.

ACT NOW

Sign and send the postcard in the insert, calling on the Saudi Arabian government to commute the death sentences of Suliamon Olyfemi and Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa without delay, and immediately establish a moratorium on all executions as a first step towards abolishing the death penalty.

You can also take action online on www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/death-penalty

Let's make this anniversary year count. Join our campaign against the death penalty.



1979

8 Amnesty International publishes a list of 2,665 people who disappeared after the military coup led by Jorge Rafael Videla in Argentina. Amnesty International starts working against political killings.

🌐 The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan. The UN passes a Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In Iran the Shah is ousted by mass protests.

1980

8 Amnesty International launches the first campaign against the death penalty.

🌐 The UN sets up the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Iraq invades Iran.



ERIC PROKOSCH, Amnesty International campaign and research co-ordinator 1979-2005, recalls the early years of our campaign against the death penalty.

“SOMETHING VERY BIG, SOMETHING VERY BOLD”

Amnesty International hired me in 1979 to organize a “special programme for the abolition of the death penalty”. I was part of a three-person team that provided continuity of action and information to death penalty co-ordinators at Amnesty International sections, who in turn worked with local groups.

The programme had long been anticipated. One month after my arrival, I met with Amnesty International campaigners in Germany. They wanted to start work immediately! I said I needed time to prepare. There was an uproar.

During a break in discussions, two of us came up with the idea of a petition to the European Parliament (the parliamentary body of the European Community, EC, today the European Union, EU), calling for abolition of the death penalty in Europe. The German campaigners could collect signatures while my team finished organizing the international programme. Our proposal was enthusiastically accepted.

Back in London, not everyone was happy. “The EC has nothing to do with human rights”, one of my colleagues wrote.

Amnesty International in Germany went ahead with the petition and collected 70,000 signatures. Members in Italy collected another 17,000. The European Parliament duly appointed a rapporteur to study the issue, and in 1981 the Parliament adopted a resolution expressing its “strong desire” for abolition throughout the EC.

Many more resolutions on the death penalty were to follow. In 1998 the EU became a major actor against the death penalty with the adoption of guidelines for collective interventions with other governments in capital cases – something we could scarcely have imagined back in 1979.

In 1980, we asked local groups to write to hundreds of members of parliament, lawyers and others in selected countries, arguing against the death penalty. But country-specific actions were not enough. In a 1979 strategy paper, I argued that we needed “something very big, something very bold”: an appeal to the UN to pave the way for abolition by declaring capital punishment to be incompatible with human rights.

The appeal to the UN was launched in January 1980, and Amnesty International members around the world went to work collecting signatures. In October that year we presented it to the then UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and the President of the UN General Assembly with signatures from people in more than 100 countries including six heads of government and many other international celebrities. It was the broadest appeal to date for the worldwide abolition of capital punishment.

Not everyone was behind the campaign. Some Amnesty International leaders feared that the death penalty would be an unpopular issue and that we risked alienating some of our members. In March 1980, during its annual general meeting, Amnesty International in the UK considered a resolution urging that “diversion of Amnesty’s effort, time, money and propaganda towards the extraneous and highly controversial issue of Capital Punishment for certain classes of violent crime should be drastically reduced”. After a heated debate, the resolution was soundly quashed.

Amnesty International launched its second worldwide campaign against the death penalty in 1989. Four countries abolished the death penalty for all crimes that year, and at the end of the year the UN General Assembly adopted the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, an international treaty to abolish the death penalty. In 1990, eight more countries joined the abolitionist ranks.

There have been many positive developments since then, with contributions from many actors. Where Amnesty International has really made a difference, I believe, is its incessant campaigning on the issue and its insistence that the death penalty violates fundamental human rights. When Amnesty International strongly believes in something, it does not give up!

I pay tribute to my former team members, to the Amnesty International death penalty co-ordinators, and to the thousands of Amnesty International members and staff who have worked tirelessly to rid the world of the death penalty.



1981

 Amnesty International launches the Disappearance Campaign. It now numbers over 250,000 members, subscribers and supporters in more than 150 countries or territories. (Pictured right: demonstration against disappearances in Liege, Belgium.)

 France abolishes the death penalty. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt is assassinated.



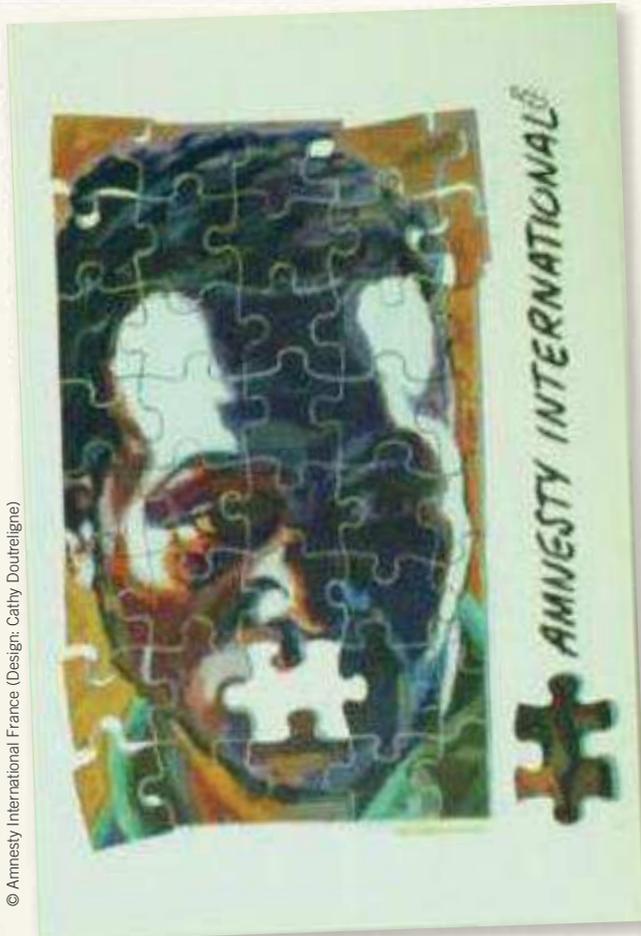
1982

 Amnesty International condemns and opposes laws and practices of apartheid, and reaffirms its opposition to inhumane treatment of people because of their sexuality. Amnesty International launches an appeal for a universal amnesty for all prisoners of conscience and collects more than 1 million signatures to deliver to the UN.

 Israel invades Lebanon. Lebanese Christian forces in Israeli-controlled West Beirut kill at least 900 Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

SPEAK OUT FOR THE SILENCED

CAMPAIGN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



© Amnesty International France (Design: Cathy Doutreligne)

Freedom of expression poster by French artist Cathy Doutreligne for Amnesty International in France, 1991. Freedom of expression and opinion was the focus of Amnesty International's first ever campaign 1961.

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

17th **Action day:** release prisoner of conscience Abuzar Al Amin

NOVEMBER

25th **Action day:** protect human rights defender Norma Cruz

DECEMBER

3-17th **Write for Rights letter-writing marathon**

Close down Yodok Political Prisoner camp

Let Halil Savda speak freely

Solidarity with members of WOZA

Get justice for Natalia Estmirova

Release prisoner of conscience Mohammad Sadiq

Kabudvand

JANUARY

21th **Action day:** Protect the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

FEBRUARY

MARCH

30th **Action day:** improve prison conditions of prisoner of conscience Su Su Nway

APRIL

MAY

28th Closing toast to freedom

*Find out how the campaign is going
www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/
freedom-of-expression*

*Contact my
local Amnesty
International
group*

*Spread the word
and get everyone
to act*

1983

 Amnesty International launches a campaign against political killings and disappearances.

 Argentina returns to civilian rule and begins to investigate the thousands of people who disappeared in the so-called Dirty War. Delivering petition to the UN of 1 million signatures (pictured right).

© Thomas Victor



1984

 Amnesty International launches a second Campaign Against Torture, which includes a 12-point plan for the abolition of torture.

 The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is adopted by the UN General Assembly. In India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated and a leak at the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal kills thousands.

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Mohammad is in prison for writing an article. Norma has been threatened for speaking out on women's rights. Su Su is in prison for protesting against her government. Natalia, who exposed human rights abuses, has been killed.

They are being silenced. We need to speak out on their behalf.

Amnesty International began working on freedom of expression and opinion in 1961 – it was our first ever campaign. And even though we now campaign on many other human rights issues, our dedication to freedom of expression has not diminished.

The right to speak and write freely should be a cornerstone of any society. It is fundamental to people's ability to participate in society and hold governments to account. It ensures that every one of us can express ourselves creatively, receive information and question the things we disagree with.

This year we are taking action on behalf of nine individuals and groups. Their stories are indicative of wider repression in their countries; by calling on governments to respect these people's rights, we are telling them to respect the rights of all their citizens, and reminding them that we will not stop pestering them until they do.

The more of us take part, the more likely we are to succeed. It is that simple.



© Private

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó are refusing to be drawn into Colombia's armed conflict. For this reason, they have been treated with hostility by all sides. More than 170 Community members have been killed or forcibly disappeared; others have been sexually assaulted or threatened. Join

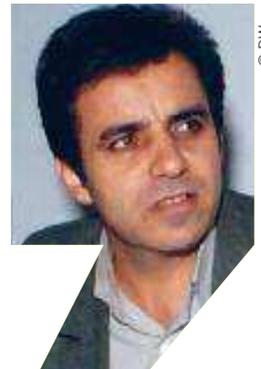
us – stand in solidarity with the Peace Community and demand they get justice. We want to help protect them from attacks, and we want the Colombian authorities to tackle the impunity once and for all.



© Fundación Sobrevivientes

Norma Cruz is a human rights defender in Guatemala. She documents cases of violence against women and fights for justice. As a result of her work, Norma has received numerous death threats. Our plan is to get as many people as possible to write to the Guatemalan authorities and demand the threats are investigated and stopped.

Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand is serving an 11-year prison sentence for articles he wrote promoting the rights of Iran's Kurdish population. Let's tell the government to release him immediately and unconditionally.



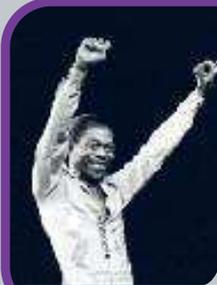
© DW

1985

8 Work for refugees is included in the Amnesty International statute. Amnesty International now has more than half a million supporters and subscribers. Amnesty International's first education pack, Teaching and learning about human rights, is launched in Helsinki, Finland.

🌐 Mikhael Gorbachev becomes leader of the USSR and begins introducing economic reform. Human rights education in Norway,

© AP Photo/Laurent Rebours



“My father, Fela Kuti, was released from prison [in Nigeria] in 1986 after Amnesty International took him on as a prisoner of conscience. So I am one of the thousands of people whose life has been directly affected by Amnesty's work. Please support Amnesty by taking action for those whose freedom of expression has been taken away from them.”

Message from Fela Kuti's son Femi to the audience at the opening of the show "Fela!" in London, UK.

© AAPBB



Su Su Nway is serving a sentence of eight and a half years in a remote prison in Myanmar for taking part in anti-government protests. Our long-term goal is to secure her release, but in the coming year we will concentrate on getting her moved to a prison closer to home, making sure that she is allowed to see her family more often, and ensuring that she receives medical treatment.

© Private



Abuzar Al Amin is serving a five-year prison sentence in Sudan in relation to articles he wrote for a daily newspaper. We need to tell the government of Sudan to make a decision on his appeal case and release him from prison. We will also be writing to his family to show our support.

Tens of thousands of inmates at the **Yodok Political Prisoner Camp**

in North Korea are forced to work in dangerous conditions. Prisoners' families are often detained too, and children born there can be held for life. Together we can increase international awareness of the camp and close it for good. (Right: prisoner Shin Sook-Ja and her daughters.)



© Private

Halil Savda is at risk of being sent to prison for expressing his support for conscientious objectors in Turkey. The plan is to send him letters of solidarity and to call on the Turkish government to ensure that he can write and speak freely in support of conscientious objectors.



© Vedat Yildiz

© Amnesty International



Natalia Estemirova, a leading human rights activist working in Chechnya and the North Caucasus region, was abducted and killed in July 2009. Join the call to the government to investigate her killing and bring those responsible to justice.

© Amnesty International



WOZA

is a women's social justice movement in Zimbabwe. Its members have been repeatedly arrested and ill-treated by

police while taking part in peaceful protests. Through letters to the authorities and messages of solidarity, we can ensure that WOZA members and other human rights defenders in Zimbabwe have the freedom to demonstrate peacefully. (Above: Woza leader Jenni Williams).

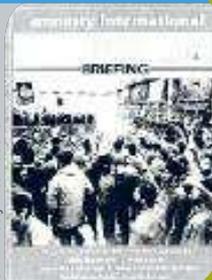
For updates on the campaign, go to www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/freedom-of-expression

1986

 Amnesty International USA launches the Conspiracy of Hope tour featuring U2, Fela Kuti (pictured left), Sting and Peter Gabriel, among others.

 Governments of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines and Baby Doc Duvalier in Haiti fall.

© Amnesty International

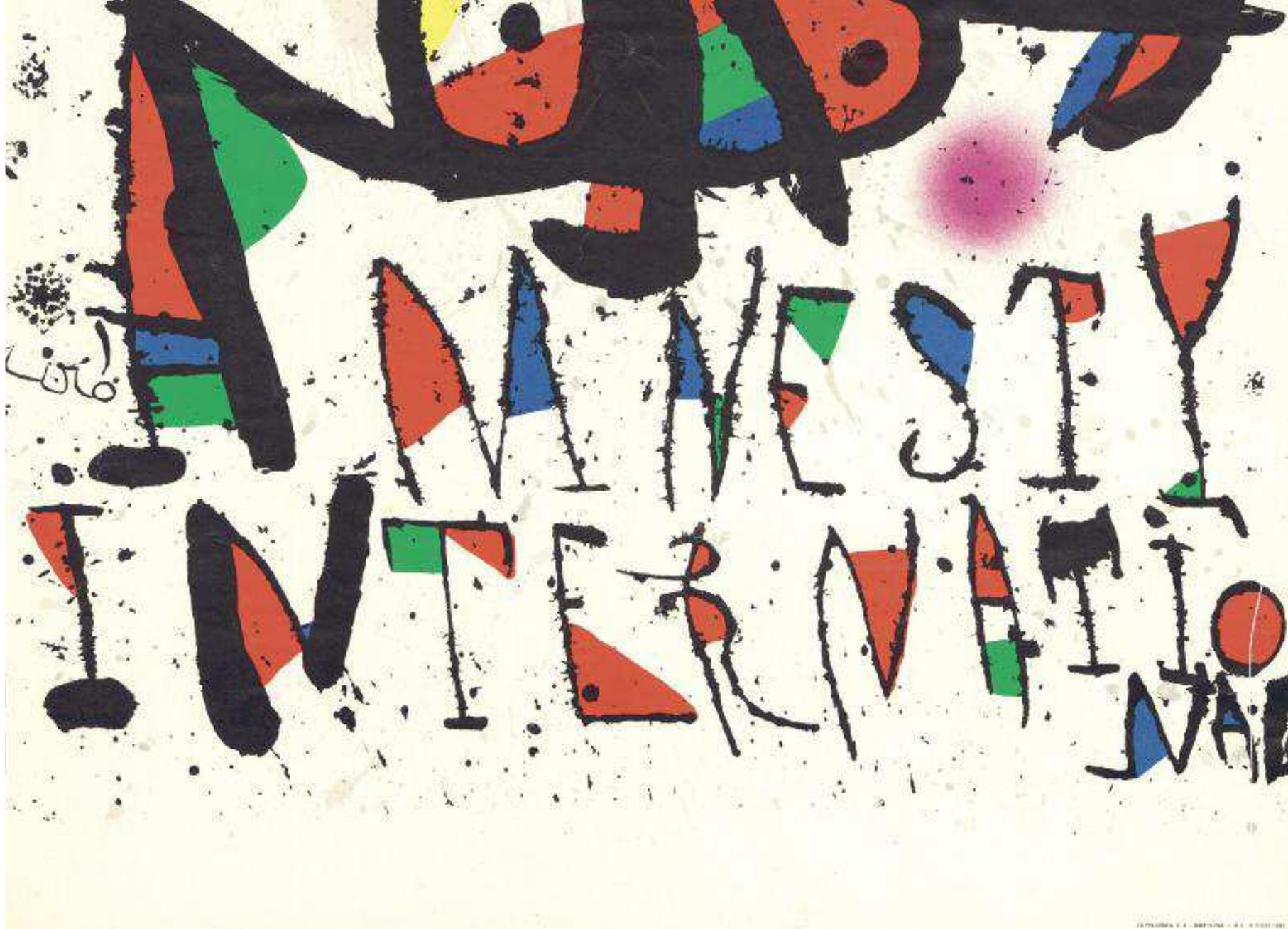


1987

 Amnesty International launches reports on the death penalty in Iran (pictured left) and the USA.

 The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment enters into force. Slobodan Milosevic comes to power in Serbia.





ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

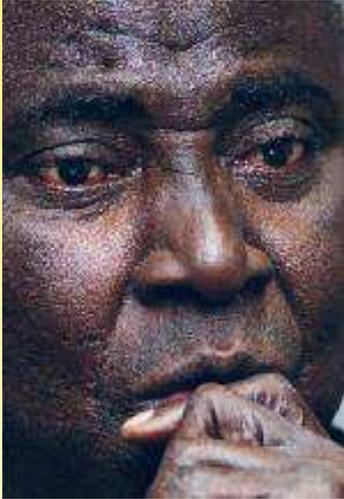
Amnesty International USA's poster for Prisoner of Conscience Year (1977). Lithograph by Spanish artist Joan Miró (1893-1983). You can look at other Amnesty international campaign posters from the last fifty years on www.guardian.co.uk/world/gallery/2011/apr/03/amnesty-international-posters-in-pictures/#/?picture=373248615&index=15

© Joan Miró for Amnesty International / Prisoners of Conscience Year 1977



Former prisoner of conscience **FEMI PETERS**, Campaign Manager for the Gambian opposition United Democratic Party, was moved by the letters of support he received while in prison.

I WENT TO PRISON FOR OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT – AND CAME OUT STRONGER THAN EVER



One Saturday in October 2009, I was at a peaceful political meeting in Serekunda, Gambia. Then the police showed up. They asked to see a permit for the meeting, which we did not have – because the police had refused to give us one.

I was detained the following day. They took away my mobile phones and kept me at the police station all day. In the evening, I was released on bail, which was 1,000 Gambian dalasi [around US\$36], and then told to come to court the next day.

I was charged with “control of procession and control of use of loud speakers in public” without permission. My trial lasted seven months. By the end of it, I was convicted and sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of 10,000 dalasi.

Was I surprised that they pressed charges against me? No. Was I surprised to go to jail? Not at all. I knew it was going to happen and I braced myself for it.

It is common practice in Gambia: I know of people who have been detained and arrested without trial. You could be detained for as long as the President wants.

I was sent to prison on 1 April. I didn't mind going to prison on fools' day. But I was frustrated to miss out on Easter, which started that weekend. Easter has always been very important to me and now I had to spend it in prison, away from my family and my community.

Prison was a whole new world. We had one toilet and one bathroom between 40 inmates. The only time I saw direct sunlight was when I had visitors or when I went to the prison chapel. There was no ventilation in the cells. When I fell ill, the prison authorities refused to send me to hospital, but I had medication sent to me from outside.

I knew that there were some people working behind the scenes to get me a pardon. But I wasn't interested in a pardon. If it had been offered to me, I would have rejected it. Pardoned for what? I was wrongfully arrested, wrongfully charged and wrongfully convicted – I didn't do anything wrong, other than exercise my rights.

I received about 1,500 letters of support from Amnesty International members as well as copies of letters that they sent on my behalf to the Gambian Minister of Defence. There were letters from Japan, Poland, Italy, USA and other places. One letter said: “I am thinking of you, I hope for all the best for you. I support you”. Another said: “I hope you are released soon.” Someone wrote to wish me a “happy and free new year” and promised, “we will never forget you”. Others assured me: “we are going to write letters to your president.”

I was deeply touched by this support. I want to thank the Amnesty International movement for its enthusiasm and courage and for its vigorous pursuit of justice. I also want to wish you all a happy birthday. Please continue to be strong and stand up for other prisoners of conscience – people who have been killed, disappeared, harassed or falsely convicted because of what they said or wrote – just as you were strong for me.

If you are now thinking of taking action of writing a letter – remember, we, the ordinary people, are the building blocks of justice. We have power. You have power. Use it.

I was released on 10 December 2010, Human Rights Day, after serving eight months and 10 days. I came out stronger than ever. I continue my political work. I continue to fight for democracy and rule of law. And I'm not afraid of going to prison. I will do it again if I have to.

1988

 Sting and Bruce Springsteen headline the Human Rights Now! tour in 15 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.

 The Iraqi government uses chemical weapons to kill thousands of Kurdish villagers in Halabja. The Iran-Iraq war ends. In Myanmar, thousands of pro-democracy protesters are killed when soldiers fire into crowds.

© Amnesty International



1989

 Amnesty International launches a new campaign against the death penalty with a major report, *When the state kills: The death penalty v. human rights*.

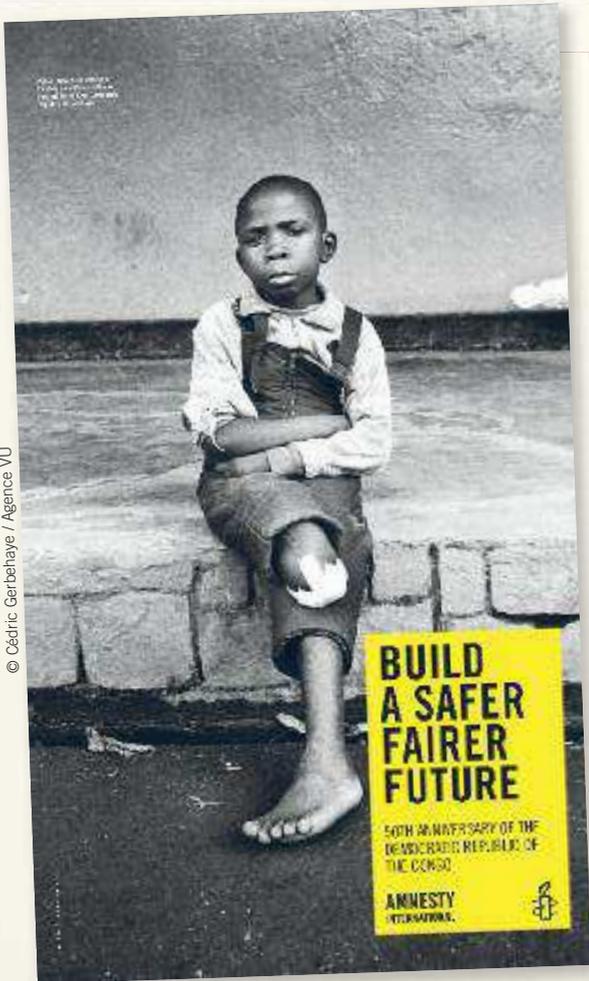
 The Soviet army withdraws from Afghanistan. In *China* the authorities massacre pro-democracy students in Tiananmen Square. Revolutions take place throughout Eastern Europe. In Czechoslovakia, prisoner of conscience Vaclav Havel is released and by the end of the year becomes president.

© Amnesty International



DEMAND JUSTICE FOR THE CONGOLESE PEOPLE

CAMPAIGN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



© Cédric Gerbehaye / Agence VU

This poster was produced in WIRE in September 2010. Pascal, aged 9, on stand-by for his daily consultation at Masisi hospital, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.

JUNE	
JULY	
AUGUST	
10 th	Download new report, <i>DRC: The time for justice is now</i> , available on the 10th.
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
1 st	Nigerian NGOs campaign to get presidential candidates to sign a Manifesto for Justice. Amnesty International supports with a letter-writing campaign. Look out for the updated UN report: <i>DRC – Mapping human rights violations 1993-2003</i> published on the 1st www.ohchr.org/en/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/RDCProjetMapping.aspx
NOVEMBER	
28 th	National elections in the DRC
DECEMBER	
20 th	New Congolese government takes office on the 20th. Act in support of national campaign to Demand Justice Now. www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/international-justice
FEBRUARY	"Arrest Bosco Ntaganda Now" action <i>go online and join in</i>
MARCH	
29 th	First 100 days of the new DRC presidency on the 29th
APRIL	
MAY	
28 th	Closing toast to freedom

Follow the campaign on Twitter #amnesty50 @amnestyonline



© Amnesty International/Huig Barreils

"In Mikuyu prison where I was, no letters were allowed, no newspapers were allowed, no radio was allowed... For some strange reason somebody in Holland sent me a postcard. And for some strange reason that postcard arrived... The postcard said in Dutch, 'greetings from Holland'".

- Jack Mapanje, who was detained by the Malawian authorities from 1987 to 1991 for writing poetry critical of President Kamuzu Banda's government. He was released following intense public pressure from around the world.

1990

A Amnesty International's Urgent Action on torture and extrajudicial executions in Brazil receives an immediate response from President Fernando Collor, who says "We cannot and will not again be a country cited as violent."

G Nelson Mandela is released. In Myanmar, the opposition National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, wins the election but the military stays in power.

1991

A In its 30th anniversary year, Amnesty International pledges to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to include work on abuses by armed opposition groups. People imprisoned because of their sexual orientation are now considered prisoners of conscience.

G War breaks out in the Balkans and in Somalia, where rebels oust the dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. A military coup ousts Haiti's President Aristide. The Soviet Union collapses.

JUSTICE NOW FOR PEOPLE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

HELP TO END THE CYCLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), people have lived with violence and human rights abuses for decades. Crimes under international law – including mass rapes and killings – have been committed in almost every corner of the country and continue with alarming frequency.

Impunity is rife: while millions of men, women and children have suffered as a result of the violence, only a handful of those committing such acts have ever been brought to justice. Impunity is destructive: it fosters cycles of violence and human rights violations; it undermines respect for the rule of law; and it damages the credibility of the justice system in the eyes of the Congolese people.

The pursuit of justice in the DRC has continually been side-stepped by the government and the international community under the pretext of seeking national peace and regional stability. Now, Amnesty International is launching a campaign aiming to reverse this trend by getting governments to commit to prioritizing judicial reform in the DRC, so that victims of crimes under international law will have access to justice, truth and reparation. We will be demanding that the DRC government adopt a comprehensive and detailed plan to achieve these goals.

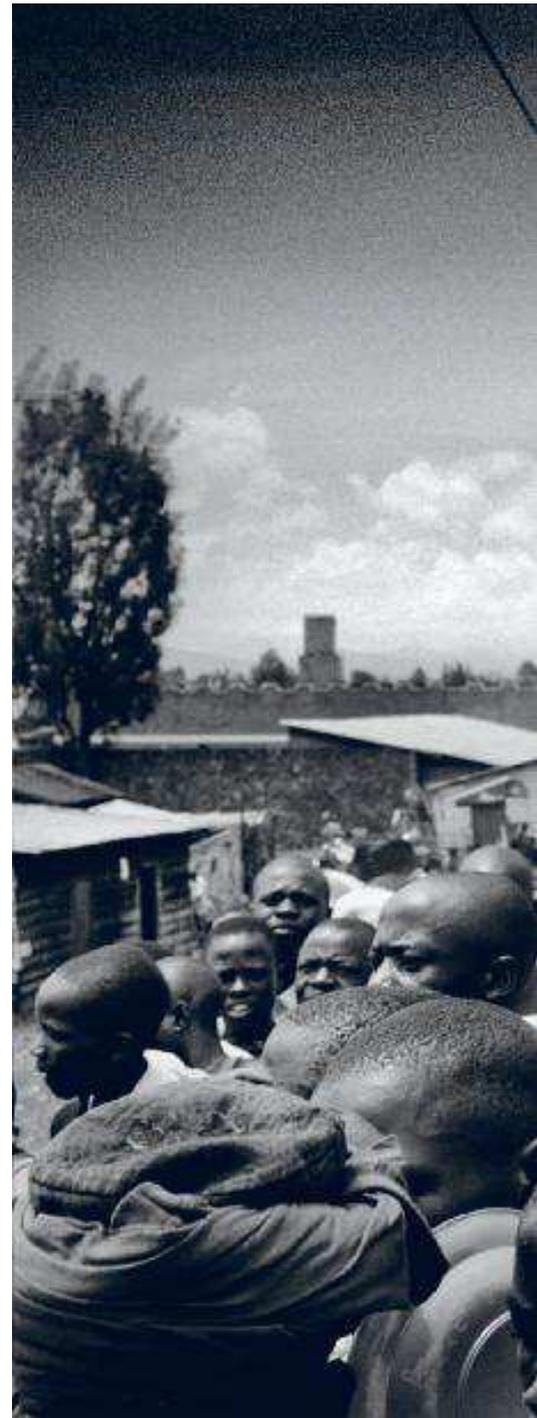
A UN mapping report, published in October 2010, documented more than 600 cases of serious human rights violations committed in the DRC

between 1993 and 2003. These cases must be investigated as crimes under international law such as crimes against humanity and war crimes. The report outlines specific steps to address impunity in the country for both recent and past crimes.

In response, the government has proposed a draft law that would establish a specialized court for crimes under international law committed in the DRC, which would include international judges on its bench. Amnesty International has welcomed the initiative in principle; however, much more must be done if impunity is to be fully and effectively addressed.

Our campaign's objectives for this year are threefold: first, we will be demanding that the authorities develop and implement a comprehensive justice strategy, based on a human rights approach, which answers the needs of victims. The government's proposed specialized court will not succeed in achieving justice for victims of crimes under international law unless it is part of a much broader strategy.

We have identified two main obstacles that deter Congolese people from seeking justice: a lack of awareness of their legal rights, and fear of reprisals if they try to exercise them. Forty-five-year-old mother of seven, Sophie, who lives in the Masisi territory, was raped by soldiers on two occasions in 2005 and 2009, but has never lodged a complaint:



1992

 Amnesty International's membership reaches 1 million. It calls for an end to centuries of human rights abuses against Indigenous people.

 In Algeria, a military coup cancels the elections, and President Boudiaf is assassinated. The war in former Yugoslavia spreads to Bosnia.

© Amnesty International



1993

 Amnesty International launches The Lives Behind the Lies, an international campaign on political killings, disappearances and extrajudicial executions. In Malawi, Vera Chirwa (pictured left), the longest serving prisoner of conscience in Africa, is released after 11 years.

 In Vienna, the UN World Conference on Human Rights confirms that human rights are universal and indivisible, and leads to the setting up of the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

- **Support Congolese victims of crimes under international law**
- **Push for a comprehensive strategy to rebuild the justice system**
- **Urge donor countries to increase their investment and co-ordination in the country and make a lasting impact on victims' access to justice.**

© Cédric Gerbetay / Agence VU

"I do not know where to start..., there is no witness to what happened to me and I cannot identify the perpetrators." Even when victims are aware of their legal rights, they may decide against lodging a complaint while the perpetrators continue to exert influence over their village.

Second, our campaign will aim to support local NGOs and human rights defenders in their outreach and mobilization work with victims, prior to any legal process. Local NGOs have worked for years with very limited resources to raise victims' awareness of their rights and to empower them to take on the perpetrators through the law.

Third, we will campaign for the establishment of a national or international programme of victim and witness protection, to encourage all victims of human rights violations to come forward and tell their story.

We are developing the details with our partner NGOs in the DRC, to be finalized at the end of July 2011 following an Amnesty International visit to the country. Our report, *The time for justice is now: Need for a comprehensive strategy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*, will be published on 10 August. Watch out for updates on the campaign throughout this month.

From January 2012, Amnesty International will organize a series of actions targeting the Congolese government and major donor countries. Among these will be an action calling for the arrest of Bosco Ntaganda who, despite having been indicted by the International Criminal Court, continues to serve as the deputy commander of the DRC government's major military operation in North and South Kivu.

ACT NOW

We need to drive home the message to DRC and donor governments that international crimes can no longer go unpunished, particularly in the DRC where the scale of such crimes has been dramatic. The authorities do respond to international pressure and are deeply concerned about their public image in the international community, so every action can make a real difference to the victims in the DRC who badly need our support.

Please check back regularly for news on the campaign at www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/international-justice

Millions of Congolese have suffered human rights abuses, only a handful of those responsible have ever been brought to justice. Recently demobilized child soldiers, Goma, DRC, 2009.

1994

 Amnesty International launches a major campaign on women, Human Rights are Women's Rights, and a worldwide campaign against disappearances and political killings.

 Between April and July in Rwanda, Hutus murder half a million Tutsis. Nelson Mandela is elected President of South Africa.

© Amnesty International/Karen de Groot



1995

 Amnesty International launches the campaign Stop the Torture Trade.

 Ken Saro Wiwa (pictured) and eight campaigners against the destruction of Ogoniland are executed in Nigeria. In Bosnia, Serb troops take over the UN "safe area" of Srebrenica and kill more than 7,000 men and boys.



© Amnesty International

We owe it to the Congolese people not to be disheartened by the huge task ahead, say campaigner **CLAIRE MORCLETTE** and researcher **THEO BOUTRUCHE**.

FINDING HOPE IN A TROUBLED LAND

In a recent email exchange with a photographer and filmmaker documenting the mineral trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Theo and I told him about Amnesty International's forthcoming report on justice system reform there (see page 21). "The justice system of DRC may be the most daunting task anyone could take on," he said. "I don't know where you find bottom in that situation."

All over the world, efforts to fight impunity for killings, rape, torture and other atrocities are often not prioritized by governments. Bluntly put, for them the time never seems to be right to bring perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice.

When you consider that the people of the DRC have been beset by violence and human rights violations for decades, and that presidential and legislative elections are coming up in November 2011, it is clear that the task ahead is huge.

The voices of the victims we spoke to during our visits to the DRC remind us of why we have chosen to tackle such a potentially overwhelming issue. One Congolese woman raped six times by soldiers told us: "Access to justice is not a priority for me. My first concern is to survive and to find medical attention – my children cannot go to school as I have lost everything."

People who have suffered human rights abuses should not have to choose between justice and survival. Rebuilding the justice system in the DRC will take time. But victims deserve a real opportunity for their voices to be heard, to see those responsible for such abuses brought before the courts and to receive reparations.

Of course, the countless reports of abuses – like the mass rape of around 130 women by members of the national army in Niyakiele in June 2011 – are personally very challenging.

Do we feel disheartened sometimes? Yes. But we also know we are not alone: we are working closely with Congolese human rights organizations, human rights defenders and lawyers who work tirelessly to improve the situation on the ground despite the many dangers they face.

We feel empathy with those facing the daily dilemma of whether to continue helping others when they have barely enough to support their own family. Many of the women human rights defenders we know have been abandoned by their husbands. Working in such difficult conditions, the support of the research team and the wider movement through solidarity messages makes a huge difference, encouraging them to continue their work. And they remind us of it each time we are back in the country.

We stand together with the Amnesty International members who play a crucial role in helping to carry powerful stories and messages to the authorities in the DRC and to the international community. As recently as June, a prisoner we had been campaigning for during the last four years was acquitted and released, largely as a result of letters and actions by the movement demanding that the trial take place. Others in the same case are still waiting for justice.

Efforts are underway to reform the justice system in the DRC. Those initiatives lack co-ordination and resources but they are opportunities we can build on. We need to keep working together to achieve an end to impunity for human rights abuses. In this way, we can help ensure that such abuses and violations are not repeated in the DRC and that victims can look forward to a day when they are not forced to choose between justice and survival.

1996

 Amnesty International begins campaigning for a permanent international court to try war criminals.

 At least 4,272 prisoners are executed in 39 countries: China leads, with 3,500 executions, followed by Ukraine, The Russian Federation and Iran. Israeli forces shell the UN compound in Qana, Lebanon, killing 102 civilians.

© Amnesty International



1997

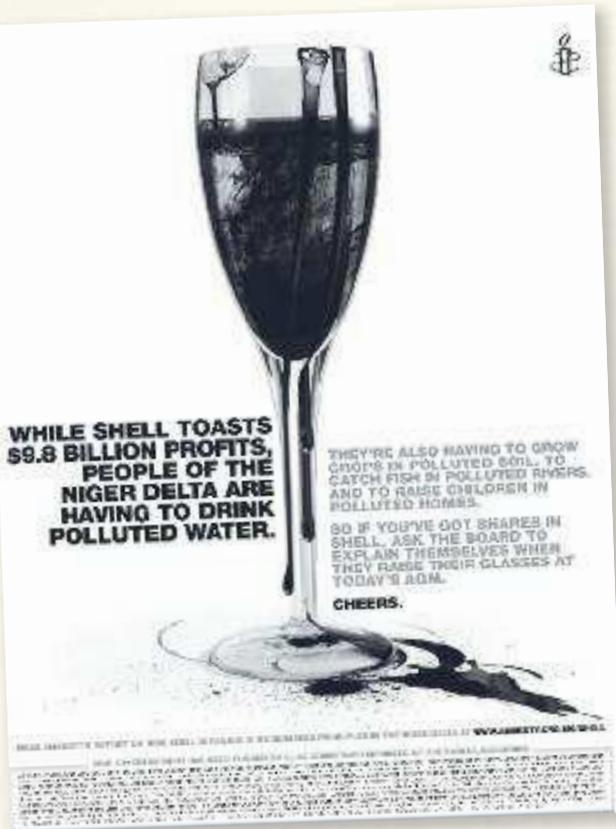
 Amnesty International launches Respect Refugees!, an international campaign for refugees' rights (pictured left). Analysis of executions of prisoners in the USA shows that a black person convicted of killing a white person is 15 times more likely to be executed than a black person convicted of killing a black person.

 In Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), rebels capture the capital, Kinshasa, overthrowing President Mobutu. In Algeria, armed groups kill hundreds of civilians in attacks on rural areas.

CALL FOR CLEAN-UP OF NIGER DELTA

CAMPAIGN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

© Amnesty International UK



Campaign poster against oil industry pollution in the Niger Delta, produced by Amnesty International in the UK.

JUNE	
JULY	
AUGUST	Tell Nigeria's President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to clean up oil pollution in the Niger Delta. Sign and send the postcard in WIRE, or go to www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/stop-corporate-abuse
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	<i>Watch testimonies from the Niger Delta on http://ow.ly/suWam</i>
NOVEMBER	
10	Nigerian activist Ken Saro-Wiwa was executed on 10 November 2005. He fought to end environmental damage in the Niger Delta. Read and share his story – http://sn.im/t06zq Get people to go online and sign a petition to oil companies to clean up in the Niger Delta.
DECEMBER	
JANUARY	
FEBRUARY	
MARCH	Keep putting pressure on the oil industry!
APRIL	<i>Spread the word on Facebook and Twitter</i> The petition is presented at oil companies' annual shareholders' meetings.
MAY	
28	Closing toast to freedom!

Keep an eye on updates on www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/stop-corporate-abuse

1998

A Amnesty International launches the Get Up, Sign Up! campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, collecting 3 million pledges of support. (Right: Mohammed Ali signing a campaign poster)

G General Augusto Pinochet is arrested in the UK for crimes committed in Chile. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is adopted. In Indonesia, protests force President Suharto to resign after 32 years in power.

© Amnesty International



1999

A Amnesty International broadens its scope to work on the impact of economic relations on human rights. Amnesty International and five other international NGOs launch the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

N NATO launches air strikes over Kosovo, and Yugoslav federal troops expel tens of thousands of ethnic Albanian civilians from the territory but are eventually forced to withdraw.

PUSH FOR A CLEAN-UP OF THE NIGER DELTA

CALL FOR STRONGER INDUSTRY REGULATION

HOLD OIL COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

END THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NIGER DELTA

OIL POLLUTION IS RUINING PEOPLE'S LIVES. GOVERNMENTS CAN'T JUST LET OIL COMPANIES WALK AWAY.

Almost three years after a huge oil spill devastated Bodo Creek in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, the oil still hasn't been cleaned up. Local people whose lives have been ruined have yet to get justice.

Amnesty International is now taking the Niger Delta campaign to the next level. Together, we are urging the Nigerian government and the oil

2000

A Amnesty International launches a third campaign against torture Stamp out Torture (see pictured right) – its first digital campaign. Amnesty International joins forces with Oxfam to campaign for tougher export laws for the arms trade.

G In Serbia, mass protests after an allegedly rigged election leads to the overthrow of President Milošević. In Zimbabwe, government forces attack political opponents and farmers.

Design © Ts Bardii



2001

A Amnesty International marks its 40th anniversary. The organization adopts a new mission focusing on the indivisibility of human rights and changing the organization's statute to include work for economic, social and cultural rights.

G On 11 September two planes are flown into the Twin Towers in New York, killing nearly 3,000 people; a third plane hits the Pentagon in Washington and a fourth crashes in Pennsylvania. President George W. Bush declares a "war on terror" and launches air strikes to remove the Taliban from power in Afghanistan.

companies operating there to support a clean-up of the region. We want Nigeria's government to strengthen and enforce regulation that will hold the oil industry to account and give victims justice. And we want oil companies' home governments to regulate multinationals and support the Niger Delta clean-up.

We recently investigated the impact of the August and December 2008 oil spills at Bodo. A fisherman who owns several fishing ponds showed us how all his ponds are still contaminated with oil. He used to employ local people, but the oil pollution has destroyed their livelihoods.

"From 2008 till now I have not been able to do anything. I used to go to the river to fish but now I will come home with nothing," a fisherman told us. "There is nothing. It is just a case of hopelessness."

Pollution associated with the oil industry has been a major problem in the Niger Delta for decades. Oil spills, waste dumping and gas flaring have damaged the soil, water and air quality, undermining people's rights to safe food, clean water and health. Local livelihoods – such as fishing and farming – have been seriously compromised. In August, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) issued a major report on the effects of oil pollution in Ogoniland in the Delta region. Based on two years of in-depth scientific research, it provides irrefutable evidence of the devastating impact of oil pollution on people's lives in the Delta.

Oil spills result from corroded pipes, poorly maintained equipment and leaks, as well as human error, deliberate vandalism and theft. Shell Petroleum Development Company, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, has admitted that the 2008 Bodo spills were caused by equipment failure. The company recently accepted liability for the Bodo spills in a legal claim being brought in the UK.

The Bodo spills are one example of a far wider problem. Pollution in the Niger Delta affects hundreds of thousands of people. But the Nigerian government – which is a partner in the oil industry through the national oil company – has failed to regulate the oil industry in a robust and effective way. Oil companies have exploited Nigeria's weak regulatory system. Their operations are characterized by bad practice, in particular failure to prevent pollution and address problems when they happen.

Amnesty International wants to stop catastrophes like the Bodo oil spill happening again. The oil

companies must clean up their act and compensate those who suffer as a result of their failures and negligence. The Nigerian government must hold the oil industry properly to account. Amnesty International is also looking to the multinational companies' home governments – such as the Netherlands, the UK, France and Italy – to regulate these companies and how they do business at home and abroad.

So far our Niger Delta campaign has called on oil companies to "come clean" about how oil pollution impacts on people and the environment. We have had some success – Shell, Eni and Total have now disclosed some information on environmental impact, and Shell has committed to publishing the Niger Delta Environment Survey.

Pressure on the companies to be transparent about environmental and human rights impact is growing. In January 2011, Dutch parliamentarians held a public hearing on the impact of the oil industry in the Niger Delta. Later this year we will publish further details about the aftermath of the 2008 oil spill at Bodo, alongside video testimonies from people affected.

The need for a Niger Delta clean-up is now a burning issue, both in Nigeria and internationally. The time is right to step up our campaign.

Our first goal is to persuade the President of Nigeria to publicly support the need for a clean-up operation, and to strengthen oil industry regulation.

We will keep building on the momentum we have created since we launched our campaign on Amnesty International's 50th birthday in May 2011. In November, we will start targeting the multinational oil companies operating in Nigeria – Shell, Eni and Total – as well as the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). We want them to publicly recognize that a comprehensive clean-up is necessary, and commit to funding the operation. We will also target companies' home states to support a clean-up and regulate corporate activity effectively.

10 November is the anniversary of the execution of Nigerian activist Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1995. Organize an event to commemorate his work and launch the next stage of our campaign. Ask people to sign a petition asking the oil companies to support the Niger Delta clean-up.

In February 2012 the Niger Delta clean-up will become the main focus of our AI@50 campaign.

All over the world, Amnesty International members will target the oil industry. Using Facebook, Twitter and text messages (SMS), we will collect signatures for a petition aimed at Shell, Eni, Total and NNPC. We will also lobby investors to demand information about these companies' environmental impact in the Niger Delta.



© Laurent HINI
Targeting multinational oil companies. Amnesty International activists at a petrol station, France, 30 June 2009.

Left: An Amnesty International delegate's fingers covered in oil eight months after a spill at Ikarama, Bayelsa State. There are often long delays in clearing up after oil spills in the Niger Delta.

We will bring the campaign to a climax in April/May 2012 by presenting our petitions at the companies' annual shareholders' meetings.

We will keep developing our messages and strategy for this campaign, so keep an eye out for updates. Together, we can change the outcome of one of the world's most outrageous cases of business-related human rights abuse.

ACT NOW

Tell Nigerian President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to clean up the oil pollution in the Niger Delta. Sign and send him the postcard in the insert, or act online on

www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/stop-corporate-abuse

Read our response to the recent UNEP report on <http://ow.ly/5Vgmg>

2002

Work begins to combat torture used in the US-led "war on terror". Amnesty International visits Israel and the Occupied Territories and reports evidence of war crimes in the West Bank city of Jenin. Amnesty International is granted access to Myanmar for the first time after many years of requests.

The 60th state ratifies the Rome Statute, paving the way for the establishment of the International Criminal Court. The first prisoners arrive at the US military base in Guantánamo Bay in Cuba.

© Hugh McElveen



2003

The global Control Arms campaign is launched by Amnesty International, Oxfam and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), to demand an international arms trade treaty.

Amnesty International's inaugural Ambassador of Conscience award goes to released prisoner of conscience and former President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel (pictured left, centre). The USA and UK invade Iraq. Armed conflict breaks out in the Darfur region of Sudan, between Darfuri rebel movements and a government-backed militia, the Janjaweed.



Governments need to regulate companies to prevent corporate abuse of rights, says **AUDREY GAUGHRAN**, Amnesty International's Director for Global Thematic Issues.

KEEPING CORPORATIONS IN CHECK

The Gulf of Mexico oil spill in the USA in 2010 caused massive environmental damage and devastated the lives of tens of thousands of people. Public reaction in the USA was unsurprising – people demanded that the spill be stopped as fast as possible, that the damage be contained and cleaned up, that compensation be provided for lost livelihoods, and that the companies involved be held accountable.

People in the oil-producing areas of the Niger Delta, who have suffered thousands of oil spills, have been making very similar demands for years.

The differences between the response to the Gulf of Mexico and the situation in the Niger Delta could not be more striking.

In the six months after the Gulf spill began there was a presidential inquiry; a criminal investigation was launched by the Attorney General; BP was compelled to set up a \$20 billion compensation fund; and multiple government agencies and non-governmental bodies set up monitoring of health, food safety and a range of environmental parameters.

What happened in the USA within six months has not happened in Nigeria in 50 years. Requests for similar studies and independent processes have been ignored. In an area where the majority of people rely on fisheries and agriculture for their livelihood and their food, and many rely on the rivers and streams for water, there is almost no data on food safety, health impacts or water quality. One scientific UN study was finally established in 2008/9, but covers only a limited geographic area, and results have not yet been made public.

Regulatory oversight of the oil industry in the Niger Delta is theoretical at best: the oil companies are effectively running the oil spill investigation and compensation processes, and a lack of transparency in these processes causes frequent conflict with and between the affected communities.

The Nigerian government is largely absent, except as a military force protecting oil operations. Its protection of the oil industry contrasts with its almost total lack of protection of its own citizens' human rights. This reinforces the idea that the government is on the oil companies' side, regardless of what damage they may do.

The US government was criticized for its handling of the BP spill, and some of that criticism may well be justified. But however imperfect the response to the Gulf of Mexico spill may have been, it at least shows what

needs to happen. The government needs to step in, ensure that the company acts swiftly and that wider interests prevail over corporate damage-limitation. And governments need to review regulatory systems and the too-often cosy relationship between regulator and regulated.

Amnesty International is campaigning for companies to be held to account for their negative impacts on human rights. Few effective national or international systems yet exist to prevent corporate human rights abuses or ensure corporate accountability. This leaves the people affected – who are often already poor or marginalized – powerless. Companies, particularly massive transnational companies, almost always have significantly more political and economic power than the individuals and communities whose lives they affect; they also have far greater legal protection.

We need more effective legal systems to regulate companies and hold them to account. Part of the solution lies in establishing regulatory frameworks that allow a company's home state to require the company, throughout its global operations, to prevent and address environmental and human rights harms that are a direct result of its activities. Yet companies argue – often strongly – against such advances in law. When it comes to their own corporate and economic interests they promote and use domestic and international law; when it comes to community interests they promote self-regulation and “corporate social responsibility” (often little more than thinly disguised public relations).

But the reality is that companies do not self-regulate; they do not behave the same regardless of the level of governmental oversight. We only have to look at what is happening in the Niger Delta to see that. Or consider the role the US government had to play in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

In the past, Amnesty International and other campaigners focused on companies as the key change agents; today we increasingly focus on governments in the home and host states. Activists in Nigeria and Europe target Shell over its involvement in abuses in the Niger Delta – but they also target the governments of Nigeria, the Netherlands and the UK – whose failures to enact and enforce laws create the permissive environment for corporate abuse.

Governments have a legal duty to regulate companies to prevent corporate abuse of human rights. Companies act better when governments live up to this duty. That is the bottom line.

2004

 Amnesty International launches an international campaign Stop Violence Against Women. At the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, Amnesty International calls for respect for the human rights of those living with HIV/AIDS.

 Simultaneous attacks on packed rush-hour trains in Madrid, Spain, kill 191 people. In Beslan, Russian Federation, an armed group takes more than 1,000 people hostage in a theatre, resulting in the deaths of nearly 350 people in the ensuing battle with Russian forces.



2005

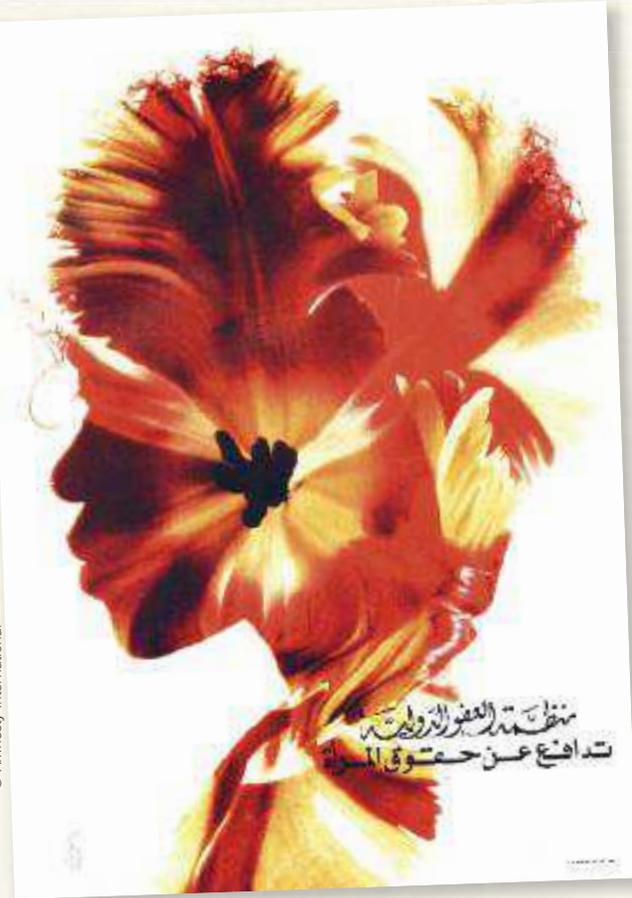
 Amnesty International launches the Make Some Noise campaign, harnessing the music world in support of its work. Peter Benenson, Amnesty International's founder, dies aged 83. Amnesty International has 2 million members worldwide.

 In Uzbekistan at least 190 people are killed when troops open fire on demonstrators in the city of Andizhan. In Kuwait women are granted the rights to vote. In London, UK, suicide bombings on the public transport system kill 52 people.

STAND UP FOR EGYPTIAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

CAMPAIGN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

© Amnesty International



Amnesty International Egypt's poster for its 1994 "Human rights are women's rights" international campaign. Amnesty International set out a 15-point programme to protect women from human rights violations, with recommendations for the government and armed groups.

JUNE	
JULY	
AUGUST	Tell the Egyptian prime minister to end discrimination against women on www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/mena or by emailing him on primemin@idsc.gov.eg
SEPTEMBER	Mark the date: six months since Egyptian army carried out forced "virginity tests" on women demonstrators
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	
JANUARY	<i>Watch my action light up the world on the earth candle earthcandle.amnesty.org</i>
FEBRUARY	
MARCH	
APRIL	
MAY	
28	Closing toast to freedom

Follow #amnesty50 @amnestyonline on twitter

2006

A Amnesty International's Control Arms campaign achieves a major victory when the UN votes overwhelmingly to start work on a treaty.
G The first trial in the International Criminal Court begins, of Thomas Lubanga from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya is murdered outside her Moscow flat.

© Amnesty International



"I owe my life to Amnesty International. Now I am dedicating that life to campaigning against the death penalty and raising awareness about human rights."

Hafez Ibrahim of Yemen, who received a stay of execution in 2007 after an Urgent Action appeal by Amnesty International. He was later pardoned and released. He is now studying law at Sana'a University.

2007

A Amnesty International organizes worldwide protests against five years of unlawful detentions in Guantánamo Bay. Amnesty International highlights human rights violations in China before the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
G The UN General Assembly adopts the first-ever resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, after campaigning by Amnesty International and its partners in a world coalition. In Myanmar huge pro-democracy protests are violently suppressed.

WOMEN MUST HAVE EQUAL VOICE TO SHAPE NEW EGYPT

Egyptian women were key to the '25 January Revolution'. Now they are being sidelined.

In early 2011, women and men across North Africa and the Middle East rose up in their millions to demand an end to repression and respect of their rights – a truly inspiring beginning to Amnesty International's 50th year.

After the overthrow of Tunisia's autocratic President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, it took Egyptians just 18 days from 25 January to oust President Hosni Mubarak, the man who had ruled Egypt with an iron fist for 30 years. Many protesters and their families paid a high price. At least 840 people were killed, more than 6,400 were injured, and hundreds were imprisoned and tortured.

The protests spread like wildfire across the region, led by an

apparently fearless Facebook- and Twitter-savvy generation of young women and men. In some countries, the demonstrators won reforms. In others, vicious repression or foreign intervention stifled the protests or, at the time of writing, left the final outcome uncertain.

In Egypt, the euphoria of ousting the old regime has turned into a grim determination to ensure that the rights for which so many sacrificed so much are now realized. Amnesty International has thrown itself into helping that aim. As the revolution raged on, we published *Egypt: Human rights agenda for change* and later released a comprehensive overview of events entitled *Egypt*

rises: Killings, detentions and torture in the "25 January Revolution". In June, an Amnesty International delegation headed by the organization's Secretary General visited Egypt and met senior government officials.

Already, Egypt has witnessed significant human rights gains. These include:

- the release of many political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience;
- the end of the practice of administrative detention;
- the dissolution of State Security Investigations, the notorious intelligence agency responsible for torture, arbitrary detentions and other abuses;

- investigations by the government-ordered Fact-Finding National Commission into some of the abuses during the uprising;
- constitutional amendments to remove some of the repressive emergency-style powers relating to arrest and detention procedures and police surveillance;
- the detention and trial of former government officials on charges of shooting protesters, including former President Mubarak and former Minister of Interior Habib el-Adly.

These detentions are a welcome start to the crucial process of holding members of the former administration to account for past human rights violations. However, much more



© Rami Raouf

2008

Amnesty International marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a series of events and publication culminating in a global "Fire Up" celebration on Human Rights Day (10 December).

The UN General Assembly adopts the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In Kenya more than 1,500 die in post-election violence. In Serbia, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić is arrested on war crimes charges.

© Amnesty International



2009

Amnesty International launches the Demand Dignity campaign on poverty and human rights, and calls on the multinational Shell to end the abuses resulting from its oil operations in the Niger Delta. The Ambassador of Conscience award goes to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar.

The International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for Omar al-Bashir, President of Sudan, accusing him of war crimes. Barack Obama is inaugurated as the first African



Hopes for women's rights were raised during the uprisings in Egypt but have not yet been fulfilled. Egyptian protesters, February 2011. (CC BY 2.0)

During the uprising, many women defied traditional expectations of how they should behave and played a major role in mobilizing and sustaining the protests. Some suffered the effects of tear gas, rubber bullets and other violence by security forces, including forced virginity tests. Some lost their lives.

In the protest camp in Cairo's Tahrir Square, women said that for the first time they felt safe in public and free of sexual harassment, and that they were treated as equals in the vibrant political debates. Many spoke of their hope that the model of democracy and equality established there would be carried forward as the post-Mubarak Egypt was shaped.

Since then, however, women have been silenced or excluded from decision-making processes.

The committee set up to revise the Constitution included no women.

The new Prime Minister's cabinet included just one woman. On International Women's Day on 8 March, groups of men attacked women demonstrators in Tahrir Square.

The uprising offers an historic opportunity to change permanently the way Egyptian women are viewed and treated.

We are asking for your help to ensure that:

- the experiences, needs and views of women are integral to shaping the new Egypt;
- women's voices are heard so that tackling gender-based discrimination and violence against women is prioritized;

needs to be done to ensure that all Egyptians can enjoy the full range of human rights they demanded during the uprising and are their due.

Amnesty International is campaigning on women's rights in Egypt during our special 50th anniversary year. The reason is simple. The hopes raised for women's rights during the uprising have not yet been fulfilled.

Before the events, women suffered alongside men the impact of repression and widespread poverty. But they had to cope also with discriminatory laws, endemic sexual harassment, violence, inferior education and opportunities, and gross under-representation in government.



© REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tun

- existing and proposed legislation is reviewed and wide-ranging reforms are passed to ensure that women have and enjoy equal rights with men, especially in the areas of marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance;

- laws are enforced and new laws and practices introduced to protect women from rape and other sexual abuse, and from domestic violence;
- attitudes are radically changed so that women can fully participate in electing their government and be better represented in the corridors of power.

Action now, in these momentous times, can make a huge difference.

ACT NOW

Urge the Prime Minister to ensure that women are central to shaping the new Egypt and that equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of the reform process.

Write to:

Prime Minister Essam Sharaf
Magles El Shaab St.
Kasr Al Aini St.
Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +202 7356449, +202 7958016
Email: primemin@idsc.gov.eg

Join our campaign to protect and promote women's rights in Egypt.

American president of the USA. In Iran thousands are arrested in a crackdown on post-election protests.

Former president Alberto Fujimori faces trial at a special court in Peru. He is sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment for murder, kidnapping and serious bodily harm committed by agents under his control against dozens of Peruvian citizens in 1991 and 1992.

© Private



2010

Amnesty International supports the campaign of Indigenous and local communities in Orissa in India against abuses in the operations of Vedanta Resources; the Indian government rejects the company's proposals to open a bauxite mine and expand its refinery.

Aung San Suu Kyi is freed from house arrest in Myanmar. In Tunisia, mass protests follow the death of Mohamed Bouazizi, who set himself on fire in protest after harassment by municipal officials.



© Amnesty International

Social media has dominated debates on recent uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. **JAMES LYNCH**, Amnesty International press officer, looks at the possibilities and pitfalls of a new media landscape.

TWEETING FROM TAHRIR SQUARE

I arrived in Egypt with Amnesty International colleagues just before the first “Million Man March” on 1 February. The centre of Cairo was packed with an estimated 2 million people calling for change. Egyptian security forces had opened fire on peaceful protesters in many parts of the country, and the team was there to investigate this and other human rights abuses taking place at the time.

My job is to promote Amnesty International’s research and campaigns on the Middle East and North Africa to the media. I work with journalists and broadcasters to ensure that their listeners, viewers and readers get to know about our research and campaigns.

In Cairo, we wanted to communicate what we were seeing, as it happened, directly to people who were following events.

There was one big problem. Just before we arrived, the authorities had cut internet services in a vain attempt to stop protests spreading - that meant no Twitter, no Facebook, no blogging and no emailing.

To get round these restrictions I started to send texts (SMS messages) on my mobile to colleagues in London, who issued tweets in my name. We put out around 20 updates a day, ranging from what we were seeing – “Military jets buzzing above Cairo in advance of curfew” – to what witnesses had just told us – “testimonies: live ammo used at Ministry of Interior HQ Fri & Sat”.

Unlike international media, we were allowed into hospitals and were able to make public what we found there: “Hospital tells us 12... deaths... between 28 and 30 Jan. All as a result of firearms and rubber bullets.”

We were putting this information out fast, so the rapid expert analysis and judgement of our researcher was critical.

Partly because of restrictions on information in Egypt, there was an obvious thirst for updates from Cairo. In four days, the number of people following my updates on Twitter jumped from just 50 (I was new to this...) to nearly 2,000. We had given newspaper editors, human rights activists and foreign ministries immediate access to the work we were doing.

It didn’t stop with Egypt. As Amnesty International teams have been

deployed across the region in recent months they have used social media to increase the reach of their work – whether blogging with a satellite laptop connection as rockets rained down on civilian areas of the Libyan city of Misrata, or tweeting testimonies from Syrian refugees fleeing across the Turkish border for safety.

There are now places where social media is a critical arena for Amnesty International to make itself heard: as soon as we issue a statement on Bahrain we can expect a strong debate on Twitter between human rights defenders, political parties, media and even government ministers about what we have said.

In some other countries that have seen mass protests – Yemen is perhaps a good example – there is less talk of the impact of social media. We should challenge some of the grander claims of a “Twitter revolution”.

What has rocked some of the most repressive governments in the world has been people coming out onto the streets in massive numbers, taking terrible personal risks, in order to bring real change to their societies. The new ways of communicating and mobilizing opinion offered by social media might support that personal activism, but they cannot replace it.

On the days I was in Cairo, after all, there was no internet. Yet hundreds of thousands of people streamed into Tahrir Square. Organizers had used, tried and tested local networks to bring people together. Social media is only ever one part of the story.

The extent of the impact of Twitter and Facebook on this year’s uprisings is likely to be debated by historians for decades to come. But one thing is clear – it is the way many of those changing the Middle East and North Africa are talking, and Amnesty International needs to be right at the heart of that conversation.

In-depth documentation of human violation abuse is the very foundation of our work. There is no doubt about that. And we need to communicate quickly and flexibly to move in this new world, without compromising on the accuracy and impartiality that are the hallmarks of our reputation. That is our challenge.



© Private

“For me, knowing that all of the Amnesty supporters were out there, mentioning his name, collecting signatures, holding up posters and simply thinking about him, was a great strength to help me carry on. You made a difference.”

Ronnate Tissainayagam, wife of Sri Lankan journalist and prisoner of conscience J.S. Tissainayagam who was freed in June 2010 following a sustained letter-writing campaign by Amnesty International members.

2011

 Amnesty International researchers visit countries in the Middle East and North Africa to document the repression of pro-democracy protest and make concrete proposals for human rights change. Worldwide toasts to freedom take place to celebrate Amnesty International’s 50th anniversary.

 Mass protests erupt across the Middle East and North Africa, ousting long-standing dictatorships in Tunisia and Egypt. Armed conflict engulfs Libya and the UN imposes a no-fly zone to protect civilians. Hundreds are killed in Bahrain, Syria and Yemen as governments crack down on pro-democracy demonstrators.



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AUGUST

Act to stop the execution in China of Leng Guoquan www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/death-penalty

31 International Day of the Disappeared

Tell the Egyptian prime minister to end discrimination against women on www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/MENA or by emailing him on primemin@idsc.gov.eg

SEPTEMBER

28 Day for the Decriminalization of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Nicaragua street demonstrations – design your butterfly on www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/reproductive-rights

OCTOBER

10 World Day Against the Death Penalty.

17 Action day for prisoner of conscience Abuzar Al Amin www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/freedom-of-expression

NOVEMBER

5 16th anniversary of killing of Ken Saro Wiwa

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
Action day for Norma Cruz

30 Cities for Life – global campaign to demonstrate opposition to the death penalty

DECEMBER

3-17 Write for Rights letter-writing marathon

9 Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

10 International Human Rights Day

Petition signatures against the death penalty presented to the President of Belarus

JANUARY

First anniversary of the “25 January revolution” in Egypt

Launch of Amnesty International “Arrest Bosco Ntaganda Now” action www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/international-justice

FEBRUARY

21 Action day for the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

Clean up the Niger Delta – Facebook, Twitter and text message campaign targeting Shell, Eni, Total and NNPC www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/corporate-abuse

MARCH

8 International Women’s Day

29 First 100 days of new DRC presidency
Global death penalty statistics published

30 Action day for prisoner of conscience Su Su Nway

APRIL

Clean up the Niger Delta campaign petition presented to Shell, Eni, Total and NNPC annual shareholder meetings

MAY

3 World Press Freedom Day

28 Closing Toast to freedom events to end Amnesty International’s 50th year

JUNE

26 International Day against Torture

JULY

17 World Day for International Justice

Act online at www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns

'NEVER GIVE UP'

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TELL WIRE ABOUT THE LESSONS OF ACTIVISM

Does activism work?

"In 1997, the police [in West Bengal], backed by an influential building developer, ransacked a hospital established by workers who were locked out of their factory. I took legal action against the police, the matter was referred to West Bengal Human Rights Commission and the police officers were found guilty."



Kirity Roy, aged 57, campaigns to protect the rights of ordinary people in India.



Helen Ulli Corbett, aged 56, campaigns for the rights of Indigenous people in Australia.

"In 1983, I co-founded the Committee to Defend Black Rights. We campaigned for a Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody. The Royal Commission was established and given a record budget of 40 million Australian dollars. It was the first time the Indigenous community had forced the government's hand,

and it led to substantial further funds and action at a federal level."

'If your adversaries don't open the door, try the windows.'

How do you get people to pay attention?

"In most of our actions we do something visual. When we were campaigning about violence against women, for example, we made ourselves up to look as if we had black eyes. This created a lot of publicity: people came up to ask us if we were OK, and we collected a lot of signatures."



Iris Tungland Porturas, aged 18, co-founder of an Amnesty International youth group in Norway. Iris raises awareness of human rights among young people.

What has your activism taught you?

"One of my biggest challenges was rethinking my views on sexuality. I come from a religious Christian family and was brought up to feel disgust for homosexual men and lesbians, and not to protect them from discrimination. It was very difficult for me to accept a different perspective, but I have realized that life is really precious, and that people have rights, no matter what their way of life."



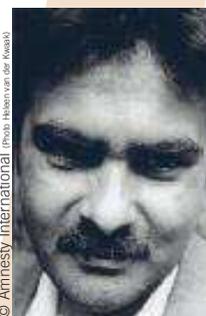
Enyonam Gadagbui, aged 23, is a member of Amnesty International's Youth Forum in Togo.

What advice do you have for other activists?

"Never abandon a case before it is solved. If your adversaries don't open the door, try the windows."



Bo Lindblom, aged 81, Sweden. Member of Amnesty International Sweden since 1969.



Ratan Gazmere, aged 53, was arrested in 1989 for speaking out against Bhutan's repressive cultural integration policy. More than two decades later, he continues to campaign for human rights.

"My activism has taught me not to give up. It is a long struggle in this world; justice cannot always be easily achieved but, no matter what, you should not give up hope. Amnesty International saved my life. I know for sure that without their support and all the letters people sent, I would be either dead or still in jail. Instead I am free."



Amnesty International's 50th anniversary celebration highlights from around the world, including in (clockwise from top left) Italy; London, UK; Berne, Switzerland; Togo; Helsinki, Finland; Lima, Peru; Berlin, Germany; and France.

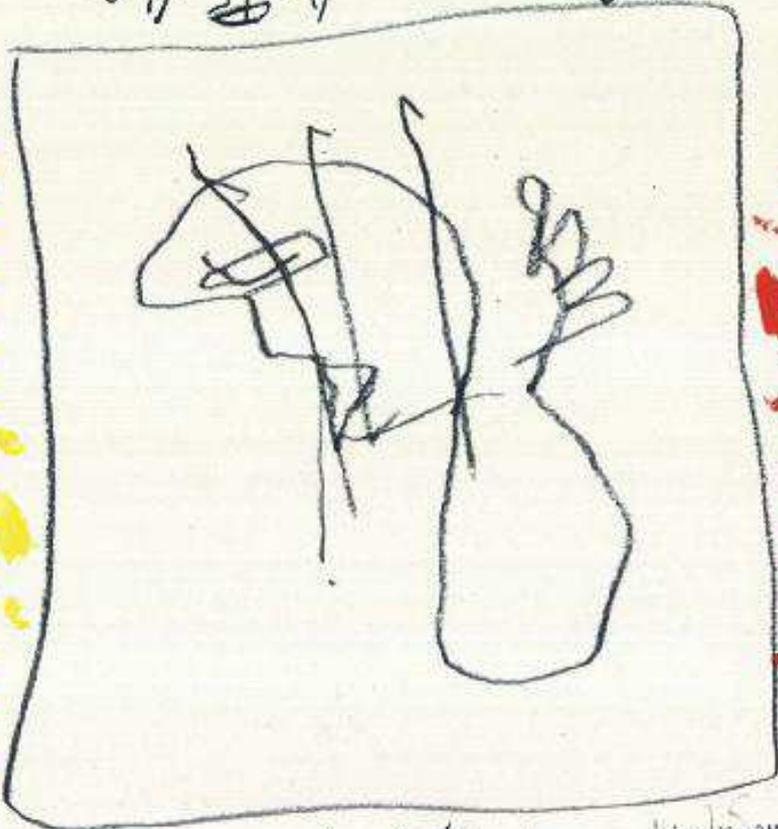
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Centre column: Susanne Keller; Katia Tähjä (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0).

Third column: Amnesty International; Susanne Keller; Amnesty International; Susanne Keller.

Amnistia

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Amnistia

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Mindfulness
Dziękuję

50 YEARS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

ALBANIA

REMZI HOXHA

FATE OF BUSINESSMAN UNKNOWN



Father of five, Remzi Hoxha, an ethnic Albanian from Macedonia living in Tirana, was taken from his workplace by men in civilian clothes on 21 October 1995. His family still does not know what happened to him, despite repeated appeals to the Albanian authorities. Remzi Hoxha ran a business in Tirana manufacturing window and door frames. The motive for his enforced disappearance is unknown.

Following two unsuccessful investigations into Remzi Hoxha's disappearance, the Albanian Prosecutor General opened a third investigation in 2006. It concluded that Remzi Hoxha died in October 1995 under torture at the hands of officers of the Albanian Intelligence Service (Shërbimi Informativ Kombëtar, SHIK) but did not discover where he had been buried.

In May 2008, trial proceedings started against four former SHIK officers – Avni Koldashi,

Arben Sefgjini, Ilir Kumbaro and Budion Meçe – on charges of Remzi Hoxha's abduction and torture. Ilir Kumbaro, who currently lives in the UK, and whose extradition has been requested by Albania, is being tried in his absence.

In February 2011, an acquaintance of Remzi Hoxha, who had himself been arrested and tortured by SHIK officers, testified in court that he had seen Remzi Hoxha in October 1995 at a SHIK building, "in such a state from the torture he had been subjected to, that I could hardly recognize him... his face was deformed and he couldn't stand up, we just greeted each other with nods. I never saw him again; all I heard was his screams while they were torturing him."

Please write to the President of Albania, calling for full clarification of the fate of Remzi Hoxha, for all those responsible for his

enforced disappearance to be brought to justice, and for full reparations for his family. Urge that effective measures be taken to ensure Ilir Kumbaro's prompt extradition from the UK to Albania, and that he be given a fair trial, together with his co-defendants, in accordance with international standards.

Send appeals to:

**Bamir Topi
President of the Republic of Albania
Zyra e Presidencës, Bulevardi
"Dëshmorët e Kombit"
Tirana
Albania**

**Email via: <http://sn.im/27ozh6>
Salutation: Dear President**

ALGERIA

FAYÇAL BENLATRÈCHE

STUDENT ABDUCTED AND DISAPPEARED



In early 1995, nineteen-year-old Algerian student Fayçal Benlatrèche was preparing for his exams in natural sciences. He never got the opportunity to finish his studies: he was arrested at his family home in Constantine at around midnight on 12 March 1995. He was taken away, barefoot and wearing only his pyjamas, by soldiers in combat uniforms and balaclavas. His family, who witnessed his arrest, have not seen him since.

Several months prior to his enforced disappearance, Fayçal and his brother Sofiane, who was 17 at the time, were arrested and held for six days at Constantine central police station. During this time, Fayçal was interrogated about his knowledge of people believed to belong to armed groups. He was beaten in custody. During the brothers' detention, their father Rabah

Benlatrèche was also questioned about his vote during the 1991 elections, and his political affiliations.

In 1999, following extensive efforts to find his son, Rabah founded an organization working on behalf of individuals subjected to enforced disappearance in the east of Algeria. Despite the wealth of information collected by members of the organization on hundreds of cases of enforced disappearance, no genuine investigations have been conducted by the authorities. Relatives of victims of enforced disappearance are routinely prevented from holding a weekly protest outside official buildings to demand truth and justice.

Rabah Benlatrèche died in late September 2009, without knowing the truth about what happened to his son Fayçal.

Please write to the President of Algeria, calling for a full, impartial and independent investigation to be conducted into the enforced disappearance of Fayçal Benlatrèche, and for the results to be made public. Urge that anyone responsible for his disappearance be brought to justice in fair proceedings that meet international standards.

Send appeals to:

**Abdelaziz Bouteflika
President of the Republic of Algeria
Présidence de la République
El Mouradia
Alger, Algeria
Fax: +213 2166044 or 66088
Email: president@el-mouradia.dz
Salutation: Your Excellency**

GAMBIA

EBRIMA B MANNEH

JOURNALIST IN INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION



Journalists in Gambia have made repeated attempts to uncover the whereabouts of fellow journalist Ebrima Manneh, who was arrested on 11 July 2006 at the offices of the Daily Observer newspaper. He was detained by plain-clothes police officers thought to have been from the National Intelligence Agency. The National Intelligence Agency and the government have denied any involvement in his arrest or subsequent detention.

The reason for Ebrima Manneh's arrest is unclear. According to some sources, it followed a disagreement with the newspaper's editor, a close ally of President Yahya Jammeh. However, others claim his arrest was linked to information he allegedly gave to a foreign journalist before the Summit of the African Union in July 2006.

Ebrima Manneh was reportedly treated for high blood pressure at the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital in the capital, Banjul, at the end of July 2007, a year after his arrest. He was reportedly escorted by members of the Police Intervention Unit, a branch of the Gambian Police Force. However, the Police Chief and Information Minister have denied any involvement in, or knowledge of, his arrest.

In June 2007, the case was referred to the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) by the Media Foundation for West Africa. On 5 June 2008, the Court declared the arrest and detention of Ebrima Manneh illegal and ordered the Gambian authorities to immediately release him. The Court also ordered that US\$100,000 in damages be paid to him.

Please write, calling on the President of ECOWAS to enforce the Court's judgment of 5 June 2008 that the Gambian government must release Ebrima Manneh immediately.

Send appeals to:

**James Victor Gbeho
President of the Commission
Economic Community of West African
States (ECOWAS)
ECOWAS Secretariat Building
60 Yakubu Gowon Crescent
Asokoro
Abuja, Nigeria
Fax: +234 9 314 43 005
Salutation: Your Excellency**

PAKISTAN

SHAMS BALOCH

ACTIVIST ABDUCTED FROM AMBULANCE



Shams-Ul-Din Baloch was abducted from an ambulance on 1 July 2010 while accompanying his elderly mother to hospital in Balochistan province. It is believed he was abducted because of his involvement with the Baloch political movement.

The ambulance in which Shams Baloch, his mother and other family members were travelling was stopped at a Frontier Corps checkpoint between Khuzdar and Quetta. Eyewitnesses say Frontier Corps personnel asked Shams Baloch and the ambulance driver to get out and then beat them at gunpoint. Shortly afterwards, a car carrying four armed men in civilian clothes arrived. Shams Baloch was abducted and driven away towards Quetta.

Eyewitnesses believe the armed men belonged to an intelligence agency. Shams Baloch's fate and whereabouts remain unknown and his relatives fear for his life.

A Joint Investigation Team, comprising police and intelligence agency officials, confirmed the incident and concluded that Shams Baloch had been abducted by unidentified persons. Shams Baloch's relatives have come under pressure, allegedly from local state officials, not to speak out or pursue the case. Despite this, they lodged a complaint with police against the Frontier Corps and have made numerous enquiries with government officials in Quetta. On 6 July 2010, they filed a habeas corpus petition in the Balochistan High Court.

The two lawyers representing Shams Baloch's case and other disappearance cases in Balochistan were also abducted in February 2011. One was released after few days. The other is still missing.

Please write, urging that Shams Baloch's fate and whereabouts be immediately investigated and all information publicly disclosed, in particular to his family. If he is in custody, call for his immediate release, or for him to be brought promptly before a regular civilian court, charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a fair trial. Urge the authorities to bring to justice those responsible for ordering or carrying out his enforced disappearance and to provide his relatives with reparations. Send appeals to:

Rehman Malik
Federal Minister for Interior
Room 404, 4th Floor, R Block,
Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad, Pakistan
Fax: +92 519202624
Salutation: Dear Mr Malik

SYRIA

KAMAL AL-LABWANI

DENIED RELEASE UNDER PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY



Syrian prisoner of conscience Kamal al-Labwani may have his 15-year prison term reduced under a "general amnesty" announced by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on 31 May. However, unlike dozens of other political detainees, there are no plans to release him.

Kamal al-Labwani, a medical doctor, was arrested on 8 November 2005 following meetings with human rights organizations and government officials in Europe and the USA, where he called for peaceful democratic reform in Syria. Following his arrest, he was held without access to his lawyer or family for four days. During this time he was threatened, slapped across the face and denied food.

On 11 May 2007, the Damascus Criminal Court sentenced him to 12 years' imprisonment for "scheming with a foreign country, or

communicating with one with the aim of causing it to attack Syria." On 23 April 2008, he was sentenced to an additional three years for "broadcasting false or exaggerated news which would affect the morale of the country." This charge relates to remarks he reportedly made in his prison cell.

Kamal al-Labwani is imprisoned in Damascus Central prison, where conditions are poor. He shares an overcrowded cell with prisoners held on non-political grounds. Unlike them, Kamal al-Labwani is not allowed to watch television or visit the prison library. Visits from his family and lawyer are closely supervised.

Kamal al-Labwani previously served a three-year sentence between 2001 and 2004 for his involvement in the peaceful pro-reform movement known as the "Damascus Spring".

Please write, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Kamal al-Labwani and all other prisoners of conscience in Syria, including those detained for their peaceful participation in the current popular protests. Express concern that Kamal al-Labwani did not receive a fair trial, and that reports of his torture and other ill-treatment in detention have not been investigated. Send appeals to:

His Excellency Bashar al-Assad
President
Presidential Palace
al-Rashid Street
Damascus
Syria
Fax: +963 11 332 3410
Salutation: Your Excellency

USA

ALBERT WOODFOX AND HERMAN WALLACE

NEARLY 40 YEARS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Albert Woodfox (left) and Herman Wallace, Angola prison 2008.



Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace have been held in solitary confinement in prison in Louisiana for 39 and 36 years respectively.

During this time, the men have spent 23 hours a day confined to cells measuring 2m x 3m. They have been allowed out of their cells for seven hours a week, permitted to exercise alone in an outdoor cage, to shower, or walk the corridor alone.

Their decades in solitary confinement have been devoid of opportunities for mental or social stimulation: no access to education, no possibility of work, limited access to books and no television in their cells. Albert Woodfox was stripped of access to telephone calls and prison visits in November 2010.

The men were placed in solitary confinement after being accused of killing a guard during a prison riot in 1972. They have consistently denied carrying out the murder and believe they were implicated due to their political activism in prison as members of the Black Panther Party. Legal documents indicate that fear of their political activism is a factor in the prison's decision to keep them in isolation. Both have appeals against their convictions pending before the federal courts.

The widow of the murdered guard, Officer Brent Miller, said: "If these men... did not do this – and I believe that they didn't – they have been living a nightmare for 38 years."

Please write, expressing concern at the cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions under which Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace are being held, in violation of the US Constitution and the USA's obligations under international human rights treaties prohibiting such treatment. Urge that they be immediately released from solitary confinement. Send appeals to:

Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004, Baton Rouge
LA 70804, USA
Salutation: Dear Governor



King Abdullah Bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty The King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Saudi Arabia

Index: MDE 23/019/2011



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

Your Majesty,

I am very concerned about the cases of Nigerian national Suliamon Olyfemi and Indonesian domestic worker Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa, who are at imminent risk of execution in Saudi Arabia.

Suliamon Olyfemi was sentenced to death for murder in 2004 after an unfair trial in which he had no access to either a lawyer or translation from Arabic. Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa reportedly confessed to the murder of her employer in 1999 while mentally ill and did not have any legal representation.

I urge you to commute their sentences without delay, and immediately establish a moratorium on all executions as a first step towards abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

Name _____

Country _____

Address: _____

Images: Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa (top) © Documentation of CIMW and Suliamon Olyfemi (bottom) © Private Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. amnesty.org

PASS IT ON, AND ON, AND ON....

For a full list of the offices worldwide, please go to www.amnesty.org/en/worldwide-sites

If there is no office in your country, you can become an International Member and join our International Members' online community.

Visit www.amnesty.org/en/join for info in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

You can also write to:

Online Communities Team, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org

**TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE
OUR VOICES
HEARD**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Your Excellency,

I am very concerned about the adverse impact that pollution and environmental damage, associated with the oil extraction industry, are having on the human rights of people in the Niger Delta. Oil pollution has damaged traditional livelihoods such as fishing and agriculture, put people's health at risk and undermined access to safe food and clean water. Hundreds of thousands of people are affected, particularly the poorest.

I call on you to:

- Enforce existing laws and reform legislation to ensure robust, independent regulation of the oil extraction industry in Nigeria.
- Make a public commitment to a comprehensive clean-up of all oil pollution, to be carried out in full consultation with affected communities, and with full respect for human rights.
- Ensure that the clean-up is conducted transparently, and that information on the human rights impacts of oil pollution is collected and fully disclosed to affected communities.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

ASK ONE MORE

Pass this postcard to a friend and ask them to join Amnesty International.

Dear _____

Every day I stop people being tortured and executed. I stand up for women's rights and freedom of expression. I fight to end extreme poverty and repression.

I am a member of Amnesty International. Will you join me?

From _____

Please send me more information about joining Amnesty International.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Office of the President
Nigerian Presidential Complex, Aso Rock
Abuja
Federal Capital Territory
Nigeria

Image: Women stand next to an oil wellhead that has been regularly spilling crude oil since 2004 near the community of Ikot Ada Udo in the Niger Delta.
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Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom. www.amnesty.org

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United Kingdom



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