



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

# **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: FACTS AND FIGURES**

## **GENERAL**

Amnesty International was founded in 1961 by British lawyer Peter Benenson after he read about Portuguese students sentenced to seven years in prison for raising their glasses in a toast to freedom.

Amnesty International is a worldwide voluntary movement made up of people from all walks of life who work together to campaign for human rights. It is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and is therefore solely dependent on the support of its members and the general public.

The famous Amnesty International candle wrapped in barbed wire was inspired by the ancient Chinese proverb; "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness".

## **NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

Amnesty International has more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in over 150 countries and territories, in every region of the world.

## **MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS AT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Amnesty International is a democratic movement whose major policy decisions are taken by representatives from all national sections at International Council meetings held every two years.

## **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE**

In 1977, Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for "having contributed to securing the ground for freedom, for justice, and thereby also for peace in the world". It was received on behalf of the organisation by Thomas Hammarberg, who became Secretary General in 1980.

## **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

From 1961 until the end of 2010, Amnesty International conducted at least 3,341 missions to research human rights abuses around the world.

## **REPORTS AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

Amnesty International has produced and published an estimated 17,093 reports and public documents on human rights, since its foundation in 1961. This figure does not include Urgent Actions or press releases.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

Amnesty International has published an Annual Report every year since 1961.

The report - or versions of the report - is produced in more than 25 languages and is sent to a wide range of stakeholders around the world from Amnesty International sections and partner organizations to government ministers and Heads of State.

It is a popular reference tool stocked in libraries and used by academics worldwide.

Amnesty International sections use the report as a fundraising and press tool. The report's launch is a key event which sections use to engage media in their country and raise awareness on the state of the world's human rights.

The report is available online with statistics for download.

#### LANGUAGES

Amnesty International works in all languages. In addition to its four core languages of Arabic, English, French and Spanish, it works closely with national sections and local partners to ensure that human rights are understood by everyone, in any language.

#### FAMOUS SUPPORTERS

Famous supporters over the years include: Alanis Morissette, Annie Lennox, Asian Dub Foundation, Bono, Bruce Springsteen, the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Harrison Ford, Jacques Chirac, John Cleese, Mick Jagger, Peter Gabriel, Puff Daddy, Kim Dae-Jung, Radiohead, Sting, Tony Blair, Tracey Chapman, U2, Yasser Arafat, Yoko Ono, Youssou N'Dour and Yoweri Museveni.

#### FORMER PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CASES AND THE NOBEL PRIZE:

- 1974: Peace - Sean Mc Bride, Amnesty International staff
- 1975: Peace - Andrei Sakharov, Prisoner of Conscience
- 1977: Peace - Amnesty International
- 1980: Peace - Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Prisoner of Conscience
- 1986: Literature - Wole Soyinka, Amnesty International worked on his case in 1965
- 1991: Peace - Aung San Suu Kyi, Prisoner of Conscience
- 1992: Peace - Rigoberta Menchu', Amnesty International worked on her case in 1993
- 1993: Peace - Nelson Mandela
- 2000: Peace - Kim Dae Jung, Prisoner of Conscience
- 2004: Peace - Wangari Maathai, Prisoner of Conscience
- 2006: Literature - Orhan Pamuk, Prisoner of Conscience
- 2010: Peace - Liu Xiaobo, Prisoner of Conscience

### SECTIONS AND STRUCTURES

Globally, Amnesty International has a total of 68 local, in-country offices, known as sections, structures, pre-structures and regional International Secretariat offices including:

#### AFRICA

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Uganda

#### THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Algeria, Israel, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia

#### THE AMERICAS

Argentina, Bermuda, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela

#### ASIA-PACIFIC

Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand

#### EUROPE

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Faroe Islands, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, Ukraine

## URGENT ACTIONS

The Amnesty International Urgent Action network was established by an Amnesty International researcher to enable the swift, worldwide mobilization of people to take action at short notice when an individual was identified as being in immediate danger, or when a human rights crisis was taking place.

The first appeal for Urgent Action was issued in 1973.

Professor Rossi was the subject of the first Urgent Action, issued on 19 March 1973. A prisoner of conscience in Brazil under the military regime, then a human rights activist - his story has set a powerful model for the tens of thousands of urgent actions that have followed. It was not until the letters started to pour in that Rossi's relatives were allowed to visit him. Although many people taken into police custody were never seen again, Rossi was eventually freed in October 1973.

From 1985 to 2010 a total of 20,544 new Urgent Actions were distributed, plus 10,536 Urgent Action follow-ups.

267 Urgent Actions were sent out in 2010 on cases throughout the world.

## CAMPAIGNS

Amnesty International is an action and campaign oriented NGO.

The movement comes together every two years at International Council Meetings to decide the key human rights areas where campaigning action should be taken to create change.

Campaigns are also often launched in response to world events.

#### CONTROL ARMS

The unregulated global arms trade inflicts misery worldwide. Every year thousands of people are killed, injured, raped and forced to flee their homes as a result of armed violence. The Control Arms campaign calls for a global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that would establish strict rules for the international transfer of arms, and hold irresponsible arms suppliers and dealers to account.

#### DEATH PENALTY

The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights. It is the premeditated and cold-blooded killing of a human being by the state. This cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment is done in

the name of justice. It violates the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Soon after its foundation in 1961, Amnesty International began sending appeals to prevent the execution of prisoners of conscience. Today, the organization's opposition to the death penalty includes all prisoners, regardless of the crimes of which they have been convicted.

Progress has been dramatic in the last few decades. In 1977, only 16 countries had abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Thirty years later, that number had grown to 90.

#### DEMAND DIGNITY

People living in poverty are more vulnerable to human rights violations – such as forced evictions – and these violations can drive people further into poverty.

Amnesty International's Demand Dignity campaign aims to enable people living in poverty to exercise and claim their rights, to hold governments, companies and international financial institutions to account for human rights abuses, and to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

The campaign focuses on four central themes: slums and forced evictions, the legal enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights, maternal health and sexual and reproductive rights and corporate accountability.

#### INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Amnesty International campaigns for an effective system of international justice to ensure justice, truth and full reparations for crimes under international law: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture, extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances.

#### SECURITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

The so-called 'war on terror' has led to the erosion of a whole host of human rights. States are resorting to practices which have long been prohibited by international law, and have sought to justify them in the name of national security.

## CAMPAIGNS AND CAMPAIGNING WORK THROUGH THE YEARS

**1962** Prisoner of Conscience Fund is set up to provide for the families of prisoners.

**1965** Monthly Postcards for Prisoners Campaign starts.

**1968** The first Prisoner of Conscience Week.

**1973** Amnesty International issues its first full Urgent Action, on behalf of Professor Luiz Basilio Rossi, a Brazilian, on 19 March. He was arrested for political reasons. Luiz himself believed that Amnesty International's appeals were crucial: "I knew that my case had become public, I knew they could no longer kill me. Then the pressure on me decreased and conditions improved."

**1973** The first Campaign Against Torture.

**1976** Worldwide campaign launched against torture in Uruguay.

**1977** Major campaign is the Year of the Prisoner of Conscience. Joan Miro, Elisabeth Frink, Alexander Calder and Roland Torpor are among the artists who create posters for Amnesty International's prisoner of conscience year.

**1980** The first campaign against the Death Penalty.

**1981** Launch of the Disappearance Campaign.

**1983** Campaign against Political Killings by Governments.

**1984** The second Campaign Against Torture, which includes a 12-point plan for the abolition of torture.

**1987** USA Death Penalty Campaign.

**1988** Human Rights Now! Campaign.

**1989** Campaign against the Death Penalty.

**1991** "No more Excuses!" 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign.

**1993** Amnesty International launches international campaign against political killings and disappearances and extrajudicial executions– "The Lives Behind the Lies".

**1994** Amnesty International launches major international campaign on women's rights: "Human Rights are women's rights".

Amnesty International launches worldwide campaign against "Disappearances" and Political Killings".

**1995** Campaign to "Stop the Torture Trade".

**1996** Amnesty International launches Prescription for Change, a campaign on the role of health professionals in exposing human rights violations.

**1997** Human Rights of Refugees worldwide is the main focus of Amnesty International's campaigning.

**1998** "Rights for All" campaign in the USA.

Campaign against land mines begins.

Amnesty International launches "Get Up, Sign Up!" campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), collecting 13 million pledges in support of the Declaration.

**1999** Amnesty International's campaign draws attention to the plight of 300,000 child soldiers.

**2000** The third Campaign Against Torture.

**2001** Amnesty International adopts a new mission focusing on the indivisibility of human rights and paving the way for work on economic, social and cultural rights.

**2003** Amnesty International, Oxfam and IANSA launch the global Control Arms campaign.

**2004** Amnesty International launches global campaign to Stop Violence Against Women, with the first phase focussing on women in armed conflict.

**2005** Counter Terror with Justice Campaign.

**2008** Beijing Olympics Campaign.

**2009** Amnesty International launches the Demand Dignity campaign with the intention of ending the economic, social and cultural rights violations which, with civil and political rights abuses, combine to drive and deepen poverty.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND FUNDING

### FINANCING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S WORK

The overwhelming majority of Amnesty International's income comes from individual donors and members. These personal and unaffiliated donations allow Amnesty International to maintain full independence from any and all governments, political ideologies, economic interests or religions.

Amnesty International neither seeks nor accepts any funds for human rights research from governments or political parties and accepts support only from businesses that have been carefully vetted. By only seeking funding from these sources and ensuring that the membership remain at the heart of the organisation, Amnesty International maintains complete independence and impartiality in its unwavering defence of universal and indivisible human rights.

### TOTAL REVENUE

The total income of all Amnesty International sections for the year ending 31 December 2009 was €202 million.

Of the total global income of €202m, around €56million was apportioned for use by the International Secretariat. These funds are then used to fund the activities of the International Secretariat and to support sections that are not able to be self-sufficient.

The majority of sections are financially self-sufficient, and they send an agreed proportion of their revenue each year to the International Secretariat.

## STAFF AT THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

As of 31 December 2010, there are 436 staff members working at the International Secretariat in London. Including remote workers and non-London International Secretariat workers, the total is 518.

This amounts to an estimated 844,858\* hours (or 24,139 working weeks) of work to safeguard human rights across the globe. However, this is just the work of the International Secretariat and therefore does not include the many thousands of people working to promote and safeguard human rights in Amnesty International Sections, Structures, and other organisations in partnership with Amnesty International throughout the world.

\* NB: this figure is a guide estimate and does not include hours worked as overtime. (*Averaging 35 hours per week = 1,820 per year per person, minus 189 hrs. Average 27 days holiday*) =

*1,631 hrs, multiplied by 518.) The International Secretariat is staffed by dedicated individuals and the actual hours worked is significantly higher.*

Staff at the International Secretariat originate from all over the world, some of whom have worked at Amnesty International for more than 30 years. As a microcosm of the multicultural nature of Amnesty International's members and supporters, it reflects the true universality of human rights.

The average age of a member of staff is 40 years old.

The International Secretariat currently has 32 staff working on the Americas region, 41 working on the Asia-Pacific region, 32 on the Middle East and North Africa region, 41 on the Europe and Central Asia region, and 47 on the Africa region.

#### NATIONALITIES

Over 66 nationalities currently work at the International Secretariat.

#### LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT STAFF

Staff at the Amnesty International, International Secretariat office speak a wide range of languages including: Albanian, Arabic, Bemba, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Creole, Croat, Czech, Dari, Dutch, English, French, Gaelic, Georgian, German, Greek, Gujarat, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kyrgyz, Lingala, Lithuanian, Malayalam, Mandarin, Maori, Marathi, Nyanja, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Shona, Slovak, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu.