

**Speak Out
Human Rig**

Defend dignity. Join the



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES ANNUAL REVIEW 2008



Towards an ENHANCED ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

The 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on April 25-27 in Quezon City was an occasion to update our statutes, reflect on our human rights work and plan together for growth and greater activism for human rights. We reflected and learned lessons from our experiences and decided to adopt new ideas and diverse innovative ways to complement effective good practices in the past. The AGM was graced by Lillian Goccalvez of the International Executive Committee (IEC) who shared about the on-going discussions of the future Integrated Strategic Program of the movement and Anil Pant of the International Mobilization Program (IMP) who shared his experiences in growing Amnesty in Nepal and developing its activism for human rights.

The members had dynamic discussions on organizational matters, particularly on the nature of the organization, its governance and management. We made Amnesty International Philippines (AIPh) Inc, our official name, integrated relevant provisions of the Statute of AI such as vision, mission and core values in our By-Laws, clarified functions of the Board and secretariat and added provisions for enhanced finance management and accountability. Other outcomes of the AGM include the election of Board members Antonio Villazor and Karla Oda, to fill up vacancies, appointment of Eribert Padilla as external auditor and establishment of the Finance Control Committee (FCC) – Arthur Neame, Elicer Carlos, Rhey Dawis and Luzviminda Cruz. The AIPh assembly received the audited financial reports of 2006 and 2007, approved the Operational Plan and Budget 2008 and discussed the Growth, Mobilization and Activism Strategy (GAS) and gave inputs for 2009. An organizational strength and self-assessment (OSSA) was

conducted in September 2008 participated in by members, leaders and the staff and Guillermo Rogel of the International Mobilization Program (IMP). The organization was assessed closely in its various aspects – identifying strengths as well as areas which need improvement and greater attention towards a healthier organization. Many of the recommendations that came out of the OSSA process were integrated in the 2009 plan.

To further strengthen our organization, the Board and staff conducted studies about governance and management. Finance literacy discussions were also done for better finance management and governance.

Inspired by the need to grow to have greater impact and guided by the GAS, our efforts during the year resulted to the development of 4 centers of activism in Cagayan de Oro, Pagadian/Zamboanga, La Union and Metro Manila. Activism of members greatly heightened with about half of our activities being members-led which is a great contrast to the previous secretariat-led Metro Manila based activism. The activities ranged from leafletting in night market and parks, gathering of signature in train and van terminals, candle lighting and concert to motorcades in and outside Metro Manila.

The growth and activism have to be moved further to maximize the potentials in our country.

Aurora A. Parong
Aurora Corazon A. Parong, M.D.
Section Director

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In 2008, AI Philippines started rebuilding its membership and activism base by strengthening and broadening its engagement with people, decentralizing and heightening activism in the regions.

We were able to grow 317 new members and renew 92 members. 51% of the members are in the NCR, 36% in Mindanao, 11% in Luzon and the others are distributed in the Visayas region. Young people aged 15-25 years old remains the majority of the membership at 45% but we were able to increase our membership in the age groups of 26 - 34 year olds and 35 - 64 year olds. Non-traditional Amnesty constituencies were mobilized in the IP communities where Amnesty held workshops and trainings, among cyclists and more ordinary people with the Beijing Olympics and UDHR@60 activities. Promotion of Amnesty and mobilization of supporters and members have begun in Region 2 (Nueva Vizcaya) and Region 7 (Cebu). Through the urgent action appeals, signature campaigns, public actions, press events and partnerships, AIPh mobilized more than 15,000 supporters throughout the country.

growth and activism

Four regions where Amnesty promotion and action is developed and led by members were established in the NCR, Region 1 (La Union), Region 9 (Zamboanga City and Pagadian City) and Region 10 (Cagayan de Oro). Activism was decentralized from the Secretariat where more than half of all activities throughout the country were led by members. More than 30% of the activities of AIPh were held in the Mindanao region, 42% in the NCR, 14% in Luzon and 7% in the Visayas. Around half of the 138 activities for the year were held in October to December, majority of which surrounds the UDHR@60 campaign.

Significant changes in how AIPh mobilize people and animate activism along with the commitment of AI's constituencies supported in achieving these changes which contributed to steps towards achieving human rights impact locally and internationally.

AIPh trained 22 members from strategic areas of growth and activism on knowledge and skills to help broaden AI's HRE work. The training introduced to the integration of HRE in the formal, non-formal and informal (media) education, use of creative techniques for HRE, using HRE for mobilization and activism and practical skills in module making and communications.

The participants of the training now forms the HRE group/team of AIPh and will participate not only in organizing and conduct of HRE activities but also in setting the direction of the HRE program.

Four of the 22 trainees had conducted a re-echo before the end of the year with non-AI participants in Kalayaan National High School and Baguio City.

training of trainers

Human rights advocacy trainings are part of AIPh work with the indigenous peoples specifically affected by mining in the areas of Subanon of Zamboanga Peninsula - Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.

Given the various human rights issues, other than mining related, raised during consultations, meetings, and trainings in Zamboanga Peninsula, AIPh saw the need for a skills training on human rights advocacy. This would enable them to do claim-making especially at the local level.

Although there are different support groups already in the area, including Nueva Vizcaya, not one of the support groups is providing a training on human rights advocacy. Thus, AIPh believes that this is where we can be of contribution for the protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights.

It is also during this training wherein AIPh started its engagement in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino provinces. In coordination with the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines' (TFDP) Nueva Vizcaya team, the training was conducted with more than 40 participants coming from different areas in the 2 provinces.

Meanwhile, in Zamboanga Peninsula, the training was conducted in coordination with Pigsalabukan Bangsa Subanen (PBS) which facilitated the identification and invitation of participants. There were also more than 40 participants during the 3-day training coming from different communities.

Aside from the discussion on human rights advocacy and planning a campaign strategy, the training included a refresher on human rights and indigenous peoples rights.



up against

Guantanamo Anti-Torture Disappearances EJK

IMPUNITY



The year 2008 was an opportune time for AIPh to be involved in the international and national campaigns to demand accountability from key actors involved in the local promulgation of security and defense and from those in the forefront of the global war against terror.

The year's campaign against impunity kicked off with a very successful public action in front of the US Embassy against the continuous operations of the Guantanamo Detention Facilities of the US government last January. The action jumpstarted AIPh's campaign to demand the US to immediately close the detention facilities where detainees' rights were found to be severely abused. The year-long campaign also included continued actions through appeals and urgent actions to free those illegally detained and held without charge or trial inside the controversial facility.

At the national level, AIPh has been campaigning for laws that will prevent abuses and bring forth accountability from perpetrators. Together with the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC) and the Coalition Against Involuntary Disappearances (CAID), AIPh's support in the proposed laws against torture and disappearances in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. One of the more notable and successful actions that warranted front page media attention highlighted the public show of support by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the campaign against torture last June to join the Basta Run Against Torture event.

Also, the section maintained its involvement in the campaign to stop summary killings, particularly on the issue of the Philippine government's accountability to all victims and stakeholders by fulfilling its responsibility and obligation to bring perpetrators to justice. As part of its contribution in the campaign on 'Breaking the Chains of Impunity', AIPh has engaged the government in its concerns over the persistent assassinations of human rights defenders, activists and media practitioners. Although fewer cases of killings and disappearances were seen in 2008, the section remained steadfast in its belief that 'one case is a case too many' and that immediate action must be done towards the resolving of past and present cases and holding those responsible for the crimes accountable. It has also contributed to the appeals and urgent actions on individual cases of EJKs and disappearances in the country along with the members and supporters of AI around the world.

ATT
Cluster Munitions
OPCAT
Death Penalty

no place for ILL TREATMENT & VIOLENCE

The Philippine government has constantly assured the international community of its positive position towards the creation of an effective International Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) based on international human rights and humanitarian laws and agreements. However, AIPh, together with the members and international supporters of the Philippine Network Action on Small Arms (PhilANSA), incessantly engaged pertinent government agencies tasked to deal with the proposed instrument to make sure that such a position declared by the country for three years in a row will be maintained until the treaty is finally created, approved and entered into force.

A number of high-level dialogues and meetings aimed at continuing the Philippine government's favorable view on the ATT and at the same time securing a lasting partnership with these key government agencies were conducted by AIPh and PhilANSA. AIPh and the members of PhilANSA also engaged and succeeded in gathering 50 signatures from the members of the Senate and Congress for the international campaign to gather 1,000 declarations of support from parliamentarians all over the world. The Philippines, again voted in favour of a resolution 'towards the creation of an effective International Arms Trade Treaty in 2009'.

AIPh and the key members of PhilANSA greatly supported the creation and all the subsequent lobbying and campaigning activities of the Philippine Coalition to Ban Cluster Munitions (PCBCM). These actions resulted to the Philippine Government's supporting and signing of Convention on Cluster Munitions last December 3, 2008.

2008 also saw the Philippine government's support to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. This is a direct result of more than 2 years of unwavering campaigning through public forums and dialogues for all sectors concerned, high-level government meetings, conferences for stakeholders and duty bearers, and public actions for its ratification by the members of the United Against Torture Coalition.

It was also in December of 2008 where AI's campaigning against capital punishment all over the world resulted in the United Nations General Assembly adopting the second resolution for a global moratorium on the death penalty with 106 states - with 89 countries co-sponsoring - voted in favour, 46 against, 34 abstentions.

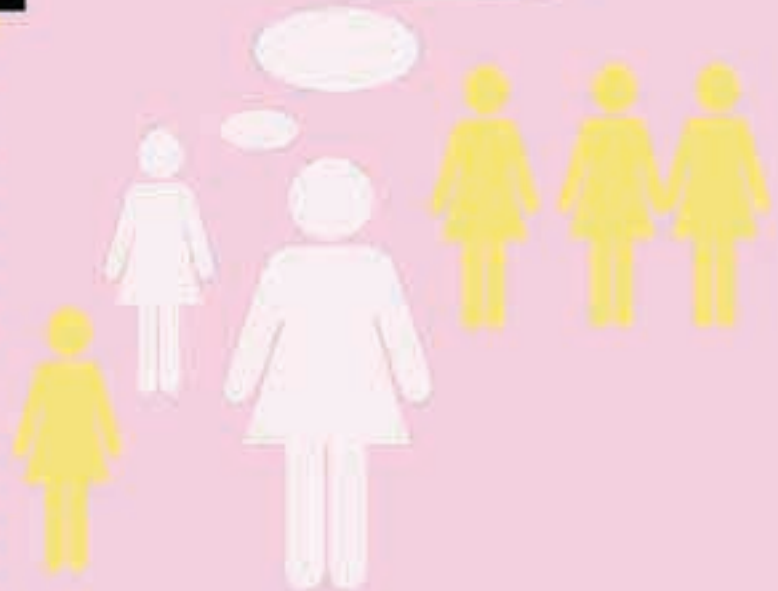


safe schools for girls

Continuing on the Global Campaign to Stop Violence Against Women, AIPh and its members took on the Safe Schools for Girls (SSFG) Project to make academic institutions take positive and proactive steps in eliminating violence and inequality brought about by patriarchal traditions and inaction inside Philippine schools. Its launch at the beginning of the year was attended by 29 organizations, mostly coming from the womens and education sector. The recommendations that were given to government agencies tasked to respond to the launch and the accompanying report were highlighted by the media to publicize the problems girls face inside their respective schools.

The section went on to conduct a full-scale campaigning that was led by the members from the different parts of the Philippines. Members from La Union, Baguio, College of the Holy Spirit, Kalayaan National High School, Negros, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga and supporters from Miriam College and Colegio de San Lorenzo Ruiz distributed SSFG focus sheets and posters in Tagalog, English, Cebuano and Ilokano in schools and communities. Additionally, the La Union group conducted a number of workshops and public actions connected to safer schools for girls and human rights.

AIPh will continue its campaign to make schools safe for girls in 2009, with the target of gathering 12 schools that will publicly declare themselves safe for girls. Also, a national lobbying for government policies on the issue will be conducted alongside the continuance of the campaign to help make the rights of girls a reality.



The Women Working Together to Stop Violence against Women (WWTSAW), where Amnesty International Philippines (AIPh) serves as the secretariat, launched a komiks primer on Republic Act (RA) 9262 or Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004 in Cavite last December 16. Students, women from various communities and barangay officials from GMA, Cavite joined the members of WWTSAW during the occasion. A cultural presentation highlighted various forms of domestic violence suffered by many women in the country. Barangay officials and women leaders were presented with copies of the komiks.

Members of AIPh in Cagayan de Oro distributed copies of the komiks on RA 9262 to women in several communities during the 60th anniversary of the UDHR to reiterate AIPh's commitment to women's rights and as part of its continuing efforts to stop violence against women in intimate relationships.



a lasting change

Probably one of the more exciting campaigns that AIPH worked on was the Country Action Program on China through the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Amnesty saw this as an opportunity to advocate for long-lasting changes in the human rights situation in China and has decided to campaign for four specific goals: 1) stopping the executions in China; 2) fair trials for all; 3) respect the rights of human rights defenders; and, 4) freedom from censorship. AIPH's full involvement came in 2008 in the final leg of the race to urge China to fulfil the promises of change that it made.

However, international uproar over China's violent crackdown against Tibetan protestors led by monks calling for the easing of government imposed campaigns that forced monks to write denunciations of the Dalai lama and subjected them to governmental political propaganda last March marred the already tarnished image. AIPH immediately acted as it gathered more than a hundred members present at the Annual General Meeting to denounce the violent crackdown and demand the unconditional release of the thousands more imprisoned at the aftermath of the attack. China's accountability over its actions over Tibet has accompanied every AIPH action on the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

AIPH formally launched its appeals for the human rights defenders Huang Jinqiu, Ye Ghouzhu, Yang Tongyan, Chen Guangcheng and Shi Tao and the appeal to the Chinese government to allow the mothers of the victims of the Tiananmen massacre to commemorate and demand for justice at the Tiananmen anniversary. With the help of the membership and the supporters from all over the country, the section was able to gather almost 24,000 signatures for the appeals in less than 4 months. The signatures were mailed to the Chinese Prime Minister and Minister of Justice in a simple yet symbolic media action that gathered substantial media coverage at the central office of the Philippine Post Office.

AIPH also conducted two major public activities aimed at calling the public's attention and action over the human rights issues surrounding the Olympics, gather enough media coverage to put priority to human rights and not just the glamour and excitement of the games, to solicit positive response from the Chinese government as well as the Philippine government – a main partner of China in terms of investments and other economic ties. Donning sports and athletic attire to give emphasis to the principles of universal fundamental ethical principles and the preservation of human dignity that the Olympics embody, AIPH members and supporters went to the Chinese consulate during the global week of action to demand that human rights reforms be made. The public action again caught enough media attention to warrant it news over the pages of news dailies, websites and TV outlets. The climax of the China CAP campaigning happened a week before the Beijing games as more than 500 cyclists and over a hundred partners and volunteers braved the rains for the 'Bike for Rights (B4R) 08: PadyaKARAPATAN para sa CHINA', one of AIPH's annual flagship activities. The cyclists - who came from different cities and nearby areas around the metro, and volunteer-partners from the government, civil society and civic organizations, spread messages of the need for human rights reform and change as the lasting legacy of the Beijing Olympics.

Festive music and messages accompanied the participants of the event as they travelled on 78-km worth of road within 8 cities of Metro Manila.

riders with a cause

AI Philippines mobilizes from the broadest and most diversified groups of people. Inspired by hope for a better world and outraged by human rights abuses, its members and supporters come from different walks of life. The Riders with A Cause: Small Places Tour (RWAC:SPT) aimed to harness this diversity through the "power of the individual" to take the UDHR's message of hope, indivisibility and human rights for all to the places close to home where it is most important.

2008 was a landmark year in the global campaign to make human rights a reality for all people, it marked 60 years since the birth of the UDHR - adopted by UN member states on 10 December 1948. It began as an initiative of governments, but today it is the goal and aspiration of people everywhere.

RWAC:SPT was softly launched during the AI Annual Report 2008 press conference in May where dignitaries and representatives from different embassies and human rights groups gathered to renew their commitment to the UDHR. A short hiatus followed this launch as AIPH prepared for the 60 Day Countdown to the 60th anniversary of the UDHR which premiered in October 12. Sixty bikers and cyclist led the motorcade around Metro Manila. Nationwide motorcades followed suit with the same objective of promoting the UDHR and the principle it brings. From Nueva Vizcaya in the north to Pagadian, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga in the south plus schools and universities as well as government agencies in between supported AI Philippines in this endeavor. The 60 days saw several motorcades, bringing the UDHR throughout the country.

Campaigning materials composed of 15 exhibit tarpaulin, posters, accordion, stickers, calendars and passports for human rights were produced and distributed to train stations in Metro Manila, symposia, fora and trainings everywhere. A Diario Ops was also conducted where materials were inserted in broadsheets and dailies for a broader and more diverse reach.

Signatures for Nelson Asucena, victim of political killing, and international solidarity appeals for victims of other human rights abuses were also gathered for the writeathon during the RWAC:SPT.

2008 was capped with the last motorcade for the year and a candlelighting concert, where the UDHR Video prepared by the Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN) was launched. This December 10 celebration gathered together members of the civil society, the government, media, international community, NGO personalities and musicians.





crisis response

Amnesty International Asia Pacific and the Philippines organized a crisis response mission to Mindanao following the exacerbation of the decades old armed conflict between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in August due to the failed signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) between the two parties.

More than 600,000 individuals were displaced in evacuation centers and houses of relatives and more than 100 civilians were killed allegedly by both parties of the armed conflict. At the end of the year, a couple of hundreds of thousands of civilians remained displaced.

Amnesty International condemned the violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws by the GRP and the MILF and urged both parties to stop these abuses and bring to justice the perpetrators. The Director of Al Philippines had public debates with the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other government officials on television about government obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights of peoples in the affected areas. Government response to the crisis, particularly arming the civilians, was rejected by AI as a response that would only complicate the situation and may lead to further abuses as the experiences in the Philippines and other countries showed. Inadequately trained civilians, including the people they are supposed to protect, may only be placed at risk and exacerbate the very volatile situation.

OPICESCR

The UN General Assembly marked the commemoration of the 60th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by adopting, by consensus, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OPICESCR).

Amnesty International has been campaigning for this instrument for the last four years with other organizations of the NGO coalition.

Amnesty International Philippines, for its part, have sent communications to the government of the Philippines thru the Department of Foreign Affairs to call for its support for the adoption of the OPICESCR.

Aside from this, AIPh also signed the petition from the NGO coalition including some of its members.

The OPICESCR is an instrument that provides access to justice for victims of violations of economic, social and cultural rights who cannot get a remedy at the national level.

Burma

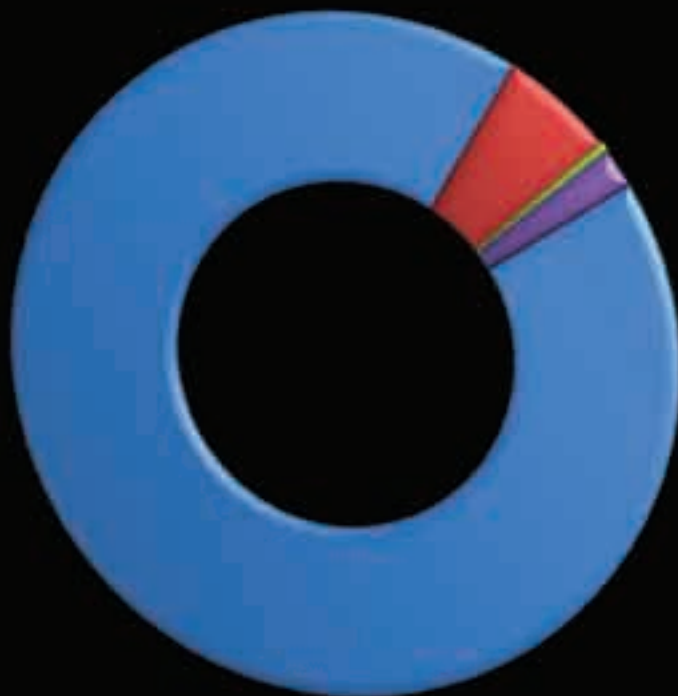
'Human Rights and Democracy' in Myanmar, a country currently under a military junta, is one of the longest international solidarity campaigns of AIPh as its involvement with the Free Burma Coalition (FBC) since its inception in the early 1990's. Over the years, the section, together with the coalition, has campaigned against the abuses committed against political and human rights activists, women, children, ethnic groups and numerous organized civil-political-social and religious groups by the present ruling regime.

AIPh activists were involved in a number of actions in 2008 that hold the government of Myanmar accountable for the numerous, gross, and unabated human rights abuses for many years. The collection of the 8,888 faces for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners that was launched in October 2007 reached schools, workplaces and other activities of the members of the coalition until September 2008.

AIPh activists actively participated in the successful commemoration of the Myanmar government's violent crackdown on the six-week long demonstrations led by students from all over Myanmar in August 8, 1988. The commemoration, joined by more than 150 members from different organizations within FBC and covered by media supporters, demanded justice for the estimated 3,000 massacred and thousands more imprisoned and disappeared by the junta's security forces to quell the unrests. The public action called on China, one of the main investors and supporters of the military junta in Myanmar, to exert pressure on the authorities of Myanmar to end the more than 2 decades of human rights abuses in the country and improve their human rights situation. At the same time, the action urged the Thai government, current head of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at that time, to lead the ASEAN in demanding the Myanmar junta to institute democratic and human rights reforms.

AIPh was also involved in the silent protest in front of the Myanmar Embassy in September for 1st year Anniversary of the Saffron Revolution where an estimated 100 people, including a Japanese journalist, were killed when Myanmar soldiers opened fire at more than 100,000 protesters in the streets of Yangon on September 26-27 2007. It is believed that more than 3,000 people have been arrested in the subsequent crackdown all over the country.

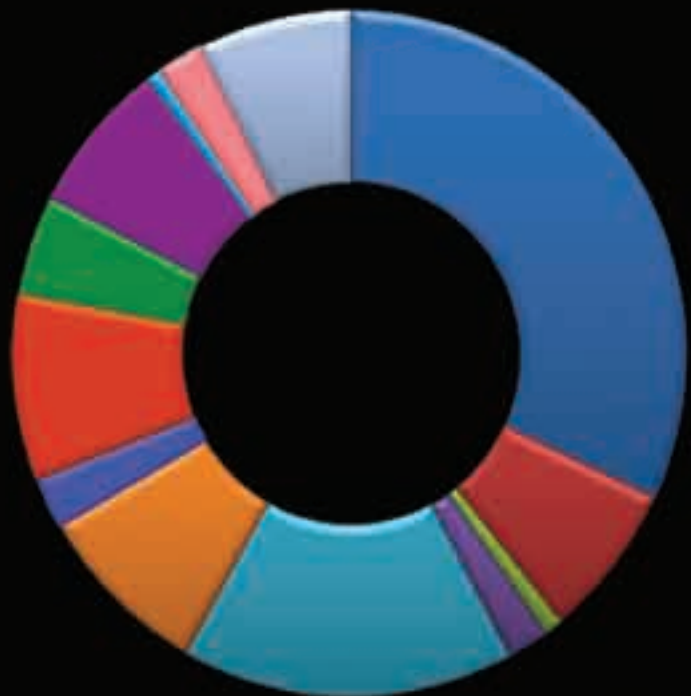




revenue

International Mobilization Trust (IMT)	8,844,260.00 - 92.34%
Amnesty International-Asia Pacific Regional Office	519,498.00 - 5.42%
Membership Fees	46,050.00 - 0.48%
Other Income	168,463.00 - 1.76%
Total:	9,578,271.00 - 100.00%

finance report



expenditure

General Operations	2,768,881.00 - 31.89%
Governance and Internal Democracy	639,567.00 - 7.37%
SVAW - Safe Schools for Girls Campaign	80,797.00 - 0.93%
CAP - China Beijing Olympics 2008	171,390.00 - 1.97%
ESCR - Dignity Campaign & IPs Affected by Mining	1,388,918.00 - 16.00%
Thematic Campaigns	737,145.00 - 8.49%
SVAW - Research on the Implementation of RA9262	210,726.00 - 2.43%
Media, Communication and Publications	760,197.00 - 8.76%
Asian Language Program	410,466.00 - 4.73%
Human Rights Education	622,797.00 - 7.17%
Membership Mobilization	59,581.00 - 0.69%
Human Resource Development & Management	188,138.00 - 2.17%
Financial Management	643,044.00 - 7.41%
Total:	8,681,647.00 - 100.00%

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected for everyone.

We believe human rights abuses anywhere are the concern of people everywhere.

So, outraged by human rights abuses but inspired by hope for a better world, we work to improve people's lives through campaigning and international solidarity.

Our mission is to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated.

Our members and supporters exert influence on governments, political bodies, companies and intergovernmental groups.

Activists take up human rights issues by mobilizing public pressure through mass demonstrations, vigils and direct lobbying as well as online and offline campaigning.

AMNESTY
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