

CAMPALIGN

OPISYAL NA PAHAYAGAN NG AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES
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~~cruel~~
~~inhuman~~
~~degrading~~
~~treatment~~
~~corporal~~
~~punishment~~
~~death in~~
~~custody~~
~~enforced~~
~~disappearance~~
~~secret~~
~~detention~~
~~solitary~~
~~confinement~~



NO ONE IS SAFE

STOP TORTURE

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2014 WAS A BUSY AND CHALLENGING TIME FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

We condemned the despicable use of torture for fun by the police in Laguna, just an hour drive from Metro Manila. The police were found to have used a torture roulette to determine the kind of torture method that will be inflicted on detainees languishing in unregistered jails. Torture is a crime, and freedom from torture is a non-derogable right of anyone. Despite an Anti Torture law enacted in the Philippines in 2009, no one has been convicted of torture until now. The Philippine government must exercise greater diligence to investigate and prosecute abuses and not allow any perpetrator of torture to get away without being held accountable. Impunity must end.

We launched the report on the sufferings of many impoverished Nepali women who have uterine prolapse. Our colleagues in the reproductive health network in the country responded positively to our call for solidarity actions for the women of Nepal. We set up an information booth at Fisher Mall and we got a significant number of people sign our petition for the government of Nepal to act immediately to unburden the women from their sufferings. In addition, we were able to recruit new members

In Butuan City, we met and had candid and informative conversations with indigenous women from the CARAGA region during the training on documentation of human rights violations. It was great to listen to their stories to broadly share their learnings from the seminars that we organized. The indigenous women have not only conversed with women and girls but also the men and boys who are eagerly listening to new ideas including those about discrimination against women

The leadership trainings in Baguio and Cagayan de Oro were occasions to share good practices in leading our organization and time to discuss and work out possible solutions to continuing challenges that we face in various areas of work.

In all these activities, members and supporters of Amnesty International Philippines have greatly contributed their time and talents to achieve our objectives to make positive changes in peoples' lives. Thank you for all your work.

Let me digress a bit. I am moving on to a new job. On February 10, Philippine President Benigno Aquino appointed me to serve for 2 years starting in the second quarter of the year as a member of the Human Rights Violations Victims' Claims Board (HRVVCB).

Doc Au worked with Amnesty International Philippines as Director from October 2007 - April 2014. Her invaluable contribution to Amnesty International's work towards a world where everyone enjoys all human rights remains an important legacy to human rights work and advocacy. Thank you, Doc Au! Cheers!


The HRVVCB, a quasijudicial body, is tasked to recognize and provide reparations to victims of human rights abuses during martial law in the Philippines, pursuant to Republic Act 10368 (also known as the Martial Law Victims' Reparations and Recognition Act of 2013).

I am honored and humbled to participate in the historic task of providing reparations to those who suffered during this dark period in Philippine history. I was detained for 1 1/2 years under the authoritarian rule of former President Marcos while I was part of the movement to defend civil liberties, assert human rights and democracy. The recognition and provision of reparations to those who were killed, disappeared, tortured, raped and sexually abused, detained, deprived of livelihood and/ or properties and other gross human rights violations is an acknowledgement of the Philippine state about the wrongs in the past and concrete actions to deliver justice and recognize the heroism and sacrifices of those who fought against the dictatorship.

I would like, therefore, to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the time, great conversations and work that we have done together since I became Section Director of AI Philippines in October 2007. Our common efforts have already resulted to the growth and strengthening of our organization and some successes in policy change. But we need to strengthen efforts to hold to account the perpetrators of human rights abuses.

The role of Amnesty International to end impunity is very important and we can do this through our global campaigns against torture and for sexual and reproductive rights. I will join you in some of your efforts as member of Amnesty International. And I will also take parallel efforts that will complement the work of our organization by exercising due diligence in my work as a member of the Human Rights Violations Victims' Claims Board.

Let us level up and strengthen our resolve to defend, promote and assert human rights for all!


Aurora Corazon A. Parong, M.D.

TORTURED HISTORY

Romel Cardenas De Vera
Acting Director,
Amnesty International Philippines

When I was in gradeschool, we drank water straight out of faucets, we were taught that Pluto was a planet, and no one told us that the Code of Kalantiaw was a hoax.

For a child, going through the Code of Kalantiaw was trippy. Whether this was based on the realities of pre-Hispanic societies or not, this forged pre-Hispanic penal code is a good introduction to the practice of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment – my young mind was astounded with the supposed punitive uses of boiling water, heavy stones and rivers, rivers with crocodiles and sharks (yes, rivers with sharks), ants, and spines. It was also an introduction to the myriad methods of meting out the death penalty.

For a glimpse, a taste, of the horrors of torture and killings during Spanish colonial rule, I had the good fortune as a child of being brought to Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila for a PETA theater production of Canuplin. I don't really remember much of the play storyline now, but seeing the underground dungeons up close while being told about how these were crammed with imprisoned indios and then left to fight amongst themselves to survive the rising tide of the Pasig river had left a lasting impression on my young mind about the cruelties of colonial administrations seeking to perpetuate the subjugation of the natives.

Until today, when I think of the Spanish colonial period, my mind goes "guardia civil!" then "garrote!"

Interestingly enough, back then, there was not much information available to me from formal education or popular culture that would ingrain in me the image of Americans as former colonizers, they were the "Liberators". There was steady bombardment of stories of cruelties of the Japanese in the 2nd World War – I think this has been what made me always identify the word bayonet to the Japanese Occupation –but none of the brutality of the Americans.

You would need to be exposed to nationalist and activist reading materials to learn about the "howling wilderness" in Samar; how they perfected the Colt .45 Caliber against the Moros in Bud Dajo and Bud Bagsak; and how that the Americans had perfected the use of hamletting and water cure here during the Philippine-American War decades before the Vietnam War.

During my childhood in the 70s, all these stories of oppressive empires subjugating the struggling masses have been epitomized in ... well, the Japanese robot animation series Voltes V. This was discontinued by then President Ferdinand Marcos, which was ironic because it just further highlighted the actual and real repression and oppression of the people under his martial law dictatorship – meaning that in that area, nothing much progressed here in the Philippines Islands since our colonial past.

One can draw a straight line tracing back not only the organization but the actual repressive mindset of the martial law era Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police (PC-INP) to the Japanese Occupation Bureau of Constabulary, to the American era formed Philippine Constabulary and Scout Rangers, right back to the Spanish era Guardia Civil. At this, my brain goes "complete subjugation of the islands", "pacification of the natives", "combat irreconcilable revolutionaries", "counter-insurgency", "total war"

The history of our present security forces was that of assisting colonial rule to have complete control over the domain and crush dissent. The formators of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) were those that perfected..

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TUNGKOL SA CAMPAIGN

Ang campAlign ay ang opisyal na pahayagan ng Amnesty International Philippines (AIPh). Ipinamamahagi ito sa mga kasapi at taga-suporta ng AIPh tuwing ikatlong buwan sa pamamagitan ng membership mailing. Ang campAlign ay naglalaman ng mga balita hinggil sa mahahalagang usaping lokal at pandaigdig tungkol sa karapatang pantao, kasama din dito ang mga ginagawang pagkilos at mga proyekto ng AIPh at ng mga grupong kasapi nito.

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WHAT IS UTERINE PROLAPSE?

” THE DESCENT OR HERNIATION OF THE PELVIC ORGAN, UTERUS, RECTUM OR BLADDER INTO THE VAGINA UNFPA

Uterine prolapse affects:

 **up to 45%**
of women in Nepal



Women in Nepal Women in Nepal with Uterine Prolapse

 **younger women in Nepal below the age of 30**
mainly women above the reproductive age globally

 **women from regions and caste or ethnic groups**
where there are higher rates of gender inequality

‘BUWA’

Armando Paragat
Program Coordinator
Human Rights Education

Alam ba ninyo kung ano ito? Ang ‘buwa’ ay ‘uterine prolapse’ kung tawagin sa Ingles. Ito ay isang napakasakit, mapaminsala at kung hindi kaagarang mabigyan lunas ay nakamamatay na uri ng karamdaman ng mga kababaihan. Ang buwa ay isang kondisyon nang panghihina ng pelvic muscles na nagging sanhi ng unti-unting pagbaba at pagluwa ng bahay-bata sa ari ng babae.



May mga pangyayari na nang pag-gamot ng buwa sa kababaihan sa ating bansa ayon sa ilang mga dalubhasang doktor. Ngunit sa bansang Nepal, na pinapagitnaan ng India at China, isang napakalaking reproductive health isyu ang ‘buwa’ o kung tawagin din ay ang ‘pagbagsak ng matris’

Halos 600,000 sa mga babaeng Nepali ay dumaranas sa sakit ng ‘buwa’ at ang Korte Suprema mismo ng Nepal ang nagsabi noong 2008 na nalalagay sa panganib ang reproductive health ng mga kababaihan at walang ginagawang hakbang o plano ang pamahalaan na lutasin ito.

Ang babaeng may sakit na buwa ay dumaranas ng matinding kapansanan sa katawan, maging ang hirap sa pag-gawa, tumayo, maglakad, umihi, masakit na pakikipagtalik, pangaali-pusta at pang-ekonomiyang pag-kait.

ANG BUWA AY ISYUNG PANG-KARAPATANG PANTAO

Ito ay hindi lamang isang pangkaraniwan na usaping medikal o pangkalusugan. Sa konteksto ng Nepal, ito ay bunga ng matinding kahirapan, malalim na pagtatangi na nakabatay sa kasarian, kakulangan sa pagkamit ng sapat na pagkain at serbisyong pangkalusugan.

Batay sa pag-aaral, ang mga kababaihang Nepali na mading magkaroon ng buwa ay mula sa mga magsasakang pamayanan. Kadalasan ito’y dulot ng sobrang bigat na pagtatrabaho sa panahon o pagkatapos ng pagbubuntis, kakulangan sa mga bihasang hilot na tutulong sa panganganak, sunod-sunod at maramihang pagdadalang-tao, maa-gang panganganak at kakulangan sa masustansyang pagkain panahon ng pagiging ina.

SA KASO NG NEPAL, ITO’Y ISANG MUKHA NG PAGLABAG NG KARAPATAN NG KABABAIHAN

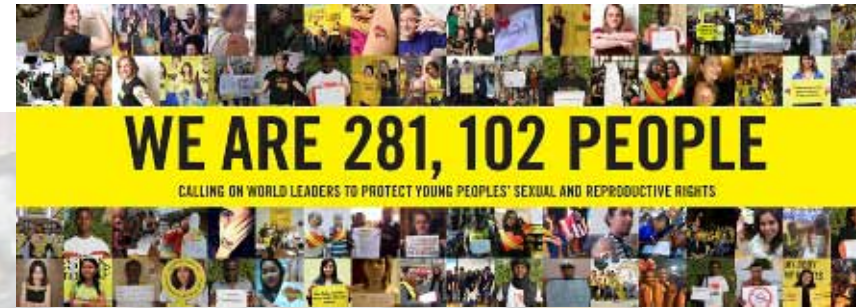
Kinikilala na isang porma ng karamdaman at pagkamatay ukol sa pagiging ina ang uterine prolapse. Sa loob ng pandaigdigang batas ang mataas na bilang ng karamdaman at pagkamatay ng mga ina ay sumasalamin nang paglabag ng mga karapatang pantao kalakip ang karapatan sa buhay, integridad, pinakamataas na pamantayan sa kalusugan, pagkakapantay-pantay na karapatan at walang-diskriminasyon, karapatang magpasya ng bilang at pagitan ng anak, karapatan sa edukasyon at impormasyon at tamasain ang mga bunga ng pag-unlad ng siyensya at teknolohiya.

Ang mga nabanggit ay ilan lamang sa mga karapatan ng mga kababaihan na pinangalagaan, isinusulong, tinitiyak at matatagpuan sa mga pandaigdigang instrumento tulad ng International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) at ang Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

OBLIGASYON NG ESTADO NA IGALANG, IPAGTANGGOL AT IPATUPAD ANG KARAPATANG PANTAO

Bilang State Party, isang bansang sumang-ayon sa pamamagitan ng pagpipirma at pagratipika ng ICCPR, ICESCR at CEDAW, mga instrumentong itinuturing na tratado sa ilalaming ng international law, ito ay may kalakip na obligasyon na ipatupad, igalang, ipagtanggol at isulong ang mga karapatang pantao ng kanyang mamamayan partikular nang mga kababaihan.

MY BODY MY RIGHTS



Amnesty International Philippines was invited for a talk in one of the finest school in Iloilo, the Central Philippine University. The school has its local channel which tackles societal concerns, bringing out the voice of the nation especially the youth.

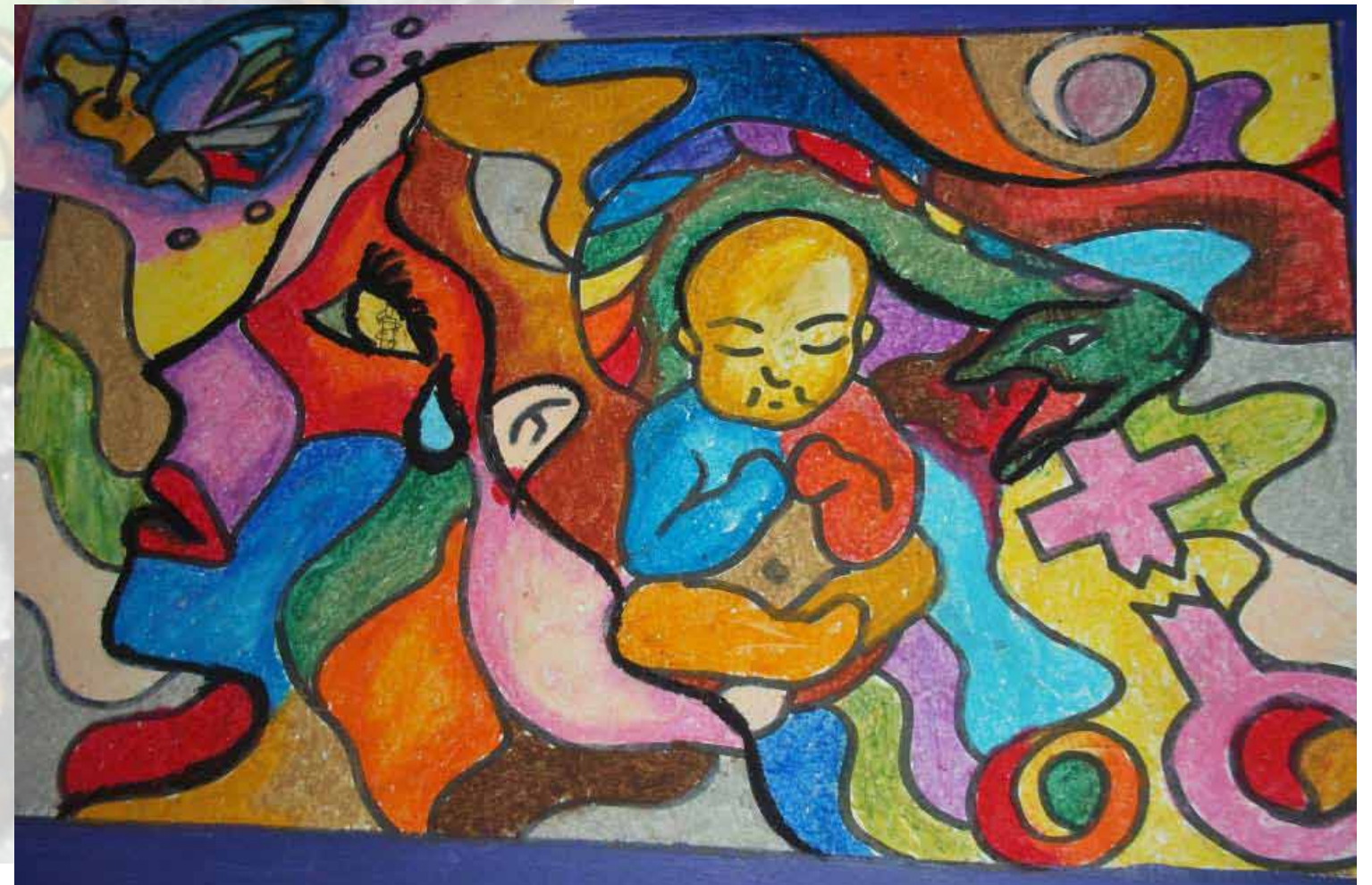
Amnesty International Philippines was represented by its Coordinator for Region VI, Ma. Krizel A. Cubon and Regional Deputy Coordinator, Kyth Palma. Both delivered Amnesty International's stand on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. They also talked about Iloilo group and its human rights work.



In line with the celebration of International Women's Rights, the group invited individuals for the activity called, the "ARTivism". Participated by nine human rights activists who shared their talents and passion to take a stand for Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

The activism did not stop there. On 22 March 2014, the group participated in the global action for Amnesty International's My Body My Rights Campaign -- the BREAK THE SILENCE: SHARE, SIGN AND SELFIE action. Together with one of the partner local NGO, United Society of Health Advocates of the Philippines (USHAP), the group gathered together to take selfies, sign the petition and share the action on social media networks to make the campaign viral. ~ **Stephanie Natividad, Youth Core Group Member**

Kyth Palma also won the My Body My Rights global art work competition (see artwork below).





5 Tanong 5 Sagot

Ang “Limang Tanong, Limang Sagot” ay isang bagong bahagi ng campAlign NewsMag kung saan gugulantangin tayo ng limang kagitla-gitlang katanungan ng mga bruskong bumububo sa Human Rights Team ng Amnesty International Philippines na sina Romel Cardenas de Vera - Human Rights Officer, Wilnor Papa - Campaigner at Bingboy Paragat - Human Rights Education Coordinator. At sana ay makapagbigay sila ng matitinong kasagutan tungkol sa mga kahindik-hindik at kagila-gilalas na mga gawain at kaganapan ng ating pikamamahal na Amnesty International.

Sa ika-apat edisyon ng 5 Tanong, 5 Sagot para sa campAlign newsletter ay aalamin natin ang tungkol sa National Preventive Mechanism

KARAHASAN AY WAKASAN, LABAN SA KABABAIHAN! ITO ANG ATING TUNGKULIN

Joan Tampipi

Member, Kalayaan National High School Group

Bilang isang anak, tayo ay may magagawa upang inang pinagkakautangan ng ating buhay ay atin rin namang maprotektahan. Ito ay ating tungkulin na dapat simulan ngayon! Panahon na upang ibalik natin ang proteksyong ibinigay sa atin ng babaeng naging sanhi ng ating buhay. Simulan natin ito sa ating tahanan, ibigay sa ating ina, ate o lola ang respetong nakalaan para sa kanila. Pagmamahal at pag-aaruga hindi lamang sa panahon na sila ay nakararanas ng sakit mula sa maghapon pagod o espesyal na araw ng kanilang buhay, kundi sa araw-araw na sila ay gumigising, huminga at nabubuhay para sa kanilang pamilya. Unawain sila, na may mga pagkakataon ding nais nilang mapag-isa. Mula rito ay maari na ring sa paglabas ng tahanan, ang bawat babae na ating makakasalamuha at makakadaupang-palad ay maipadama sa kanila ang pagmamahal at proteksyon, kakilala man o hindi.

Ibahagi rin sa komunidad ang tamang pakikitungo sa mga babae. Dumalo sa mga pagpupulong na maaaring magpalawak ng ating kaalaman at kamalayan, sa tunay na kahalagahan ng mga kababaihan sa ating buhay upang mas lalo itong maunawaan, sa gayon ay makatulong upang maibahagi rin ito sa iba pa, sa ating pamilya, kaibigan, komunidad, bansa at sa buong mundo.

Gamiting kasangkapan ang mga makabagong teknolohiya sa pagpapalaganap ng kamalayan sa mundo, sa kahalagahan ng kababaihan sa bawat pamilya, na sentro ng ating lipunan, upang mahubog ang bawat anak na maging isang mabuting mamamayan sa kanyang bansa, sapagkat siya ay pinalaki ng isang ina na protektado mula sa anumang sakit o dili kaya nama'y mga karahasan mula sa kanyang paligid. Upang dumating ang panahon, na hindi na lamang sa panaginip mata-naw ang mga kababaihan na may matamis na ngiti sa kanilang labi kasama ang kanilang mahal sa buhay sapagkat sila ay nabubuhay nang malaya at masaya dahil natapos na ang bawat paghihirap na kanilang dinanas.

Tayo ay magsimulang manindigan at magsalita para sa ating karapatan, lalo na tayong mga kababaihan sapagkat hindi tayo nag-iisa, kasama natin ang mga mahal sa buhay na naniniwala sa atin, mga organisasyon na handang lumaban para sa ating karapatan, gayon din ang “media” na nagbibigay ng kanilang suporta.

Ngayon, atin ng simulang gampanan ang ating bawat tungkulin, na pangalagaan ang karapatan ng bawat isa lalo na ng mga kababaihan. Ang makapamuhay ang bawat babae nang malaya at ligtas mula sa iba't-ibang uri ng pananakit ng kahit sino man. Upang ang bawat pamilya ay makahubog ng mabubuting anak na magpapalaganap ng pagpapahalaga na dapat ibigay sa bawat babae, bata man o matanda, maputi o hindi.



ANO BA ANG NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM?

Naks! Malinaw at direcho ang tanong ah?! Walang paligoy-ligoy.

Ok, para maintindihan natin ang National Preventive Mechanism o NPM, dapat na bumalik tayo sa layunin ng Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment o OPCAT.

Ang pinaka-layunin ng OPCAT - isang tratado na hango sa United Nations Convention Against Torture – ay ang mapigilan ang acts of torture sa pamamagitan ng regular na sistema ng pagbisita sa mg lugar na kung saan may mga taong detenido. Kasama dito ang mga pasilidad na hawak ng security sector, local government units at iba pang mga sangay ng gobyerno.

Nang iratipika ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas ang OPCAT nung 2012, may dalawang malaking bagay na inaasahan mula sa bansa. Una, ang pagpayag na mabisita ng Subcommittee on Prevention against Torture (SPT) ang mga detention facilities ng bansa nang walang pag-aabiso. Ikalawa, ang pagtatag ng NPM, ang lokal na version ng SPT, na kung saan trabaho nito ang regular na pagbisita sa mga detention facilities sa bansa.

Parte ng trabaho ng isang NPM ang pagbibigay ng rekomendasyon at tumulong sa pagdevelop ng mga polisiya para pabutihin ang sitwasyon ng mga kulungan para maiwasan ang mga salik na nagdaragdag sa incidences ng torture at di-makataong pagtrato.

ANO-ANO BA ANG MGA TUNGKULIN NG NPM?

Maisusuma sa apat na bahagi ang mga tungkulin ng NPM:

- Una, ang mag-conduct ng regular visits, announced or unaannounced, sa lahat ng mga pasilidad ng gobyerno, na kung saan may taong ‘nakakulong’ o naka-detain;

- Ikalawa, pag-aralan ang sitwasyon ng mga taong naka-detain para lalong mapalakas ang proteksyon laban sa torture at di-makataon pag-trato;
- Ikatlo, patuloy na makipag-diaogue at makipag-communicate sa mga relevant authorities para mapaayos ang sitwasyon ng mga detention facilities, at;
- Magbigay ng mga rekomendasyon at mga proposal para sa pagbabago ng sistema, polisiya o infrastructure na makakapabuti sa sitwasyon ng mga detenido at mga detention facilities.

ANU-ANO NAMAN ANG MGA GARANTIYA NA MAGAGAWA NG NPM ANG MGA RESPONSABILIDAD NITO LALO NA KUNG AYAW PUMAYAG NG ISANG INSTITUSYON NA ITO AY MASILIP?

Iminumungkahi ng Amnesty International na ibase sa batas ang pagbubuo ng isang NPM sa Pilipinas nang sa gayon ay may matibay na batayan ang mga mandato, responsibilidad, kapangyarihan at resource allocation nito. At base naman sa mga probisyon ng OPCAT, anumang porma ng NPM na mapagkasunduan, may mga alituntunin na di dapat ma-cromptomise. Dapat itong magkaroon ng full at unlimited access sa mga places of detention at sa lahat ng mga taong nakadetine upang makuha ang lahat ng impormasyon at sitwasyon ng mga facilities na ito at ng mga taong nakakulong dito. May karapatan din ang NPM na regular na makipag-ugnayan sa SPT para sa mga impormasyon at rekomendasyon na nais buuhin para sa bansa. Dapat na manggaling sa wide-range of experts ang mga bubuo ng NPM (medical, forensics, legal, psychology, rehabilitation, development, etc.) at maging transparent ang pagpili sa kanila. At dapat na siguraduhing isang independent body ang NPM para magawa nito ang tungkulin nito ng walang panghihimasok mula sa gobyerno o kahit na anupamang organisasyon.

sundan sa pahina 17

DEATH PENALTY MYTHBUSTERS

MYTH

The death penalty deters violent crime and makes society safer.

FACT

There is no convincing evidence that the death penalty has a unique deterrent effect.

More than three decades after abolishing the death penalty, Canada's murder rate remains over one third lower than it was in 1976.

A 35-year study compared murder rates between Hong Kong, where there is no death penalty, and Singapore, which has a similar size population and executed regularly. The death penalty had little impact on crime rates.

MYTH

The threat of execution is an effective strategy in preventing terrorist attacks.

FACT

The prospect of execution is unlikely to act as a deterrent to people prepared to kill and injure for the sake of a political or other ideology.

Indeed, some officials responsible for counter-terrorism have repeatedly pointed out that those who are executed can be perceived as martyrs whose memory becomes a rallying point for their ideology or organizations.

Armed opposition groups have also pointed to the use of the death penalty as a justification for reprisals, thereby continuing the cycle of violence.

MYTH

The death penalty is fine as long as the majority of the public supports it.

FACT

History is littered with human rights violations that were supported by the majority, but which were subsequently looked upon with horror.

Slavery, racial segregation and lynching all had support in the societies where they occurred but constituted gross violations of the people's human rights. Ultimately, the duty of governments is to protect the rights of all individuals, even though sometimes this means acting against the views of the majority.

Moreover, public opinion often changes depending on political leadership and when objective information on the death penalty is provided to the public.

MYTH

All people who are executed have been proven guilty of serious crimes.

FACT

Around the world, hundreds of prisoners are executed after grossly unfair trials. This can include the use of "confessions" extracted under torture, the denial of access to lawyers and inadequate legal representation.

The countries that execute the most are also the ones where serious concerns exist about the fairness of the justice system, such as in China, Iran and Iraq.

The 144 exonerations of death row prisoners recorded in the USA since 1973 show that, regardless of how many legal safeguards are in place, no justice system is free from error. As long as human justice remains fallible, the risk of executing the innocent can never be eliminated.

MYTH

Relatives of murder victims demand capital punishment.

FACT

The worldwide anti-death penalty movement includes many who have lost their loved ones to, or have themselves been victims of, violent crime, but for ethical or religious reasons do not want the death penalty imposed "in their name". In the USA, organizations such as "Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights" are driving the movement to abolish the death penalty, for example, in New Hampshire.

DEATH PENALTY

FACTS & FIGURES 2013

778 people were executed

ALMOST **80%** of them were in
IRAN
IRAQ
SAUDI ARABIA



These stats don't include
CHINA

which executed
THOUSANDS

MORE THAN
THE REST OF THE WORLD
PUT TOGETHER

The actual number is a

STATE SECRET

USA



SAUDI ARABIA



IRAQ



IRAN



CHINA



TOP FIVE EXECUTIONERS



ALMOST **HALF**
OF ALL COUNTRIES
HAVE NOW TOTALLY
ABOLISHED
THE DEATH PENALTY



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OPPOSES THE DEATH PENALTY IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES IT VIOLATES THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND IS THE ULTIMATE CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING PUNISHMENT



We, the undersigned, strongly urge the Philippine National Police Internal Affairs Service (PNP IAS) to open an investigation into the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment suffered by Alfreda Disbarro in October 2013 while in custody at the Paranaque Police Headquarters, and ensure that this investigation is prompt, impartial, effective and efficient. If the investigation confirms the torture allegations, we strongly urge that the PNP IAS to:

- Refer the case for public prosecution and cooperate with further investigations as needed by the court;
- Take immediate administrative measures against any police officers who are found to have been involved into the torture and other ill-treatment of Alfreda Disbarro, including those who were complicit in her torture; and,
- Provide a safe space for whistle-blowers within the PNP who wish to report their personal knowledge of torture by their colleagues, including in the case of Alfreda Disbarro.

URGENT ACTION PHILIPPINES: ALFREDA DISBARRO

On 3 October 2013, single mother Alfreda Disbarro was approached in public by Philippine Police who accused her of being a drug pusher. Alfreda denied the allegation and voluntarily emptied her pockets revealing just a mobile phone and a five-peso coin. Without warning, the police pointed a gun at her and she was punched in the chest, handcuffed and taken to the Police headquarters.

Attempting to force an admission of guilt, a senior police officer pinned Alfreda against a wall. He repeatedly punched her in the stomach and face, hit her with a club, poked his fingers in her eyes, slapped her, forced her to eat a mop and banged her head against the wall. She was in such pain in the days that followed the beatings that she couldn't eat, had difficulty breathing and kept vomiting.

Alfreda is currently detained in a local city jail and is awaiting trial on the charges of sale and possession of illegal drugs. Although she has been examined by a medical officer, no investigation has been initiated on what has been done to her by the police.



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We, the undersigned, strongly urge the Federal Attorney General to:

- Launch an effective investigation into the alleged torture and ill-treatment suffered by Claudia Medina Tamariz, make its results publicly available and bring those responsible to justice;
- Ensure the investigation includes a medical and psychological examination in accordance with the UN-backed Istanbul Protocol. The results and supporting reports of the examination are promptly made available to Claudia Medina; and
- Substantially improve investigations into torture by guaranteeing that all medical examinations of alleged victims fully comply with the UN-backed Istanbul Protocol

URGENT ACTION MEXICO: Claudia Medina Tamariz

Marines broke into Claudia Medina's home in Veracruz on 7 August 2012 at around 3am. They took her to the local navy base where she was given electric shocks, forced to inhale a very spicy sauce, beaten up and kicked while she was wrapped up in plastic in order to disguise the subsequent marks. The marines accused her of being a member of a powerful and violent criminal gang. Claudia said she did not know anything about them.

She was pressured into signing a false testimony without reading it. Later she told Amnesty "If they had not tortured me, I would not have signed the statement."

Despite most of the charges being dropped, one serious charge still stands against Claudia and no investigation into her allegations of torture by government forces has taken place.

The first step in these investigations has not taken place. An effective medical examination must be carried out as part of a swift, full and impartial investigation, as established in the internationally recognised Istanbul Protocol.

The Federal Attorney General has the power to make this happen.

The screenshot shows the Amnesty International Philippines website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, IN THE PHILIPPINES, ACTIVISM, and RESOURCES. Below this is a large banner with the text 'STOP TORTURE' in large, bold letters, with 'Torture in 2014' and '30 years of broken promises' underneath. To the right of the banner is the Amnesty International logo. Below the banner are four smaller images with text: 'NEWS >>', 'JOIN US >>', 'Take Action >>', and 'DONATE >>'. At the bottom, there is a 'SPOTLIGHT' section with three featured items: 'ANNUAL REPORT 2013 THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S HUMAN RIGHTS', 'WRITE FOR RIGHTS' with the slogan 'Send hope. Send freedom. Send courage. Your letters save lives.', and 'WE ARE 281,102 PEOPLE'.

Why write letters?



Since its beginnings as a movement in 1961, Amnesty International has always included personal letter writing as one of its main campaign methods.

Many have already spoken out in defense of human rights by simply taking a few minutes to write a letter.

One might say that this is a trademark of the organization.

Letters don't have to be long or detailed. In each appeal case, we will include the exact request to make and details of who to write to. If you have specific knowledge about a country or a case you may wish to write a more detailed letter, but all types of letters are valuable.

Remember, your letter, combined with others from all over the world, can lead to a dramatic improvement in the situation of a victim of human rights abuse.

Putting pressure on officials through letter writing can result in torture being stopped, access granted to doctors or lawyers, death sentences being commuted, 'disappearances' investigated, and prisoners released.

Every year, around March, Amnesty International Philippines chooses an individuals-at-risk case to be adopted for the letter writing campaign which runs from April through September.

Members and supporters are encouraged to send messages of hope and support to individuals who are at risk of imminent execution and imprisonment due to unfair trial, harassment, curtailment of freedom of expression and association, under threat of eviction or arbitrary arrests and imprisonment and in need of immediate medical attention, seeking legal assistance, remedy and redress.

Members and supporters can also write to the authorities to call them to action. A government might brush aside a single message. But thousands of voices calling for change are much harder to ignore.

It's a classic Amnesty International technique: more than half a century of human rights work show that words really do have the power to change lives.

Letter writing events are varied, creative and inspired. During letter writing sessions, people take time out to express their solidarity with individuals and communities.

Members and supporters get together to hold letter writing sessions and education discussion on adopted cases while sharing creative ideas on better ways of sending their messages of courage to individuals-at-risk or outrage to government inaction.

Letter Writing Tips

1. Each appeal case includes instructions on what to say in your letter which is alright to be copied word per word. Be sure to follow this exactly. Don't ask for things that are not included in the fact sheet especially for letters that are addressed to governments.
2. Be brief, a short letter is better than no letter at all. And be polite when writing a letter addressed to governments.
3. When writing a solidarity letter directly to individuals-at-risk, you can use your own voice. Write in your own words as it will be more sincere, but be impartial and refrain from making religious references. You can introduce yourself, how old you are and that you are writing from the Philippines.

These details will make your letter more personal and will reflect that Amnesty International's letter writing action is truly global and diverse.

4. The language we will use is English even for non-English speaking cases but if you feel you can express yourself better in your local language or through artwork, you are welcome to do so but only for letters to individuals-at-risk not for governments.

5. End with a request either for the government to take action or for the individuals-at-risk to feel free to write you back.

Lastly, have fun!



Belarus
IHAR TSIKHANYUK

Concerns:

Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Association, LGBT, Torture

Ihar Tsikhanyuk, an openly gay man and gay rights activist, was having hospital treatment for a stomach ulcer when two police officers entered the hospital ward and asked him to go with them. At the police station he was punched repeatedly by police officers. He was then verbally abused for being gay, and threatened with more violence.

This incident occurred in February 2013, shortly after Ihar Tsikhanyuk tried to register the Human Rights Centre Lambda, an organization that supports the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Belarus. Nobody has been brought to justice for ill-treating him.

Ihar Tsikhanyuk has said: "I don't want to hide myself. I live openly. It is not easy in Belarus, but I want to show people that I am a person like everybody. With my example I want to show that it is possible to live openly."

**Ihar continues to work on LGBT rights in Belarus and has been invited by Amnesty International Sections to speak on his activism.*

Letter Writing Campaign Fact Sheet

**LGBTI rights activist
beaten and subjected to threats
and abuse for being gay**

Show your solidarity to IHAR TSIKHANYUK

Please send solidarity messages or messages of support to Ihar.

Sample messages:

- We admire your work in such difficult circumstances and wish you success in it!
- We are wishing you well!
- We hope that you get justice and those who abused you be made accountable.

Or you can make your own message of solidarity and hope.

Please send your letters to the Amnesty International Philippines office until 26 September 2014.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES
18-A MARUNONG ST., BGY CENTRAL, DILIMAN
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES 1101

WRITE TO BELARUSIAN PROSECUTOR GENERAL KONIUK ALEXANDER VLADIMIROVICH

Ask him to:

- instigate thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the allegations that Ihar Tsikhanyuk was beaten by police and targeted because of his sexual orientation;
- ensure that the officers responsible are subjected to disciplinary and criminal proceedings as appropriate

Take action now. Join us!

Sample Letter

Dear Prosecutor General Vladimirovich,

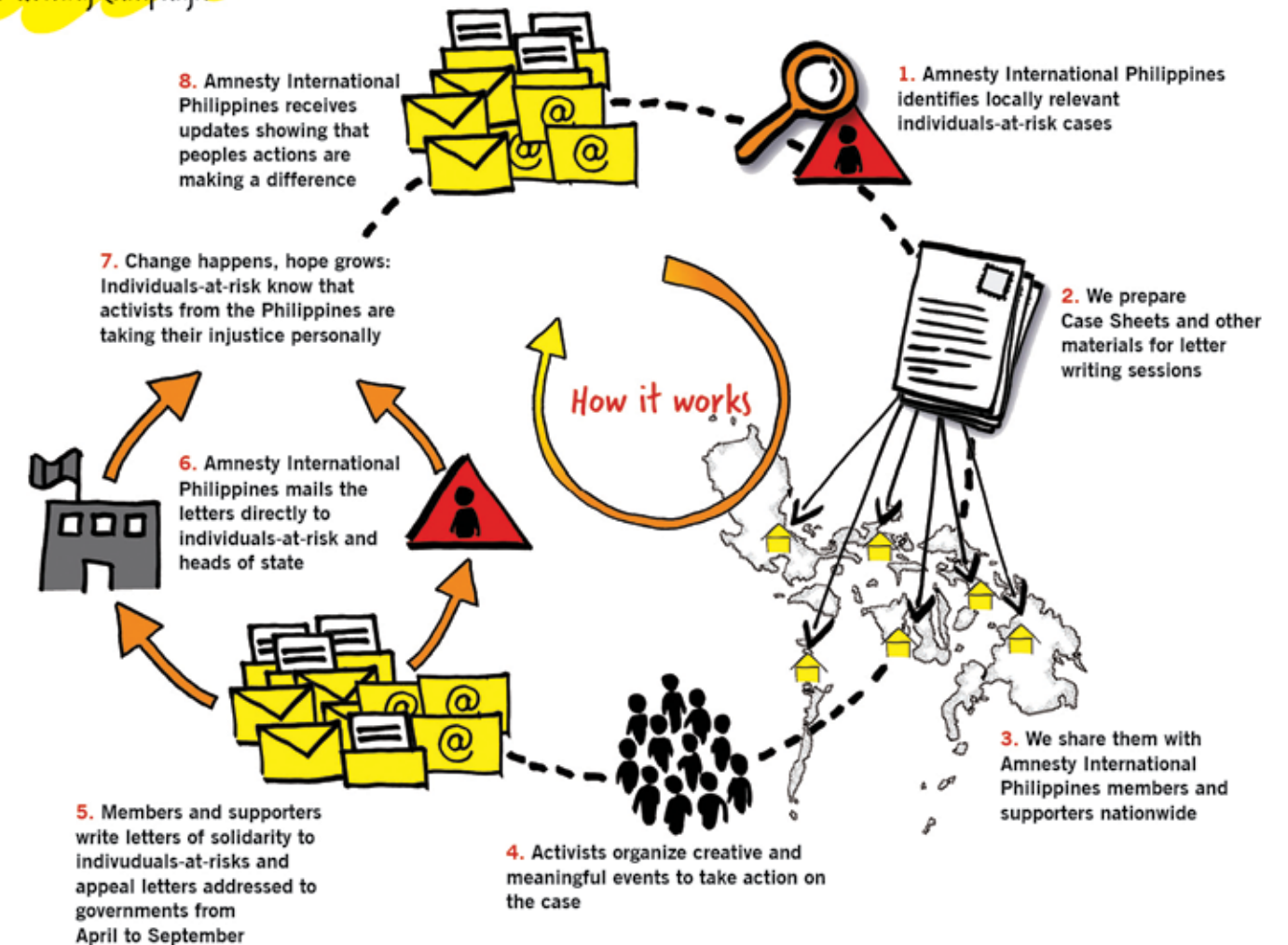
It has come to my attention that Ihar Tsikhanyuk, an openly gay man and gay rights activist in Belarus, was repeatedly punched, verbally abused and threatened with more violence by police officers in Hrodna for being gay.

I urge you to ensure that an independent and impartial investigation into the allegations that Ihar Tsikhanyuk was beaten by police and targeted because of his sexual orientation. I also urge you ensure that the officers responsible are subjected to disciplinary and criminal proceedings as appropriate

Sincerely,
(Your name and country)

Amnesty International Philippines' Letter Writing Campaign

adopted from Amnesty International's
Global Letter Writing Process



5 TANONG 5 SAGOT, mula sa pahina 10

MAY PUWANG BA PARA SA MGA NGO AT CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSO) NA TULAD NG AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ANG NPM?

Iginigiit ng OPCAT at ng mga international experts ang transparency mula sa pagbubuo at pag-operate ng mga NPM. At bahagi nito ang importansya ng paglahok ng mga NGO at civil society organizations sa pagbubuo ng nararapat na NPM sa kanilang bansa at sa pagpili ng mga magiging kinatawan nito. Kasama rin sa engagement ng NPM sa mga NGO at CSO ay ang pagtanggap ng mga relevant na impormasyon sa mga naturang grupo.

ANO NA BA ANG INABOT NG PAGBUBUO NG NPM SA PILIPINAS?

Ayon sa OPCAT, dapat mabuo ang NPM sa loob ng isang taon matapos maratipika ng bansa ang OPCAT. Sa madaling salita, huli na ng isang taon ang Pilipinas. Kasalukuyang naka-file ang mga proposed law sa pagbubuo ng NPM sa Senado at Kongreso. Umusad na ang NPM sa Kongreso nung ito'y talakayin sa public hearing ng Committee on Human Rights nung Marso. Kasunod nito ay ang pagbuo ng Technical Working Group (na kasama ang Amnesty International Philippines) para 'linisin' at pag-isahin ang mga iba't-ibang bersyon ng NPM nan aka-propose sa kongreso.

Kasama sa mga grupong aktibong nagsusulong ng NPM sa Pilipinas ay ang mga miyembro ng United Against Torture Coalition (UATC) at mga sangay ng gobyerno na parte ng Philippine OPCAT Working Group (POWG) na kinabibilangan din ng mga organisasyong miyembro rin ng UATC.

the water cure and the stopping power of the Colt .45 Caliber handgun in their wars and pacification campaigns against Filipinos. During my childhood, I thought that the dividing line between the police and the military was often a big blur. They were this all powerful armed force against the enemy, and this enemy often turns out to look like everyone else that I meet on the street.

One of the books I read during martial law that shaped what I am today was a copy of Pumipiglas: Political Detention and Military Atrocities in the Philippines which was published by the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP). It told of horrors that humans inflict upon others, specially by those given power and authority by the state. It told of torture, widespread and systematic, but it also told of people who coped with having had to face torture and resisted not to be broken, people who endured and strove to get back to the wider struggle outside their prison cell.

I read about Luisa Posa-Dominado, who, in the article, was in a tiny room at the back of a hospital in Iloilo, guarded outside the door by a PC sergeant. Suspected to be a member of the New People's Army (NPA) she was brought there from the Iloilo PC Stockade she shared with 15 other political prisoners because her health as deteriorated. She had already been detained before and had survived the water cure, maltreatment and sexual abuse. One of the named perpetrators was a PC Sargeant.

Philippine Constabulary ... rebel suspect ... political imprisonment ... water cure ... maltreatment ... abuse ... torture. My mind conjures up Shirley Bassey singing "... it's all just a bit of history repeating".

After the People Power of 1986 toppled the Marcos Dictatorship, there was a process of civilianizing the police - the PC-INP became the Philippine National Police (PNP) whose leadership did not anymore require graduates from the Philippine Military Academy.

But as we know, it was hard to wean away the police from its military character and framework specially from counter insurgency work and its mindset of "breaking the enemy".

Post 9-11 introduced an "anti-terrorism" perspective to the still militarist mindset of the police. In that period, documentation of torture of "bombing" suspects, mostly Muslim men, spiked. The enemies still looked like you and me but were now called terrorists.

In 2009 we have finally enacted an Anti-Torture Law, historic as Philippine history goes.

But again, our continuing past would show how torture has been deeply ingrained in the mindset of our security forces. In 2010 the video of the torture of Darius Evangelista inside a Manila police station went viral in the internet. In 2011 another video surfaced police trainees in Camp Eldridge being forced fed red hot chilies. In 2013 an army official charged by the Morong 43 of torture an illegal detention was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments as new Commander of the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Western Visayas. In January 2014, media reported of a wheel of torture used against detainees by the police in a secret detention center in Laguna. It showed with fiesta colors and gameshow terminologies how torture had evolved since our colonial period - "20 second Pacman", "20 second tusok ulo", "30 second paniki", "3 minutes duckwalk", "5 minutes zombies" - as if to tell everyone "torture - more fun in the philippines".

We really have not gone far in moving away from the use of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. Four decades after the imposition of martial law, the government has just enacted and is now starting to implement a law for recognition and reparations of victims of violations of human rights during martial law, including that of torture. In a recent gathering of martial law survivors, I realized that I myself am still wading knee deep in the residual muck of this era. The feeling was not of being stuck in the past though, but of excitement in being drawn and included into the continuing stories I have first learned of in my childhood, and in having hope for claiming justice and human rights by the persistent historical struggle of the people against oppression and repression.

Ang Pilipinas, katulad ng Nepal, ay state party din nang mga nabanggit na core human rights instruments at may kaakibat na responsibilidad ito na hikayatin ang huli na panindigan at gampanan nito ang kanyang obligasyon sa karapatang pantao nakapaloob sa mga pandaigdigang pamantayan at instrument.

Maging tayo bilang indibidwal, kabilang sa iisang sangkatauhang pinanghahawakan ang likas na karapatan sa dignidad, buhay at pag-unlad ay makiisa at manawagan sa mahalaan ng Nepal:

- Wakasan ang diskriminasyon sa mga kababaihan.
- Bigyan ng pangmatagalan at angkop na tugon ang usapin ng uterine prolapse.
- Ipatupad at pangalagaan ang karapatang reprodktibo at kalusugan ng mga ina.
- Igalang ang karapatan ng mga kabaihan na magpasya sa dami at pagitan ng anak.

BUWA, mula sa pahina 5

Ang bansang Nepal din ay isa sa 179 na mga bansa ang lumagda ng International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) noong 1994 sa Cairo na kung saan pangunahing usapin ang reprodktibo at kalusugan ng mga ina. Ito din ay kasamang nagsumite ng isang landmark resolution, ang "Preventable Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights" na kailan lamang ay sinangayunan ng United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Sa kabila nang mga ito, may pagkukulang pa rin ang pamahalaan ng Nepal na pangalagaan ang karapatan ng mga kababaihan lalo na ang kalusugan ng mga ina patunay nito ang desisyon ng Korte Suprema tungkol sa kasong Sharma noong 2008.

Makiisa at manawagan na maging ligtas laban sa buwa ang mga kababaihang Nepali

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

ANG SIMULA

Inilunsad ang Amnesty International noong 1961 sa isang lathalian ni Peter Benenson sa pahayagang The Observer. Si Benenson ay isang abogadong Briton na nanawagan upang simulan ang mapayapa at walang kinikilingang pagkakilos para sa kalayaan ng libu-libong tao sa buong daigdig na nakakulong dahil lamang sa kanilang pulitikal na paniniwala o pananampalataya. Kumikilos ng mabilis ang AI bilang pinakamalaking boluntaryong organisasyon para sa karapatang pantao.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

Nagsimulang magkaroon ng mga kasapi ang AI sa Pilipinas noong dekada '80. Pormal na kinilala ang Amnesty International Philippines (AIPh) bilang isang seksyon noong 1987. Matagumpay itong nangampanya, kumilos at pamahalaan, non-government organizations at mga koalisyon.

- I would like to join Amnesty International Philippines
- I would like to renew/reactivate my membership with Amnesty International Philippines

Personal Information

First Name: Middle Initial:

Surname: Nickname:

Home Address: No. Street

Dist/Subd./Bgy.:

City/Town: ZIP code:

Province:

Birthdate: Age: Gender:

Phone Number: - Mobile Number: -

E-mail:

Signature: _____

School/Work Information

School/Workplace:

Address: No. Street

Dist/Subd./Bgy.:

City/Town: ZIP code:

Province:

Phone Number: -

Please send my quarterly mailing to: Home School/Work Address Others, please indicate _____

Annual Membership Fees:
Php 50.00 : Students and minimum wage earners
Php 100.00 : Monthly income is above minimum wage but below Php 18,000
Php 300.00 : Monthly income is above Php 18,000.00 but below Php 36,000
Php 500.00 : Monthly income is Php 36,000 and above

Membership fees can be settled and donations are accepted in:
• Cash thru AIPh BPI Savings Account: 3323-2667-77 / BDO Savings Account: 364-012-6941 (Fax your deposit slips at Telefax no. 02-4338100)
• Cheque payable to Amnesty International Philippines
Official receipts will be issued and mailed upon payment of fees or submission of deposit slips.
You may visit or call the AIPh office for more inquiries or send an e-mail to memdev@amnesty.org.ph

Ang **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI)** ay isang pandaigdigang organisasyon ng mga aktibistang kumikilos para sa karapatan pantao. Ito ay grupo ng mga boluntaryong aktibista na nagbibigay ng kanilang panahon at lakas para sa mga biktima ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Pinagtutuunan ng AI ang makipagtulungan at magtaguyod ng proteksyon sa karapatang pantao para sa lahat.

Ang AI ay isang organisasyong nangangampanya para sa karapatang pantao. Ito ay nagsasaliksik, nagdudokumento at nag-uulat ng mga pang-aabuso. Nagiging daan din ito para sa karaniwang tao na makapagsalita at magprotesta para sa mga biktima ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Demokratiko at may sariling pamamahala ang AI. Ito ay may mahigit 3 milyong kasapi at tagapagtaguyod sa mahigit 150 bansa sa buong mundo. Ang kalakhang pondo ng AI ay mula sa mga kontribusyon ng mga kasapi at donasyon ng publiko.

VISION AND MISSION

Mithiin ng AI ang isang mundo kung saan tinatamasa ng bawat tao ang lahat ng karapatang pantao na nakatakda sa Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at sa iba pang internasyunal na pamantayan. Tungo sa katuparan ng mithiing ito, misyon ng AI na magsagawa ng mga pagsasaliksik at pagkilos upang maiwasan at tuluyang mawakasan ang mga pangaabuso sa karapatang pantao.

MGA PAGPAPAHALAGA (CORE VALUES)

Internasyunal na Pagkakaisa, Epektibong Pagkilos para sa Indibidwal na Biktima, Pandaigdigang Saklaw, Ang Karapatang Pantao ay Pandaigdigang at Di-nahahati, Walang Kinikilingan at May Kasarinlan, Demokrasya at Respeto sa Isa't-isa.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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Telefax: **+63 2 433 8100**
E-mail: **section@amnesty.org.ph**

we're on the WEB too!

<http://www.amnesty.org.ph>

and you can find us on the following
social networks:



www.facebook.com/amnestyph



www.twitter.com/amnestyph



www.youtube.com/aiphilippines

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS?

Support Amnesty International Philippines. There are more ways than one.

If you live in the Philippines, you can invest in the progress of human rights on an international scale by sharing your time, skills, commitment and money to Amnesty International.

BECOME A MEMBER

Be an individual member

Everyone's help is needed for the movement to secure and safeguard human rights. Individual members receive regular membership mailing containing AI newsletters, appeal cases and campaigning materials.

Join or form a group

If you want to take a more active part in AI's work, then join one of the Philippine section's groups or you can form a group in your school, community or locality. The local groups are focal points of our membership activity, particularly for awareness raising, letter writing, campaigning and local fundraising.

Be a volunteer

Your spare time can be spent on helping AI campaign for human rights and its other operational work. To name a few, volunteers can help out in conducting workshops, organizing projects and events or monitoring news releases about human rights.

WRITE A LETTER

Take part in AI's Letter Writing Campaign

Each edition of AI newsletters carries details of victims of human rights violations in need of help. Send letters or cards on behalf of these people to government authorities as proof of the mounting weight of public opinion.

Join the Urgent Action Network

Some prisoners need immediate aid perhaps because they might be tortured, executed or in need of medical attention. You can help them by sending letters or appeals via e-mail, fax or telegram.

TAKE A DIRECT ACTION

Take part in AI Philippines' thematic campaigns such as Counter Terror with Justice or global campaigns such as Stop Violence Against Women and many more.

SEND A DONATION

Researching into identities and conditions of individual prisoners, sending observers to trials, preparing and publishing reports are all essential to AI's work but expensive. For AI to survive and expand its work, your financial help is needed.

IN SHORT, MAKE A STAND AND TAKE ACTION *See Membership Application Form on reverse side