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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 GENERATION 2048: RESIST, DISRUPT, TRANSFORM
- 4 CELEBRATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS WINS OF 2023
- 8 RIGHTUP: BY THE YOUTH, FOR THE YOUTH
- 12 RIGHTS REVEALED: ESCALATING CONFLICT
IN ISRAEL AND GAZA



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

BUHAY I DIGNIDAD I SEGURIDAD KALAYAAN I RESPETO I KATARUNGAN PAGKAKAPANTAY-PANTAY
MABISANG LUNAS I MAKATUWIRANG PAGLILITIS I PROTEKSYON I RESPONSABILIDAD I TRABAHONG
PAGKILOS I PAMILYA I KALIGTASAN I KONSENSYA I PAGKAKAKILANLAN I PAGPAPAHAYAG
PAKIKILAHOK I DEMOKRASYA I PAKIKIISA I PAGLILIBANG I EDUKASYON I KULTURA I PANANAHIMIK
KAPAKANAN I KALUSUGAN I TAHANAN

GENERATION 2048 RESIST DISRUPT TRANSFORM

2023 MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR). BORN FROM THE ASHES OF WORLD WAR II UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE VERY WORST OF HUMANITY, THE UDHR HELD OUT THE PROMISE OF A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR JUSTICE AND THE RECOGNITION OF 'EQUAL AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS' FOR ALL.

Some question the legitimacy of the UDHR. After all, it was drafted by a minority of States at a time when many of the world's population lived under colonialism. We cannot ignore this shortcoming, any more than we should neglect the critique that the modern human rights regime is a Western liberal project favoring civil and political rights over economic, social and cultural rights.

But while the UDHR was undoubtedly a victor's project, its drafting ultimately could not be controlled by the powerful alone. Smaller nations outmaneuvered the large, ensuring that the final text promised human rights for all without "distinction". The Egyptian delegate confirmed the "universality" of human rights and their applicability to persons subject to colonial rule or occupation. Women delegates from India, Brazil and the Dominican Republic ensured that equal rights of men and women were affirmed.

And, once in play, the UDHR took on a disruptive life of its own, feeding anti-colonial initiatives the world over and inspiring regional human rights instruments in Europe, the Americas and Africa.

The power of the UDHR ideals unleashed a force far beyond the control of those nations that had participated in its drafting. It did so because its roots ran far deeper, far wider than Paris, where it was adopted in 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. From Mesopotamia to Ancient Egypt, from the Persian to the Mauryan empires, in all religious traditions, in written texts or oral traditions, in ancient, pre-modern and modern eras — human history abounds with instances of people coming together to limit the use of power and assert their rights.

Let's get the history of the UDHR right. Not by whitewashing it or by ignoring the raging double standards of its implementation. But by paying homage: to those who used its extraordinary disruptive power during struggles for liberation and equality the world over; to those who made the UDHR real and authentic, in their struggle against colonialism and for independence; against bigotry and for equality; against patriarchy and for gender justice; for a world of greater dignity for 'all members of the human family'.

That is what the UDHR offers to us: both confidence and inspiration. It is living proof that a global vision for human rights is possible, is doable, can be realised.

That is why we should celebrate the UDHR; why we don't capitulate to critiques of human rights; not because of who wrote it into history, but because of all those who have disrupted history with it.



WE MUST BUILD BOLD, VISIONARY LEADERSHIP, INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS — THAT CAN PROTECT OUR PLANET, FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, AND FROM ALL THAT TORMENTS US.

late to critiques of human rights; not because of who wrote it into history, but because of all those who have disrupted history with it.

On this 75th anniversary, while the world grapples with record levels of conflict, socio-political polarization, growing inequality, and the existential threat of the climate crisis, dare we re-imagine ourselves as delivering a 2048 UDHR — a UDHR for the next century of rights — a UDHR drafted by the many, not by a privileged few?

Are we ready to be that 2048 generation? The successor to those who, out of the ashes of a war-torn world, transformed history through the disruptive power of the UDHR? Or will we instead be the generation that turned a blind eye to the oppression of others so long as our own power and influence was maintained?

The UDHR legacy challenges us to go on the offensive. It demands that we resist the globalized, transnational and localized attacks against rights. But it also tells us this won't be enough. It asks of us too that we disrupt the building of world orders that reproduce historical privileges and injustices, violate rights and silence defenders; and that we transform global governance by re-imagining, innovating, leading.

We can, we must — build bold, visionary leadership, institutions and systems — that can protect our planet, for future generations, and from all that torments us.



CELEBRATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS WINS OF 2023

ALTHOUGH HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING GRAVELY UNDERMINED IN NUMEROUS COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S SUPPORTERS AND ACTIVISTS HAVE SHOWN THAT CHANGE IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE. SAVING LIVES, CHANGING LAWS AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS – AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS BEEN BUSY RACKING UP THE WINS THIS YEAR.

CHANGING LEGISLATION

JANUARY USA

Amnesty International USA has been working hard to end gun violence across the country. In Illinois and Michigan, Amnesty joined advocates to help pass several gun safety laws. Thanks to Amnesty's advocacy and campaigning work, Illinois is now the ninth state to ban assault weapons, and Michigan has established universal background checks for all firearm purchases.

MAY European Union

On 26 May states adopted a major treaty, The Ljubljana-The Hague Convention on international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other international crimes. Two legal advisers from Amnesty were present during the diplomatic conference raising concerns and making recommendations.

This was a major win for human rights and Amnesty International, which has been contributing to this treaty since its inception 10 years ago. The treaty includes several of Amnesty's calls, such as expanding states' jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes; including torture and enforced disappearance as crimes covered by the treaty; the non-applicability of statute of limitations; a section on victims' rights, including a definition of victims; the refusal of mutual legal assistance or extradition when there are substantial grounds for believing that a request has been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on the basis of sexual orientation; and a broad and innovative provision on non-refoulement.

JULY Australia

Following a campaign by activists and organizations including Amnesty, the Australian Capital Territory tabled legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years old, and eventually raise the age to 14 in July 2025. However, children accused of 'series offences' will continue to be subject to police investigation including strip-searches, being dragged through courts, and locked in prisons.

Ghana

Ghana's Parliament voted to remove the death penalty from the 1960 Criminal and Other Offences Act and the 1962 Armed Forces Act, making the country abolitionist in practice. Through these steps, Ghana took a major step towards abolishing the death penalty.

Malaysia

Legislative amendments to repeal the mandatory death penalty came into force in Malaysia on 4 July, also abolishing the death penalty in full for seven offences. The courts were given the power to review the sentences of the more than 1,000 people on death row and use their discretion to decide between the death penalty or terms of imprisonment and, regrettably, whipping – a cruel punishment prohibited under international human rights law. With the official moratorium on executions of 2018 still in place, these reforms have the potential to reduce the number of death sentences imposed and represent an important milestone in Malaysia's journey towards abolition.

Both developments are a victory for all those who have tirelessly campaigned to consign this cruel punishment to history, including Amnesty International.

AUGUST Taiwan

Following Taiwan's #MeToo movement and Amnesty International Taiwan's advocacy to end online sexual violence, the Government passed an amendment to Taiwan's "Sexual Assault Crime Prevention Act", demanding internet platforms or service providers restrict the browsing of, or remove, webpage materials related to these crimes.

SEPTEMBER USA

President Biden announced the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which Amnesty International USA has been advocating for since 2018.

OCTOBER Austria

After more than two years of negotiations, the Austrian coalition government agreed on an access to information law. Amnesty International Austria has actively supported this legislation since the beginning. Although the proposed law has some weaknesses, it is nonetheless a step towards greater transparency for the authorities and state-owned companies.

Argentina

The Congress of Argentina approved the Olimpia Law, which seeks to prevent gender-based violence online and hold perpetrators accountable. Amnesty International Argentina has been calling for this law to be passed for several years, having released reports revealing how one in three women in Argentina have experienced online violence.

The new law is named after Olimpia Coral Melo, an activist who has been campaigning for violence-free digital spaces for girls and women.

"I am a survivor of sexual violence. I was on the verge of suicide. I felt guilty but my mother supported me," she told Amnesty International Argentina.

HOLDING AUTHORITIES TO ACCOUNT

GLOBAL

At Amnesty International, the pursuit of international justice for crimes committed in conflict is an organizational priority. In recent months, members of the Crisis Response Programme, together with regional office colleagues and the international justice team, have provided evidence and assistance to international investigative mechanisms documenting and building case files for war crimes and crimes against humanity following our reports in a variety of countries, including Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine.

FEBRUARY Chile

On 24 February, a court in Chile reopened the investigation into human rights violations against Moisés Ordenes, who was attacked by a group of Carabineros officers while peacefully demonstrating in October 2019. Last December, a public prosecutor had closed the investigation into seven of the 13 officers charged with the attack, but Moises' family and lawyers felt the investigation had been far from exhaustive. Thanks to calls from Amnesty International, those seven officers will now face investigation once again.

MARCH Australia and New Zealand

On 16 March, FIFA confirmed that Visit Saudi would not sponsor the 2023 Women's World Cup in Australia and New

Zealand – a huge win for all activists, and current and former players who have spoken out for human rights.

Prior to the announcement, Amnesty supporters called on New Zealand's Sports Minister Grant Robertson to speak out on Saudi Arabia's appalling human rights record, urge true reform and pressure FIFA to do the same. This decision proves human rights do matter in sport.

Ukraine

Our evidence contributed to the Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine published on 15 March, the findings of which echoed our report, 'Like A Prison Convoy': Russia's unlawful Transfer and Abuse of Civilians in Ukraine During 'Filtration'.

APRIL Slovakia

In April, the European Commission referred Slovakia to the EU Court of Justice (ECJ) for continuing to fail to effectively tackle segregated education of Roma students contrary to the Race Directive. This is the first time that the Commission has made a referral decision against any country for breaching the Directive which guarantees equality and non-discrimination irrespective of race or ethnic origin across a range of socio-economic goods and services.

Amnesty International, along with the European Roma Rights Centre, has researched and campaigned on the issue of segregated education in the country for a number of years, and this is a big win for the organisation.

Argentina

After taking a wrong turn in 2020, teenager Blas Correas, from Cordoba, Argentina, was shot dead by police. Amnesty International has been supporting Blas' family for the past three years to ensure justice is served. Following the trial earlier this year, two police officers were sentenced to life imprisonment. The rest will serve a four-year sentence, while two were acquitted. The court ruled that this was a case of institutional violence and repeated Amnesty's calls for security forces to carry out training for staff.

JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

JUNE

Switzerland

Switzerland amended its rape law to a consent-based definition and, in July, the Netherlands' House of Representatives voted to amend the Sexual Offences Act by introducing a consent-based definition of rape. The bill is expected to be fully passed — following a vote by the Senate — within the next months. These are huge victories for activists, survivors and allies, as well as for Amnesty International's Let's Talk About Yes campaign and advocacy in the region.

Syria

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established an independent and international institution to clarify the fate and whereabouts of tens of thousands of missing and forcibly disappeared people in Syria. It will offer a single avenue to register cases, as well as provide families with long-awaited answers about what happened to their loved ones. Amnesty International provided support to the Syrian families and survivors who have been leading the charge to create such a body, by facilitating meetings between them and member states to convince them to support the institution.

South Africa

Earlier this year, Amnesty International South Africa was admit-

ted as an amicus curiae (a friend of the court) to provide insight and knowledge into the application of a declaratory order calling for Russian President Vladimir Putin to be arrested if he attended the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Leadership Summit in South Africa. Before the matter could be heard in court, it was announced that President Putin would no longer attend the summit. The Court subsequently granted an order calling for his arrest if he did arrive. It was a huge win for justice and accountability, and Amnesty International's litigation efforts showed the power of the movement.

France

The European Court of Human Rights issued a decision in a case brought by 261 sex workers against France. The sex workers, including women and men from 20 different countries who live in France, alleged violations of their rights under Articles 2, 3 and 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights, as aspects of sex work are criminalized in France. The Court declared the case admissible and acknowledged the possible victim status of the complainants in a significant first step. In its decision, the Court cited testimonies from sex workers themselves — an important acknowledgement of the voices of sex workers. Amnesty International submitted an amicus curiae in the case.

AUGUST Italy

Following years of lobbying from Amnesty International Italy, Fr. Franco Reverberi was extradited to Argentina, where he will finally be tried for crimes against humanity committed during the military dictatorship from 1976 to 1983. In a bid to avoid detention, Reverberi stayed in Italy to avoid the Argentinian justice system, benefiting from Italy's justice system to refuse extradition. Amnesty International was also key in calling for the inclusion of torture in Italy's criminal code.

OCTOBER Nigeria

Amnesty International published the report, My heart is in pain': Older people's experience of conflict, displacement, and detention in Northeast Nigeria, in December 2020. As well as documenting how older people in the country are disproportionately affected by conflict and how they're consistently overlooked by humanitarian response teams, Amnesty International called for Nigeria to ratify the Protocol to protect the rights of older people. In a huge win for older people, the Nigerian government has listened to Amnesty International's call and ratified this Protocol, marking a vital step toward fully protecting the human rights of older people in Nigeria.

Sudan

Amnesty International joined forces with other organizations to lobby the Human Rights Council to prioritize addressing impunity in Sudan. As a result, the UN HRC adopted a resolution to establish an independent international fact-finding mission for Sudan. The aim is to investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and abuses, and violations of international humanitarian law, including those committed against refugees, and related crimes in the context of the ongoing armed conflict. It is a small win for accountability efforts on Sudan.

NOVEMBER Global

In a historic step towards a fairer and more inclusive international tax policy system, the UN General Assembly voted in favour of a resolution to begin developing a UN Tax Convention. This would allow all countries to participate more inclusively in global tax policy while improving their ability to protect and promote their taxing rights. Amnesty International has been an active member of a number of civil society coalitions, which

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WHEN YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMEONE THERE FOR YOU,
FIGHTING FOR YOU, CALLING FOR YOUR RELEASE, IT HELPS YOU
TO FEEL LIKE YOU ARE HUMAN. IT GIVES YOU HOPE.

Mansoor Adayfi, former Guantanamo detainee

have been pushing states to support fairer and more inclusive global tax policy-making, and will continue to participate in the development of the Convention to generate more resources for states to meet their human rights obligations.

Cambodia

Amnesty International's report Nobody Wants to Leave Their Home: Mass forced evictions at Cambodia's UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor was published in November following an eight-month long investigation in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The day after the report's publication, UNESCO said it is deeply concerned about Amnesty International's allegations and has moved up the deadline for Cambodian authorities to issue a conservation report on Angkor. While officials in Cambodia have refused to acknowledge the forced evictions, they have invited Amnesty International to the country to further discuss the situation, an invitation that we have accepted.

Latvia

Latvia ratified the Istanbul Convention, the international treaty for preventing and combating violence of all kinds against women and girls, following years of campaigning from Amnesty International.

FINDING FREEDOM: ACTIVISTS ACQUITTED AND RELEASED

FEBRUARY USA

Majid Khan, Ahmed Rahim Rabbani, Abdul Rahim Rabbani, Ghassan al-Sharbi and Said Bakush were released from the Guantanamo Bay detention center between February and April, after enduring years of arbitrary detention.

Former detainee Mansoor Adayfi, released to Serbia in 2016, was able to take his first trip abroad in 21 years to speak on a panel in Norway in June after Amnesty International helped him secure a passport from the Yemeni government.

"I would like to thank Amnesty International for all the work they have done on behalf of former Guantanamo detainees and on behalf of humanity, because Amnesty International is one of the most important fronts that is fighting against torture, fighting against oppression, against injustice around the world," said Mansoor. "The first time I heard about Amnesty International was in Guantanamo, the lawyers brought us reports and letters. When you know that there is someone there for you, fighting for you, calling for your release, it helps you to feel like you are human. It gives you hope."

MARCH Côte d'Ivoire

Twenty-six people peacefully showing their support for the former president's political party, were sentenced in March to two years in prison for "disturbing public order". Amnesty International publicly reacted to the detentions and called on authorities to ensure fair judicial proceedings for the protesters — the campaign caused a ripple effect across Côte d'Ivoire's traditional and social media. On 22 March, the activists were given a four-month suspended sentence and released.

APRIL Bangladesh

Bangladeshi journalist Shamsuzzaman Shams was arrested in the early hours of 29 March after publishing a story about the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. His whereabouts were unknown for over 10 hours, after which the police confirmed he was in custody and had been charged under the draconian Digital Security Act.

Amnesty International rallied support, issuing an urgent action demanding his release. On 3 April, Shams was granted bail and released from prison — a ground-breaking move, as most prisoners are subject to a lengthy pre-trial detention. Amnesty International has been campaigning against the Digital Security Act, publishing research about the way it has been weaponized by the authorities. The organization will continue to campaign for the charges against Shams to be dropped.

MAY Iran

Following a grossly unfair trial, protesters Arshia Takdastan, Mehdi Mohammadifard and Javad Rouhi were sentenced to death, because they dared speak out about 22-year-old Mahsa Amini who died in custody. Amnesty International moved quickly, issuing an urgent action calling for the death sentence to be overturned. In May 2023, the Supreme Court quashed their convictions and overturned their death sentences. Later that month, Arshia's lawyer posted publicly on Twitter that he had been released from prison on bail.

Pakistan

Following an unlawful raid on her house, Mahal Baloch from Pakistan was detained together with her young children and other family members in February. After her family was released, Mahal remained held without charge until her release on bail in May. The police alleged Mahal was part of an armed separatist group, who had previously carried out suicide bombings, and that she had provided a confession. During her detention Mahal

RIGHTUP IS AMNESTY'S FIRST EVER YOUTH-LED RESEARCH PROJECT. BY RECOGNIZING AND RESOURCING YOUTH EXPERTISE, THE PROJECT AIMS TO CHANGE MINDSETS ABOUT THE CAPABILITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO PROACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO AMNESTY RESEARCH. THE PROJECT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIGITAL RIGHTS, HEALTH, AND WELLBEING (RIGHTS CLICK) PROGRAM.

We live in an age where the relentless march of digital tech outpaces traditional research frameworks that are designed to understand its impact. The rapid integration of tech in human lives, particularly its effect on children and youth, demands a paradigm shift. We can no longer solely rely on traditional knowledge sources and methodologies. The time has come for a research revolution, one that places the lived experiences of young people at the very heart of the inquiry.

BY THE YOUTH - RightUp follows a project methodology designed by Research Rebels, a team of eleven Amnesty youth activists from the Philippines, Kenya, Argentina, Hong Kong, and South Africa. The planning and methodology phase ran from 2022 until 2023 and ensured that young people's perspectives and expertise inform the framework that would guide the project implementation. On 28 September 2023, RightUp's pilot project was launched in the Philippines. For the Philippine installment of the project, the research will investigate online harassment and surveillance of youth activists (OnHA).

FOR THE YOUTH - After a rigorous selection process, 10 young Filipinos aged 18-24 have been chosen to form the RightUp research team. While each demonstrated impressive research experience, from mapping human rights abuses in remote villages to analyzing government policies, their passion for activism earned them their spot. One team member, Mark, described how witnessing his community unfairly red-tagged and

repressed motivated him to use research as a tool for resilience.

By choosing individuals with firsthand experience, RightUp empowers activists and grassroots leaders more directly on multiple fronts. Mark, alongside others, will not only learn how to document human rights violations but also leverage their learnings from the project to strengthen their organizations. Their research, with support from Amnesty's expertise and global reach, will serve as a shield against red-tagging, a weapon for organizational growth, and a bridge to better serve their communities.

In November 2023, the youth team had a two-week hybrid workshop. During the first week, they attended online sessions including an introduction to Human Rights and Amnesty Research. The sessions were led by experts from Amnesty International's Research Standard Practices Unit (RSPU). For the second week, they underwent a week-long in-person workshop in Iloilo. During this time, they participated in team building activities and workshops on the youth-led research framework, exploring their research topics, research strategies, understanding key skills for researchers, wellbeing and safeguarding, and scoping planning.

Currently, the RightUp research team is scoping research topics related to OnHA in order to narrow down the scope of their research based on relevance, feasibility, and potential for impact.

INSIDE AMNESTY'S GROUNDBREAKING **RightUp** PROJECT

LOOKING AHEAD - By February 2024, the team will regroup in another workshop and will be joined by experts and facilitators from Amnesty's International Secretariat. During this workshop they will be finalizing their research scope, designing their research methodology, framework, and operational plan.

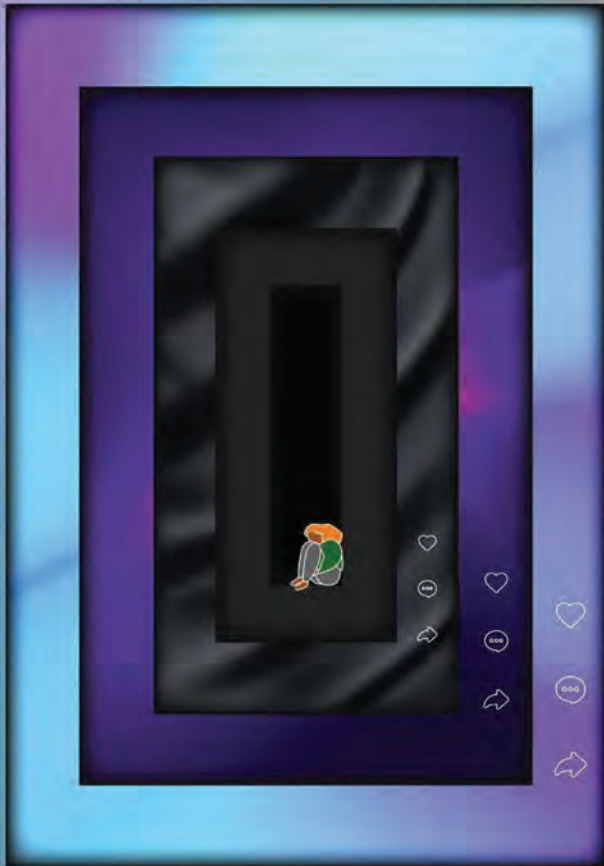
Throughout their journey the research team will get support from multiple Amnesty units. Amnesty Tech will provide key subject matter insight. On the other hand, RSPU and Law and Policy will support in ensuring that the research process abides by Amnesty's standards and protocols from data collection through to writing up the findings and towards publication. As the young researchers' direct contact, the project team at Amnesty Philippines will facilitate on-ground implementation of the project, ensuring that the researchers' technical, logistical, and wellbeing needs are met throughout their journey.

Through this setup, RightUp serves as Amnesty's first step towards revolutionizing youth leadership and research within the movement. It is a research initiative based on a youth-designed framework, guiding an all-youth research team investigating youth experiences. This is not only about filling gaps in our understanding of a quickly changing world. It is also about entrusting the future to those who will shape it. By capacitating young people to research on their own experiences, we support them to actively participate in shaping the world they will inherit.



BY THE YOUTH, FOR THE YOUTH





**DO YOU
KNOW THAT
TIKTOK CAN
LEAD YOU TO
VERY DARK
PLACES?**

TIKTOK'S 'FOR YOU' FEED RISKS PUSHING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOWARDS HARMFUL MENTAL HEALTH CONTENT



“THE FINDINGS EXPOSE TIKTOK’S MANIPULATIVE AND ADDICTIVE DESIGN PRACTICES, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP USERS ENGAGED FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. THEY ALSO SHOW THAT THE PLATFORM’S ALGORITHMIC CONTENT RECOMMENDER SYSTEM, CREDITED WITH ENABLING THE RAPID GLOBAL RISE OF THE PLATFORM, EXPOSES CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH PRE-EXISTING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES TO SERIOUS RISKS OF HARM.”

LISA DITTMER, AMNESTY RESEARCHER

pattern of winning or losing on a slot machine".

TikTok is designed to tap into users' desires to be rewarded, which can lead users to develop habits that develop habits that encourage addictive use.

THE SURVEILLANCE WEB

“I feel Exposed”: Caught in TikTok’s Surveillance Web’ shows how TikTok’s rights-abusing data collection practices both underpin and are sustained by the harmful user engagement practices.

Amnesty International's research shows that TikTok's very business model is inherently abusive and privileges engagement to keep users hooked on the platform, in order to collect evermore data about them. TikTok then uses this data to create profiles of users and draw inferences about them, which allows it to cluster users in groups to target them with highly personalized content to keep them engaged. These groups and categories are also made available to advertisers so that they can target users with personalised ads.

TikTok must also stop hyper-personalizing the 'For You' feed by default, and instead let users actively choose which interests shape their content recommendations based on their informed consent and if they want a personalized feed.

The best way to protect children from abuse of their personal data online is for governments to ban by law all targeted advertising based on the invasive collection of personal data.

This corporate surveillance for profit undermines children's right to have control over their personal information. It's an abuse of the right to privacy and freedom of thought.

The findings of a joint technical investigation, with our partners – the Algorithmic Transparency Institute (ATI) at the National Conference on Citizenship and AI Forensics – show how children and young people who watch mental health-related content on TikTok’s ‘For You’ page are quickly being drawn into “rabbit holes” of potentially harmful content, including videos that romanticize and encourage depressive thinking, self-harm and suicide.

The two reports – ‘Driven into the Darkness: How TikTok Encourages Self-harm and Suicidal Ideation’ and the ‘I Feel Exposed: Caught in TikTok’s Surveillance Web’, highlight the abuses experienced by children and young people using TikTok, and the ways in which these abuses are caused by TikTok’s recommender system and the underlying business model.

THE ISSUE: 'FOR YOU' FEED

'Driven into the Darkness: How TikTok Encourages Self-harm and Suicidal Ideation' details how TikTok's relentless pursuit of young users' attention risks exacerbating mental health concerns such as depression, anxiety and self-harm.

TikTok's 'For You' feed is a highly personalized and infinitely scrollable page of algorithmically recommended content, picked out to reflect what the system has inferred to be a user's interests.

Technical research was conducted using more than 30 automated accounts set up to represent 13-year-olds in Kenya and the USA to measure the effects of TikTok's recommender system on young users. An additional manually run simulation involved an account each in Kenya, the Philippines and the USA.

Between 3 and 20 minutes into our manual research, more than half of the videos in the 'For You' feed were related to mental health struggles with multiple recommended videos in a single hour romanticizing, normalizing or encouraging suicide.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Focus group discussions, interviews and simulations of children's TikTok accounts in Kenya, the Philippines and the USA, as well as existing evidence from the fields of social media harms research and public health, reveal how TikTok's platform design encourages the unhealthy use of the app.

While young people's individual responses and contextual factors affecting their social media use may vary, like other social media platforms, TikTok has made design choices intended to maximize users' time spent on the platform.

TikTok should be safe by design, not addictive by design. TikTok's addictive feature, the 'For You' feed, a highly personalized and endlessly scrollable page of algorithmically recommended content, taps into what psychologists describe as the "reward

RIGHTS REVEALED HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMED CONFLICT

THE ESCALATING CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT, RESPECT FOR AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TAKE ON A HEIGHTENED SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS PRECISELY DURING CHALLENGING MOMENTS IN THE CHAOS OF WAR THAT THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BECOME EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL.

The armed conflict between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) is one of the longest running in modern history. It's also open to various interpretations, stories and misinformation. The present situation started with the surprise attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, in which Hamas and other armed groups killed at least 1,200 people and took over 200 hostages. But it is important to remember that one of the reasons for this conflict is Israel's apartheid system against Palestinians living in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and against Palestinian refugees, and the inhumane acts committed by Israeli authorities with the purpose of creating this system and keeping it in place.



The OPT consists of the geographically separated areas of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza. The OPT have been occupied by Israel since 1967.

This compounded the impact of a 16-year ongoing Israeli blockade that amounts to illegal collective punishment and further fragments Palestinian territory. Israel escalated its crackdown on Palestinians' freedom of association. It also imposed arbitrary restrictions on freedom of movement and closures that amounted to collective punishment, mainly in the northern West Bank, ostensibly in response to armed attacks by Palestinians on Israeli soldiers and settlers.

"Apartheid" refers to an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over another.

These acts include unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention, segregation, dispossession and displacement, and the denial of the right of return to Palestinian refugees. In Gaza, this system is most clearly revealed in:

- the denial of right of return to more than 1.5 million refugees, who make up over 70% of Gaza's population, to the lands and properties their families were displaced from in 1947-1949;
- Israel's illegal blockade on the Gaza strip, imposed since 2007, and the restrictions, isolation and destruction linked to it.

Both international human rights law and international humanitarian law are fully applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Outside of the present conflict international human rights law is applicable in Israel, where Palestinians also live under a system of apartheid.

HOW DOES INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLY TO THE CURRENT ARMED CONFLICT?

International humanitarian law plays a vital role in safeguarding the lives and well-being of all those impacted by armed conflict, particularly civilians. International humanitarian law prohibits the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian objects, such as homes, schools and hospitals. It emphasizes the need to distinguish between combatants (fighters) and civilians (those people who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities). It requires that civilians are not the primary targets of attacks and are not being used as human shields. International humanitarian law further provides rules on the treatment of wounded, sick and detained persons, as well as access to humanitarian aid. All these safeguards are severely undermined by Israel's 16-year illegal blockade and further exacerbated by the tightened siege of Gaza since 7 October 2023. International humanitarian law highlights the importance of allowing impartial humanitarian organizations to assist those in need, including by providing medical care and essential supplies. It is a critical framework for protecting the lives, dignity, and wellbeing of civilians caught in the crossfire, setting out the obligation to avoid or minimize their suffering and harm.

BUT WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN PRACTICE? CAN YOU APPLY THIS TO THE HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE IN GAZA AND THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF ITS POPULATION?

1. NON-DISPLACEMENT AND EVACUATION

Imagine being forced out of your home without proper reasons, or in unsafe conditions. That's what international humanitarian law tries to prevent. It dictates that you can only be moved for your security or for imperative military reasons. Even then, it must be according to certain standards. Evacuations need to be safe, meaning that, as far as practically possible, proper accommodation and adequate health, hygiene and food standards must be provided; families shouldn't be separated.

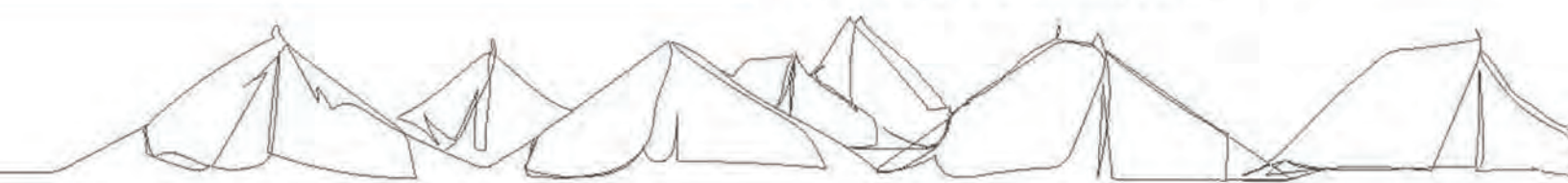
Once hostilities have ceased, you should be able to go home. For example, evacuating people to create an "open-fire" zone is not a good enough reason.

When Israel instructed some 1.1 million people living North of Wadi Gaza to evacuate, followed by airdropped leaflets threatening people to leave, in the middle of bombardments, while also intensifying the blockade on Gaza, and cutting off basic services such as electricity, water, food, fuel and humanitarian assistance, it violated international humanitarian law. Such orders cannot be considered effective warnings ahead of attacks on whole cities or regions. They disregarded the obligation to distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects and the prohibition on indiscriminate

attacks. Israel's attempted "evacuations" in Gaza may constitute forced displacement and a form of collective punishment, in violation of international humanitarian law, and may even amount to war crimes.

2. HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND RELIEF

Think of aid workers as neutral helpers, bringing food, medicine, and other necessary supplies. Humanitarian aid workers like those from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent do not pick sides; they are impartial and neutral. Medical assistance is based on need, not allegiance, and humanitarian aid workers will help people regardless of which side they are on. Everyone involved in the conflict must let humanitarian personnel do their work safely. Parties to the conflict should also agree on safe places, like hospitals or shelters, where people can get what they need without fear.





GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR GAZA.

All parties, including Israel, Hamas, and Egypt (which controls the Rafah Border Crossing) must facilitate rapid and unrestricted passage of impartial humanitarian relief. This includes ensuring safe passage for humanitarian personnel and supplies. They should cooperate to establish hospital and safety zones, providing shelter, food, water, electricity and medical services to those in need. Provision of humanitarian aid should be unconditional and in quantities that meet the dire needs of the civilian population.

3. CONDUCT OF HOSTILITIES

There are rules in fighting which aim to prevent harm to those not directly involved. International humanitarian law dictates that the parties to a conflict can't target people who are not or not anymore directly participating in hostilities (called civilians), or places that aren't military objectives (called civilian objects), and they must try their best to avoid or minimize harming or endangering them.

This means that both Israel and Palestinian armed groups, including Hamas, must respect international humanitarian law and cease indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian objects.

Israel's military response and operations in Gaza need to strictly follow the rules of international humanitarian law. They need to avoid direct, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks on civilians or civilian objects, protecting medical facilities and personnel, and avoiding using certain weapons. For example, weapons containing white phosphorus, which is used as a smokescreen to obscure military operations, are forbidden to be used at or close to populated civilian areas. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups must urgently release all civilian hostages, treat military captives humanely and stop firing indiscriminate rockets.

4. RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

Imagine your entire community being stuck without water, food or electricity. That's what is happening to people in Gaza. Even hospitals are cut off from these basic services. This puts civilians in great danger. International humanitarian law requires parties to a conflict to allow necessary supplies in and not force people to leave their homes.

So, in accordance with international humanitarian law, Israel must permit humanitarian convoys into Gaza, restore utilities, and allow essential goods entry. Civilians should not be compelled to flee Gaza. Neighbouring countries, with international support, should provide sufficient and effective humanitarian aid to people inside Gaza, and provide medical care for those in urgent need of life-saving treatment which is not available in Gaza. Those who leave Gaza in the current conflict have a right to return to their home and this must be respected.

5. ADDRESSING DISPLACEMENT CONCERNS

Evacuating civilians with the intention of clearing an area and preventing residents to return after the armed conflict constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. In Gaza, people are understandably worried because hundreds of thousands of people in the past were forced out of their homes in Palestine and couldn't return, which is against the rules of international law. Indeed, over 70% of Gaza's overall population are registered as refugees and are denied the right of return to towns and villages in Israel where their families were displaced from or forced to flee during the 1947-49 Nakba. The international community should

LAWFUL VERSUS UNLAWFUL

Building our knowledge on the rules of international humanitarian law – and how human rights are protected during armed conflict – will enable us to have informed discussions, critically engage with news and social media, and challenge misinformation. It may change our own perspective and enable us to take informed action. Let's look at some scenarios of actions taken during armed conflicts to determine whether they are lawful or unlawful under international humanitarian law.

LAWFUL

- Shooting enemy soldiers/fighters who participate in hostilities
- Capturing enemy combatants/fighters for intelligence gathering and to prevent further hostilities
- A medic treating the most severely wounded soldiers/fighters first, regardless of which side they are on
- Allowing humanitarian aid workers to bring food and medicines to civilians
- Evacuating civilians from a dangerous conflict zone to a more secure area
- Establishing hospitals and safety zones where people can access necessary resources without fear

UNLAWFUL

- Shooting enemy soldiers/fighters that have surrendered and laid down their arms, or are too wounded to fight
- Shelling a hospital or a school which is not used for military purposes
- Firing rockets or other weapons that do not distinguish between soldiers/fighters and civilians
- Bombing military targets knowing that a disproportionate number of civilians will also be killed
- Destroying the drinking water supply to a city or area inhabited by civilians
- Preventing the delivery of food and medicine to civilians in areas controlled by the enemy
- Torturing captured soldiers/fighters to obtain intelligence, even if it will save many lives
- Forcing civilians to accompany soldiers, like a human shield, to stop or prevent attacks from the enemy
- Taking hostages

be watching closely to make sure this doesn't happen again, and that those who leave can come back. Forcible transfer and deportation are war crimes.

6. NO JUSTIFICATION FOR WAR CRIMES

Israel's system of oppression, domination, segregation, fragmentation and dispossession over five decades of prolonged occupation, and the 16-year blockade on the Gaza Strip, do not, however, absolve Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip of their obligation to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law. On 7 October 2023, Hamas and other armed groups committed horrific acts in southern Israel.

These acts included deliberate killings of civilians and summary killings, where a person is accused of a crime and killed immediately without a fair trial. Additionally, they took hostages. All these actions are considered war crimes. Indiscriminate rocket attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups, which killed and injured civilians, are also war crimes.

Similarly, crimes and violations by Palestinian armed groups on 7 October cannot justify Israel's collective punishment of Gaza's residents, and the direct, indiscriminate or disproportionate bombardment campaign against Gaza, which constitute war crimes. They also do not justify the arbitrary detention of thousands of workers from the Gaza Strip, who were present in Israel during the 7 October attack, nor the ill-treatment to which Palestinian detainees, including Hamas fighters, may be subjected. The prohibition on torture and other ill-treatment is absolute and cannot be justified under any circumstances.

In conclusion, the ongoing conflict and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza stresses the critical importance of international humanitarian law in protecting civilians and other at-risk people during hostilities. A global plea for an immediate ceasefire resonates around the world, calling for all parties to halt the violence and safeguard human lives.

Everyone involved in the conflict needs to follow and respect its rules, including state and non-state armed groups. Humanitarian assistance must be guaranteed to those in need. The whole world needs to keep an eye on the situation, stepping in when needed to make sure international humanitarian law rules are followed, to stop things from getting worse for the everyday people living through it.

was the target of a smear campaign and forced by the authorities to appear in TV interviews.

Amnesty International moved quickly, issuing an urgent action for Mahal. She was granted bail three months after her arrest.

Türkiye

In May, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Türkiye had violated the rights to a fair trial and to freedom of association of Amnesty International Türkiye and its then-chair, Taner Kılıç, by imposing an administrative fine on the organisation in 2008.

JUNE

Global

The four human rights defenders in the Buyukada case — Taner Kılıç, İdil Eser, Özlem Dalkıran and Günel Kurşun, who were convicted in July 2020 on baseless charges — were finally acquitted. Their release comes six years after Taner's initial arrest.

The four expressed gratitude to Amnesty International: "For six years, we have watched the wheels of injustice grind as the baseless claims levelled against these four brave human rights defenders have been accepted as fact by successive courts. Today's ruling revealed the true purpose of such politically motivated prosecutions: using the courts as a weapon to silence critical voices."

In July, the prosecutor appealed Taner's acquittal, and Taner, İdil and Özlem appealed the grounds (lack of evidence) of their acquittals. These appeals are still pending.

Austria

Kamran Ghaderi and Massud Mossaheb, two Austrian-Iranian citizens arbitrarily detained in Evin prison, were unconditionally released on 2 June, and finally able to return home to their families in Vienna. They had both been convicted after unfair trials based on forced "confessions" obtained by torture and other ill-treatment.

"Not only did you help to make public the injustice that was done to me; you also gave me courage by letting me know how many compassionate and good people there are in this world," said Massud. "Please continue to stand up for others!"

Angola

Tanaice Neutro, an Angolan activist who uses his music to protest, was arrested in January 2022. After he had been unjustly imprisoned for one year, Amnesty rallied support, raised awareness and started campaigning on his behalf. Our supporters' efforts were rewarded with his release in June.

"What impresses me most is knowing that to be supportive and show solidarity, you don't need to know the person, their story is enough," said Teresa, Tanaice's wife. "You didn't know my husband in person and yet you are supporting him."

Tanaice said: **"I still can't believe that the world's largest human rights organization decided to take up my case. I am grateful for all the support Amnesty has given me and my family."**

Rwanda

Elias Bizimungu, a 33-year-old journalist and member of youth movement LUCHA, was arrested at an army checkpoint and taken into custody at the beginning of a two-day peaceful mobilization against Rwanda's support for the M23 rebel group. After he was tried and condemned by the military court, Amnesty International launched a campaign calling for his release. He was finally acquitted by a civilian court and released in June.

Venezuela

Carlos Debiais, a Venezuelan photographer unfairly detained since 12 November 2021, was finally released from prison on 6 June 2023, following a campaign from Amnesty International and its supporters. Venezuela's prison authorities had refused to comply

Thank you on behalf of myself and my family for the incredible work you did making my case known and for helping me in the complicated situation I was put in. Fortunately, I am now free. Thank you to the entire Amnesty family, said Carlos.

with a release warrant issued in April 2022, extending his arbitrary detention by an additional 14 months. Although he has been released, he must still report to the court every 60 days.

European Union

Amnesty International advocates for more European Union (EU) support for human rights defenders worldwide as part of the block's external relations. This year the EU is providing an additional €30 million to the EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism which plays an important role in assisting at risk human rights defenders and their family members. In parallel, Amnesty also advocates to ensure that EU Delegations and EU member states' embassies worldwide provide support to human rights defenders and their families through trial observation, prison visits, public statements and diplomatic engagement with non-EU countries.

Trial observation played an important role in achieving impact for many human right defenders, including Taner Kılıç, Amnesty Türkiye's Honorary Chair, and İdil Eser, Amnesty Türkiye's ex-director, whose baseless and politically motivated convictions were finally quashed in June, following a global campaign from Amnesty.

JULY

Egypt

Human rights lawyer Mohamed Baker was released thanks to a presidential pardon after spending four years in arbitrary detention solely for his crucial human rights work. Amnesty International has campaigned extensively on his case and he was part of Write for Rights 2022.

Yemen

Yemeni journalists Mohammed al-Salahi and Mohammed al-Junaid were released from the Huthi-run Security and Intelligence Services detention centre in Hodeidah, Yemen, after nearly five years in detention. During their detention, they were subjected to a series of gross human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, and denial of access to their lawyer. Amnesty International has been campaigning for their release since 2018.

Australia

Chau Van Kham, a 73-year-old Australian citizen and Vietnamese pro-democracy activist, returned to Sydney earlier this year as a free man. Chau was detained within hours of arriving in Vietnam in 2019 and sentenced to 12 years in prison for being a member of the Viet Tan political party. Amnesty International Australia considered Chau to be a prisoner of conscience who was detained solely for his peaceful political beliefs.

Dan Nguyen, Chau Van Kham's lawyer, thanked Amnesty International for its support: "We share the happy news that Mr Chau Van Kham is well and has returned to his family today. We thank the many organizations and individuals in Australia and all over the world who have helped to lobby for his freedom."

Zimbabwe

Earlier this year, Joanah Mamombe and Cecillia Chimbir were acquitted from one of the charges after they were arrested in 2020 for leading an anti-government protest. It was a significant step forward for the pair, which allowed them to start healing from their ordeal. As part of Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign 2022, our supporters took action while Amnesty International

in Zimbabwe supported them throughout their trials.

While reading the letters of support, Joanah said: **"Thank you so much to our Amnesty International friends for writing all these letters. We are now beginning our journey to heal."**

AUGUST

Taiwan

Taiwanese citizen Morrison Lee was finally able to return home after being wrongfully charged of crimes endangering China's national security. During his ordeal, he was forced to confess on television — a common practice used by the Chinese government to crack down on activists and human rights lawyers. Amnesty International Taiwan campaigned for his release.

SEPTEMBER

Türkiye

The convictions of Mücella Yapıcı and Hakan Altınay, both prisoners of conscience, were overturned and they were released from prison in September. Mücella and Hakan expressed gratitude for the letters they received while in prison from Amnesty International activists. They now face a retrial in the new year. The five remaining Fezi 7 prisoners remain in prison.

Sri Lanka

In 2020, Ramzy Razeek, from Sri Lanka, was detained for five months for posting a critical comment on Facebook. Amnesty International launched a call for his release and his case was finally dropped in September after the Sri Lankan Supreme Court ruled that his fundamental rights had been violated. The court also ordered the State to pay him damages.

Iran

Kambiz Kharout and Ebrahim Narouie, two men from Iran's oppressed Baluchi minority, who were convicted and sentenced to death in relation to the 2022 "Woman Life Freedom" uprising in Iran, were released on bail after their convictions and death sentences were overturned by the Supreme Court. Kambiz Kharout was released in September and Ebrahim Narouie was released in October. Amnesty International has campaigned for their convictions and death sentences to be overturned since February 2023.

OCTOBER

Somalia

A day after Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action calling for his release, Somali journalist Mohamed Ibrahim Osman Bulbul was granted bail from Mogadishu prison. He had been arrested in August just for doing his job. A few days later, on 11 October, the Bandir regional court dismissed all charges against Mohamed.

In a message sent to Amnesty International, Mohamed said: **"I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support and tireless advocacy for my freedom. Your Urgent Action has really played a huge role in ensuring that I gained my freedom. I am**

deeply touched by your solidarity."

France

Detained since 7 January 2023, Mortaza Behboudi was released on 18 October following calls from Amnesty International France. After spending more than nine months in detention in Afghanistan, the 29-year-old French-Afghan journalist will be reunited with his family. He was accused of espionage by the Taliban who, since their return to power in August 2021, have continued to drastically reduce the human rights of the people.

Iran

The French-Iranian academic Fariba Adelkhah was detained in June 2019 in Iran. After calls from Amnesty International, she was released and allowed to return to France in October. She had been sentenced to five years in prison for "endangering national security", a charge she has always denied. Upon her release, Fariba thanked Amnesty International: **"Now all that is behind me. What remains are all these gestures of friendship and commitment, these mobilizations of the known and the unknown."**

Afghanistan

Afghani Education activist Matiullah Wesa was released on 26 October, after spending nearly seven months in prison for promoting girls' right to education and criticizing the Taliban's policy banning girls from seeking secondary education. Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action and campaigned until he was released.

Matiullah's brother, Attaullah Wesa, Co-founder and Executive Director of Penpath, said:

"We are grateful to Amnesty International and its 10 million members who stood by our side. The solidarity, support and advocacy from Amnesty and its members motivated us to fight for Wesa's release and we are so thankful for their support. While we are still outraged with the Taliban's court judgment and the seven months of freedom Matiullah lost, we will continue our advocacy on girls' right to education in Afghanistan."

NOVEMBER

Ethiopia

University lecturer Firew Bekele was released after spending three months in detention for his alleged role in writing and publishing a book called The Hijacked Revolution. He was a prisoner of conscience who should have never been detained in the first place. The head of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission visited Firew Bekele in prison and called for his immediate release following the publication of Amnesty International's Urgent Action in September.

India

The administrative detention order for Sajad Gul, a Kashmiri journalist, was quashed after he spent 22 months in detention under the draconian Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, following calls from Amnesty International.

PHILIPPINES

After nearly seven long years in arbitrary detention, prisoner of conscience and former Senator Leila de Lima was released on bail after a Philippine court on 13 November granted her bail application in the last drug-related charge against her. Amnesty International welcomed this positive development and called for this final case to be dismissed and for those behind her arbitrary detention and other violations of her rights to be brought to justice in fair trials. Amnesty International has been working on de Lima's case since her arrest in 2017, reiterating in domestic and international statements that the charges against her were fabricated.

CLIMATE CHANGE



MARCH Australia

After tireless advocacy by students from the Pacific supported by thousands of Amnesty activists, Australia became one of 132 countries to co-sponsor Vanuatu's initiative to take climate change to the International Court of Justice. Other Amnesty sections and other civil society organizations also worked tirelessly to secure governmental commitment to this crucial initiative. This is landmark moment in the fight for climate justice as it means the court will give a legal opinion on the obligations of governments to protect the human rights of present and future generations against the effects of climate change.

LGBTI RIGHTS

FEBRUARY Taiwan

In a major step forward for LGBTI rights, Taiwan announced moves to allow same-sex marriages between Taiwanese people and foreign nationals whose countries of origin are yet to permit same-sex marriage. In another key move, the Taiwan government has permitted joint adoption for married same-sex couples. Amnesty International Taiwan has been working closely with local groups to campaign and secure wider LGBTI rights.

South Korea

So Seong-wook and his partner Kim Yong-min held a wedding ceremony in 2019 and live together as a married couple. However, their relationship is not recognized under South Korean law, and they've been unable to enjoy the same rights as heterosexual couples, including access to healthcare.

After launching a campaign with the support of Amnesty, So and his partner Kim became the first same-sex couple to be able to register a "dependent" under the National Health Insurance Service (NHIS), only for it to be cancelled eight months later. In February, South Korea's High Court ordered the NHIS to resume healthcare access for a partner in a same-sex relationship – the first step towards recognising the rights of a couple in a same-sex relationship.

MAY Iran

Iranian activist Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani was sentenced to death in 2022 for supporting LGBTI rights. Amnesty supporters called on Iranian authorities to release her, and she was finally freed after serving more than a year behind bars.

JUNE Australia

Queensland passed new laws in June that remove barriers to updating birth certificates. The newly passed laws mean transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people will no longer be forced to

undergo invasive "sex reassignment surgery" before being able to correct their gender identity documents. This is incredible news for Amnesty Australia's Queensland LGBTQIA+ network who are working closely in partnership with other local organizations in the fight for LGBTI rights.

September Hong Kong

A Hong Kong court granted a partial victory to LGBTI activist Jimmy Sham, who has been bidding to have his overseas same-sex marriage recognized since 2018. The ruling, following a campaign from Amnesty International, was an important step forward and a moment of hope for Hong Kong's LGBTI community, who have long been denied equal rights due to the city's outdated and discriminatory laws.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

APRIL

South Africa

Amnesty International South Africa, with the support of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, piloted Digital Disruptors, which equipped 15 young activists with the knowledge and tools to develop youth-led campaigns. The Digital Disruptors called for the local government in Orange Farm, located outside Johannesburg, to implement Gender-Based Violence (GBV) policies that promote positive change. The Digital Disruptors also transformed a hotspot for crime and violence into a place where residents felt safe to learn about and host dialogues and solutions to GBV in the area.

AUGUST

Paraguay

Paraguay's National Council for Children and Adolescents approved the National Programme for the Prevention and Care of Child and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Abuse, which was one of the key recommendations of Amnesty International's report, "They are girls, not mothers".

EDUCATION

NOVEMBER

Following two years of advocacy from Amnesty International, the Council of Europe (CoE) integrated Amnesty International's recommendations into their 2024-2028 Human Rights Education (HRE) roadmap. In a huge win, Amnesty International's proposal to "localize human rights education" is now the centrepiece of the new roadmap as the CoE commits to adapt to varying local contexts to make HRE more relatable and accessible to youth in the region.



Read more about the human rights wins of 2023 at
www.amnesty.org.ph/2023/12/celebrating-the-human-rights-wins-of-2023

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



10 million
strong

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF MORE THAN 10 MILLION PEOPLE WHO TAKE INJUSTICE PERSONALLY. WE ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR A WORLD WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ENJOYED BY ALL.

In 1961, British lawyer Peter Benenson was outraged when two Portuguese students were jailed just for raising a toast to freedom. He wrote an article in The Observer newspaper and launched a campaign that provoked an incredible response. Reprinted in newspapers across the world, his call to action sparked the idea that people everywhere can unite in solidarity for justice and freedom.

This inspiring moment didn't just give birth to an extraordinary movement, it was the start of extraordinary social change.

“

ONLY WHEN THE LAST PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE HAS BEEN FREED, WHEN THE LAST TORTURE CHAMBER HAS BEEN CLOSED, WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A REALITY FOR THE WORLD'S PEOPLE, WILL OUR WORK BE DONE.

Peter Benenson, Amnesty International founder



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