

# camp **Align**

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# HR WINS

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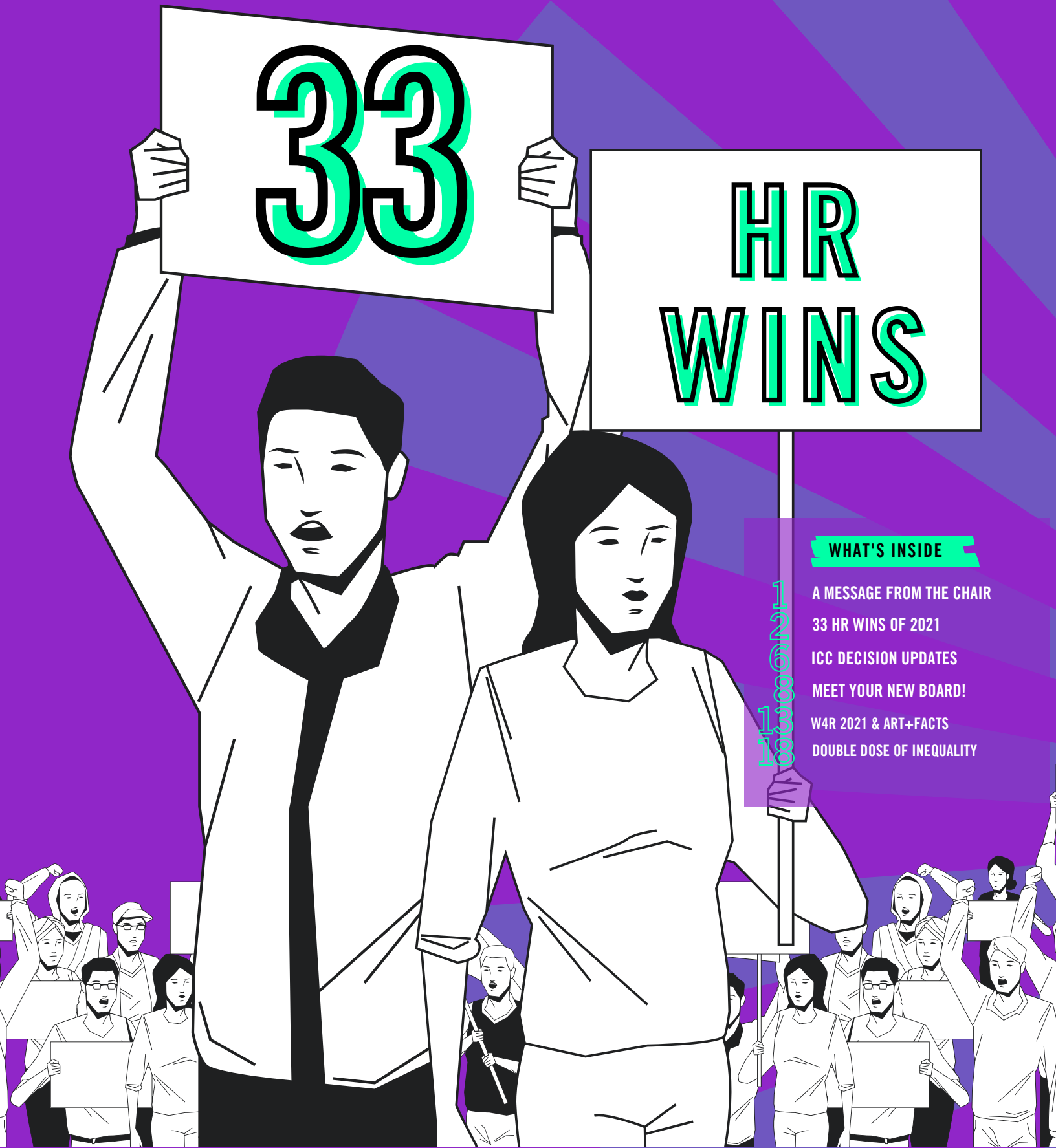
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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*Makahulugan, mapayapa at mapagpalayang taon, mga kasama!*

Sa kabila ng patuloy na kawalan ng katiyakan hinggil sa iba-ibang aspeto ng siguridad na hinaharap ng bayan at ng daigdig sa pangkalahatan, taimtim na hinihiling ng inyong Board of Trustees na kayo ay nasa mabuting kalagayan.

Bago natapos ang taong 2021, marami sa inyo marahil ang naging masayang abala sa bisperas ng pasko hanggang bagong taon. Habang ako ay hindi naging abala sa parehas na okasyon, ako naman ay nagkaroon ng pagkakataong mag nilay-nilay patungkol sa mga personal na laban sa buhay pati na mga laban sa loob at labas ng organisasyon bilang aktibista ng karapatang pantao. Dahil dito, nais kong ibahagi sa inyo ang ilan sa mga highlights ng aking pagmumuni-muni na sa tingin ko ay maaari ring maging point of reflections ninyo bilang tagapagtanggol ng karapatang pantao:

## MAJOR AMNESWINS IN 2021

Sa kabila ng patuloy na pag hamon sa ating human rights work, nakaka antig ng damdamin ang inyong tatag at dedikasyon na magpatuloy sa ating trabaho.

Magandang alalahanin na ang resulta ng pananatiling matatag at agit nating lahat ay ang ilan sa mga malalaking panalo natin noong 2021 gaya ng matagumpay na exposé ukol sa labor rights abuses and violations na dinaranas ng nickel mine workers sa Dinagat Islands mula sa mapang-abusong korporasyon.

Nariyan din ang ating malaking kontribusyon sa pagtitiyak na ang Pre-Trial Chamber ng International Criminal Court ay pormal na pahintulutan ang imbestigasyon sa Pilipinas patungkol sa diumanong mga krimeng nagawa ng kinauukulan simula taong 2011 sa konteksto ng kampanyang “War on Drugs.”

Ang ating sama-samang pandaigdigang panawagan na protektahan ang mga healthcare workers sa frontlines laban sa Covid-19 ay simbolo ng pakikiisa sa buong mundo at paninindigang ang right to health ay hindi lamang para sa mga nangaingailangang ng medikal na atensyon bagkus kasama ang mga nagbibigay nito.

Maliban sa ating mga AmnesWins, kabilang sa mga importanteng tagumpay rin natin ang successful na pag organisa ng Membership General Assembly 2021-- ang kauna-unahang MeGA na ginanap sa pamamaraang virtual.

## STAND FIRM, EMPOWER COMMUNICATION WORKERS, AND SEEK A BALANCED APPROACH

Noong MeGA 2021, ang paksang ito ang mga rekomendasyon ni Dr. Jonathan Ong sa pagtugon sa aniyang hindi sapat na abilidad ng mga human rights organizations na kayahin ang information warfare sa kasalukuyang estado ng pulitika sa Pilipinas. Ayon sakaniya, ang pagtingin ng mga human rights organizations sa communication work bilang isang kasangkapan o aktibidad sa halip na pangmatagalang estratehiya.

Dala ng mga findings na ito, sana ay bigyan natin ng sapat na oras ang re-strategizing ng ating communication strategies, lebel mula organizational hanggang individual.

## SELF-CARE AND WELLBEING

Ang pakikipaglaban para sa karapatang pantao ay isa sa mga mapanganib, demanding at madalas under o uncompensated na trabaho. Madalas nating isantabi ang self-care at sariling wellbeing. Minsan ng lumalabas sa saliksik ni Dr. Kathleen Rodgers na ilan sa mga human rights workers ng Amnesty International ay naniniwalang ang pangangalaga sa sarili ay sumasalungat sa kahulugan ng walang pagiimbot.

Ukol dito, isang paalala na ang ating AmnesWins ay hindi napagtagumpayan ng walang kaakibat na kinahinatnan sa ating kalusugan. Hinihiling ng Board na alagaan ang mga sarili at ipagbigay alam sa National Secretariat kung kakailanganin ng suporta.

Bagamat hindi agad babaguhin ng bagong taon ang sitwasyon na humahamon sa katuparan ng mga karapatang pantao, ang ating patuloy na kolektibong adbokasiya ay malaking kontribusyon upang mabago ang antas ng katarungang panlipunan. Mula rito, bitbitin natin ang bawat panalo sa mga nakaraang taon at gawing inspirasyon para magpatuloy ang ating aktibismo at pagiging kasapi sa Amnesty.

Magkita-kita tayo sa ating mga Regional Assemblies at sa iba pang aktibidades!

Maalab na pagbati,

## ROCKY RINABOR

Chair, Board of Trustees  
Amnesty International Philippines







# 33 HR WINS

It's been a busy year for Amnesty International with positive changes taking place around the world. Laws have been rewritten, awards have been won, prisoners of conscience released and our supporters have continued to campaign with passion to ensure people can live free from torture, harassment or unjust imprisonment. Here's a round-up of human rights wins achieved through Amnesty International's pressure, reports, partnerships, and campaigns, to celebrate this year...

## JANUARY

- Global: Amnesty International's ground-breaking report on how health workers around the world had been exposed, silenced and attacked during the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in Ibrahim Badawi, a doctor, and Ahmad al-Daydoumy, a dentist, being released from detention in Egypt in January and March this year.

## FEBRUARY

- Following Amnesty International's calls for authorities to respect the right of religious minorities to carry out the final rites of their relatives in accordance with their own traditions unless restrictions were needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Sri Lankan authorities decided to end the practice of forced cremations for victims of Covid-19 in February.

## MARCH

- Bahrain: Amnesty International helped to secure several prisoner releases in Bahrain this year, including four children who had been tried as adults. A Bahraini court suspended a six-month prison sentence against the four and placed them in a rehabilitation programme instead. In April, there was more good news with the release of prisoner of conscience, Mohammed Hassan Jawad, who had been serving a 15-year prison sentence for his peaceful participation in the 2011 uprising-

-Amnesty International has been campaigning for his release for a decade. In another breakthrough, on 11 March, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Bahrain's human rights situation and its treatment of human rights defenders, followed by another in September on Emirati prisoner of conscience Ahmed Mansoor – which echoed Amnesty's recommendations.

- Following campaign calls and petitions from Amnesty International and others, in March, a Japanese court ruled that the government's failure to recognize same-sex marriage was unconstitutional – the country's first-ever judicial ruling on marriage equality.
- Iraq: The Iraqi parliament passed the Yezidi Survivors Law which provides a framework for reparations for many survivors of ISIS atrocities in northern Iraq, including women and girls who were subjected to sexual violence and child survivors who were abducted before the age of 18—A key recommendation in a report published last year by Amnesty International. Additional bylaws were passed in September.
- Global: In March, October and November, the International Criminal Court (ICC) announced it would open formal investigations into the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Philippine government's deadly 'war on drugs' and crimes against humanity in Venezuela. Amnesty International has been documenting crimes against humanity in all these countries for several years, its research was cited dozens of times in the Prosecutor's filing.

- Madagascar: After months of refusing to acknowledge Covid-19, the Malagasy government finally dropped its policy of refusing to order Covid-19 vaccines following pressure from Amnesty and others – giving more people a chance to access life-saving vaccines.
- South Africa: In March, police revived an investigation into the 2017 murders of best friends Popi Qwabe and Bongeka Phungula, after receiving a petition signed by more than 341,000 Amnesty International supporters worldwide demanding that their killers be brought to justice.

## APRIL

- Global: Amnesty International released its flagship annual report, The State of the World's Human Rights. This latest edition covered the human rights situation in 149 countries and was translated into a record 38 languages. It also included specific advocacy calls on a range of human rights issues.



## MAY

- Global: Amnesty International won a prestigious Webby Award for its microsite on the abuse of tear gas by police forces around the world. The site was originally launched in mid-2020, and is frequently updated with new content and evidence of abuses.

## JUNE

- Burundi: NGO worker and human rights defender Germain Rukuki was released from prison after spending more than four years behind bars for standing up for human rights. After more than 400,000 actions calling for his release, Germain is looking to be reunited with his family, who fled the country for fear of reprisals.
- China: Amnesty International published an extensive report detailing how the draconian repression faced by Muslims in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region amounts to crimes against humanity. The report garnered significant global media coverage, and was followed up with a campaign calling for the closure of the internment camps. To date, the 'Free Xinjiang Detainees' petition has been signed by more than 323,000 people around the world and Amnesty International's national teams in 10 countries have held petition handover events.
- Pakistan: Amnesty International successfully campaigned for the acquittal and release of Shafqat and Shagufta Emmanuel, a Christian couple, who spent seven years on death row on blasphemy charges.
- USA: Decode Surveillance NYC saw more than 7,000 Amnesty International supporters from 144 countries map 15,000 surveillance cameras across New York City which can be used by the NYPD to track people using facial recognition software. The results of the innovative project helped campaigners push local legislators for a ban on the use of the discriminatory technology.



PETITION HANDOVER AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF ALL PEOPLE DETAINED IN INTERNMENT CAMPS AND IN PRISONS IN XINJIANG, 22 OCTOBER 2021. PHOTO BY BRIAN MAY



- **Nepal:** After the launch of Amnesty International's report, "Struggling to breathe": The second wave of Covid-19 in Nepal, which was followed by sustained campaigning and advocacy initiatives, the Japanese government donated 1.6 million vaccines to Nepal, Bhutan donated 230,000 and the UK donated 130,000 doses.
- **Nigeria:** The Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) granted an order to prohibit Nigerian authorities from prosecuting anyone using Twitter in the country. This victory for freedom of expression came after Amnesty International helped Nigerian NGO, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), to bring a case against the Nigerian authorities over their threat to prosecute anyone using Twitter after they implemented a blanket ban on the social platform in June.

## JULY

- **Nicaragua:** After more than two years locked up in an immigration detention facility in California where she was abused and denied access to adequate medical care, Maura Martínez, a transgender woman who fled from discrimination and violence in Nicaragua, was finally freed in July. Thanks to a global campaign by Amnesty International and partner organizations, she is now free and able to live in the USA while she awaits the adjudication of her asylum claim.
- **Honduras:** On 5 July 2021, a court in Honduras convicted David Castillo, the former manager of the company Desarrollos Energéticos and the person in charge of the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project, of participating in the 2016 murder of the human rights defender Berta Cáceres.
- **Denmark:** In early 2021, the Danish government proposed a draft law to parliament granting police the power to issue a "security-creating assembly ban" if a group of people exhibited "insecurity-inciting behaviour". Amnesty Denmark and partners successfully prevented the Danish government from passing the law, which would have put undue restrictions on the right to protest.

MAURA, A TRANS WOMAN HELD IN DETENTION IN THE US, WAS RECENTLY RELEASED.



## AUGUST

- **Afghanistan:** Following the collapse of the Afghanistan government after the Taliban seized power in mid-August 2021, Amnesty International researchers continue to investigate atrocities committed by the group and were able to verify two massacres of Hazara people in the provinces of Ghazni and Daykundi by Taliban fighters. These reports were among the first evidence that the Taliban continued to persecute marginalized communities in Afghanistan as they took control of the country. Amnesty International also published powerful testimony from girls who were excluded from school, amidst ongoing Taliban threats and violence.



## SEPTEMBER

- **Guinea:** After months of campaigning from Amnesty International and its supporters, pro-democracy activist Omar Sylla was unconditionally released on 6 September, the day after the military led a coup against President Alpha Conde. Following his release, dozens of political activists were also released and charges were dropped by the judiciary.
- **Tunisia:** Research by Amnesty International helped to end the practice of arbitrary travel bans imposed on many Tunisians following President Kais Saied's seizure of exceptional powers. After Amnesty published a story on the situation, the president issued a statement on 17 September ordering the border police "not to impose any travel ban on people unless through a judicial order".
- **Global:** Following years of advocacy, pressure and engagement from Amnesty International, the Human Rights Council recognized the Right to a Safe Clean Healthy and Sustainable Environment and created a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change – an emphatic statement leading up to COP26 about the link between human rights and the environmental crisis.
- **Central African Republic:** Two men suspected of crimes against humanity Mahamat Said Abdel Kani and Eugene Barret Ngaikosset were finally arrested, with Ngaikosset placed in custody by the Special Criminal Court (SCC). It was the first time the SCC publicly named a suspect and it came after Amnesty International called for the SCC to address its lack of transparency.
- **Kosovo:** Following an intervention from Amnesty International, Austrian-based Kelkos Energy withdrew its baseless defamation lawsuits against environmental activists Shpresa Loshaj and Adriatik Gacaferi, who had publicly raised concerns about the environmental impact of hydropower projects. Austrian-based Kelkos Energy was using these lawsuits to intimidate and silence Shpresa and Adriatik from speaking out.
- **Turkey:** A court acquitted 18 students and an academic who had been prosecuted for taking part in a peaceful campus-based Pride parade in Ankara in May 2019, which was met with police using pepper spray, plastic bullets and tear gas. The case of the METU students was part of Amnesty International's flagship Write for Rights campaign in 2020. More than 445,000 people from 43 countries demanded their acquittal.
- **Global:** Following pressure from Amnesty's international and partner organisations, the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General announced plans to mainstream children's rights within the UN system. The announcement followed a successful UN side-event organised jointly by Amnesty International and its partners, featuring an address by Amnesty's Secretary General, Agnes Callamard.

## OCTOBER

- **Global:** The European Parliament's Daphne Caruana Prize for Journalism was awarded to the Pegasus Project, which saw Amnesty partner with major media organizations to expose the vast scale of violations perpetrated through secretive cyber surveillance. The revelations made global headlines and led to spyware company NSO Group being blacklisted by the USA, as well as triggering investigations in multiple countries, and calls for the surveillance industry to be properly regulated.
- **Moldova:** The parliament of Moldova ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), opening the door to better protection for survivors of domestic violence and violence against women.

## NOVEMBER

- **Guinea Bissau and Niger:** Guinea Bissau and Niger declared they would allow individuals and NGOS to submit complaints to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, bringing the number of countries to sign the declaration to eight.





# ICC REPORT

## FAIRNESS AND BALANCE

It has been three years since then Prosecutor to the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, opened a preliminary examination to the Philippine Situation concerning the crimes allegedly committed in the context of the War on Drugs campaign that was launched by the Philippine Government in 2016. Since then, the ICC has closely followed the situation in the Philippines, which has earned them numerous attacks coming from the Duterte administration's ardent followers and even from the Philippine Government itself. These attacks, which are often baseless, range from questioning the integrity of the Court to more personal ones targeting the personalities of the Court including Fatou Bensouda. Yet despite the criticisms and attacks, the ICC stood its ground and on September 15, 2021, the Pre-trial Chamber I formally authorized the commencement of the investigation into the Situation in the Philippines, in relation to crimes allegedly committed in the Philippines between 1 November 2011 and 16 March 2019, in the context of the so-called 'war on drugs' campaign.

In his statement that was released on October 7, 2021 following the judicial authorization to commence an investigation on the Philippine Situation, newly appointed prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan QC said that while his investigation will seek to uncover the truth and aim to ensure accountability, he will "remain willing to constructively engage with national authorities in accordance with the principle of complementarity and our obligations under the Statute." With all eyes on the Court and this major development on the Philippine Situation, the Office of the Prosecutor affirmed to the public that they are committed in upholding the fairness of the Court and its proceedings.



Hence it should not come as a surprise when Prosecutor Khan decided to temporarily suspend its investigation activities after receiving the Philippine Government's deferral request on November 10, 2021. The request came a month after a letter containing the decision to authorize an investigation was received by the government on October 6, 2021. In the deferral request signed by Amb. J. Eduardo Malaya, the Philippines ambassador to The Netherlands, the Philippine Government stated that it is investigating or has investigated its nationals or others within its jurisdiction with respect to the alleged crimes against humanity of murder committed throughout the Philippines between July 1, 2016 to March 16, 2019 in the context of the so-called War on Drugs campaign, as well as in the Davao area between November 1, 2011 to June 30, 2016. On this basis, and in accordance with Article 18 (2) of the Rome Statute, the Philippine Government requested that the Prosecutor defer its investigations and proceedings to the Philippine Government.

On November 18, 2021, Prosecutor Khan notified the Pre-trial Chamber I of the Philippine Government's deferral request. Staying true to his commitment of fairness and accountability, the Prosecutor announced that a State requesting deferral must provide information concerning its investigations to support its request. The information must demonstrate that the Government is genuinely taking concrete and progressive actions in investigating the crimes that fall within the scope of the authorized ICC investigation. With the submission of the deferral request, investigations concerning matters that were mentioned in the request are temporarily suspended as per the OTP's obligations under the Statute and practice in similar situations. Despite the announcement of temporary suspension in investigations, the OTP assured the public it will continue to analyze information that are already in their possession and new information it may receive from third parties. The Office would also continue to assess the situation in the Philippines and conduct necessary investigative steps to preserve evidence related to the crimes committed.

**While the decision of the OTP to temporarily suspend its investigation was received unfavorably by the public due to its potential impact in the struggle for justice, it also reflects the fairness of the Court and its consistent pursuit of justice without fear or favor. The Court remains impartial and independent, unfazed by political pressure and criticisms. The deferral request would not be the last tactic that the Government will use to delay the investigations at the ICC, but we earnestly hope that the ICC remains a court of Justice for victims of human rights violations and their families.**







**BADHONG**



**ROCKY**



**MIA**



**DEREK**



**BENG**



**JUDAH**



**DOC AU**



**MEET  
YOUR  
BOARD!**



**We asked our new board about their fondest AIPh memories, their expertise, and planned contributions, and more. Let's hear what they have to say!**



**ROCKY  
RINABOR,  
CHAIRPERSON**

#### **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A BOARD MEMBER?**

My strengths are within the ambit of policymaking, paralegal, learning and training facilitation on gender and development or gender mainstreaming, and module writing on human rights-related education.

#### **HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY WITH AIPH BEEN?**

My journey has been liberating, empowering, intersectional, and highly progressive. As someone who grew up in a highly patriarchal and culturally Muslim-dominated town in the Southern part of the Philippines, I thought I had to reconcile learned cultures and behaviors that are inconsistent with human rights-based ideologies. However, I realized how complex human rights activism is, and through Amnesty, I knew that reconciliation was not some sort of a ticket for me to have a better moral compass. The level of discernment that I had to consciously hone got me where I am now as an activist.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY WITH AIPH?**

My fondest memory is when I organized AIPh ARMM and served as its Regional Coordinator. It allowed me to work with other regional formations and organizations outside of AIPh.

#### **WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER IN THE COMING YEAR?**

The organization can expect my commitment to strengthening a participative and integrative leadership, due diligence to do all required Board work, and all other competencies incumbent upon me.





**DR. AURORA PARONG,  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

#### WHAT IS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A BOARD MEMBER?

Strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation; communications

#### HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY WITH AIPH BEEN?

Journey is going great! I joined AIPH when it was facing many organizational challenges but we were able to hurdle them. Thus we have a strong and healthy organization which serves as a foundation for enhanced human rights work. Hope we continue to maintain a healthy AIPH so we can act on human rights issues and achieve more and long term wins for human dignity and justice.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY WITH AIPH?

Fondest memories are meetings with members and staff of AIPH where we share stories of activism and the impact of our work. I also like discussions about challenges and how we arrive at possible resolutions and actions to make a difference in peoples' lives. And of course, I love reading the "wins" or impact of work of the global Amnesty.

#### WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER IN THE COMING YEAR?

I think I can make contributions in policymaking as a Board member; help enhance Growth work as Vice Chair; and may act as resource person on human rights education on economic, social and cultural rights; and also do activism by writing letters and signing petitions.

#### WHAT IS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A BOARD MEMBER?

As an individual from the corporate world, my background spans from organizational development with focus on human resource processes and performance management to finance and accounting, investment banking, entity funding and operations management.

#### HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY WITH AIPH BEEN?

Being in the organization for quite a while and being engaged in various roles, it has always been a learning journey with AIPH. You get to learn new ideas and perspective on every role you take in AIPH and every engagement and interaction especially with people who share the same values in protecting and defending human rights and human dignity.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY WITH AIPH?

General membership and regional meetings are always for the books

#### WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER IN THE COMING YEAR?

While we got so many things going on in our own personal and professional lives, time and commitment (collectively) should be the very basic expectation in this new undertaking. Next is candor as we should not be afraid to challenge the existing trends and practices, to ask difficult questions and to speak up.



**BADHONG  
LORENZANA,  
SECRETARY**



***BENG SATOR,  
TREASURER***

**WHAT IS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A BOARD MEMBER?**

Bebeng has decades of experience in accounting and finance and a Bachelor's degree in accounting; She is also part of AIPH's internal audit committee. She has had training for human rights, campaign essentials training, and coaching and mentoring.

**HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY WITH AIPH BEEN?**

She was formally employed with AIPH for nearly eight years, after which she continued to be an active member—most notable conducting quarterly audits for the internal audit committee.

**WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER IN THE COMING YEAR?**

Apart from her expertise, she will also be attending BOD meetings and executing BOD tasks.

**WHAT IS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A BOARD MEMBER?**

I believe I work strongly in the areas of leadership development and team management.

**HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY WITH AIPH BEEN?**

My journey with AIPH has been fulfilling and empowering. Every year, there are new things to learn and stories to share. It's warming to see how our efforts grow and create an impact for others.

**WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY WITH AIPH?**

Back when I was a group officer, we had an officers' meeting every Wednesday night. Even though it's weekly, we were always thrilled to meet and share the things we've accomplished during the previous week.

**WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER IN THE COMING YEAR?**

I can contribute in Human Rights Education, completion of Leadership Development program design and modules, and maximizing the engagement of our youth by providing learning and development opportunities that can help enhance their skill set as a Human Rights Defender.



***MIA  
TONOGBANUA,  
YOUTH BOARD  
MEMBER***





***DEREK CABE,  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE***

#### **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A BOARD MEMBER?**

Hindi naman ako expert. Pero sa aking palagay, ang aking kalakasan ay nasa community organizing or development work. Ang mahaba kong karanasan sa pag-oorganisa ay maaaring makapag-ambag sa pagpapalalakas ng kilusan para sa karapatang pantao na siyang adbokasiya at adhikain ng AIPh.

#### **HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY WITH AIPH BEEN?**

Sa aking palagay, nasa proseso pa ako nang muling pagrerevitalize ng engagement sa AIPh mula sa pagiging low-key/profile member ng AIPh at muling pagkilala sa mga proseso/kultura na established at nakasanayan, priority goals at sa mga kasama sa AIPh.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY WITH AIPH?**

Maraming mga naging well-meaning at committed na mga kasama na maaga kong na-judged bilang 'career-oriented' lang. Hahaha. At least they proved me wrong and judgmental. Friends and comrades in AIPh, at yung mga volunteers na nasa mga regions, sila talaga ang puso at lakas ng AIPh ever since.

#### **WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER IN THE COMING YEAR?**

Ambag? Pati ba naman ang AIPh naghahanap ng ambag? Hahaha. Seriously, gaya ng nabanggit ko, maaari akong mag-ambag ng kalakasan sa pag-oorganisa, education (kailangan natin paramihin ang HRE warriors dahil sa kalagayan ng HR ngayon) at sa iba pang mga bagong larangan na tinatahak (based sa NSP) i.e. climate and human rights, women and climate justice.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A BOARD MEMBER?**

Volunteer management & development; climate justice & environment; Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation; and OD.

#### **HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY WITH AIPH BEEN?**

Good so far, especially on relearning Human Rights Education.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY WITH AIPH?**

Writing letters/activism in the mid-1980s; discussions on the ever-changing Human Rights horizon.

#### **WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER IN THE COMING YEAR?**

I will apply my fields of expertise this coming year.



***JUDAH  
ALIPOSA,  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE***

# W4R 2021

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



Change adds up. One signature adds onto another, one letter adds onto another letter, every individual's actions adds onto another individual's actions—and together, all of these add onto the change we hope for. This is the premise of Write for Rights when it first began in Poland in 2001. 20 years later, the letters we sent have freed prisoners of conscience, achieved justice for those abused, and have proved that caring and working together can make a difference, even in the lives of those we have yet to meet.

This year again, Amnesty International members and activists all over the world geared up and took on Write for Rights, sharing 10 stories of brave human rights defenders using their own voices and words to create change in their own communities. Here in the Philippines, we carried the stories of Wendy, Janna, Rung, Bernardo, and Sphere.



## 2021 WRITE FOR RIGHTS CASES



- Wendy Galarza is a feminist and women's rights activist from Mexico. Just in 2020, while attending a protest demanding justice for the murder of a woman named Alexis, Wendy suffered from bullet wounds from gunshots fired by the police into the air. Through messages of support to her (#ShoutForWendy, #GritoPorWendy), and letters addressed to the Mexican authorities, we shared in her call for proper and thorough investigations in her case, and in the cases of women killings that have become prevalent in her country.



- She was only seven years old when Janna Jihad from the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) first picked up her mother's phone to document the murder of her uncle by the Israeli military. Since then, she has made it her personal conviction to show the world the racist brutality her community experiences at the hands of Israeli forces every day. Janna is 15 now, and has endured harassment and threats for her determination to tell the truth. To show her we stand by her, we sent her photos of handwritten messages of support, while calling on the Israeli authorities to protect her and other Palestinian children from violence and discrimination.

- Rung Panusaya is a protest leader, and a student. In Thailand, she and her friends are seen and treated as criminals by the Thai authorities for simply speaking their mind, demanding social and political change, and daring to dream a better future for their country. Rung and other peaceful protesters have been repeatedly arrested and thrown in jail. Thankfully, Rung has been released as of late, but she and other Thai human rights defenders remain at-risk. We sent Rung strength through photos and drawings of rainbows, and demanded from the Thai authorities to stop targeting peaceful protesters.



- Bernardo Caal Xol is a member of the Maya Q'eqchi' in Guatemala. He has spent his life fighting to preserve the culture and protect the rights of his people and his community. When a company licensed by the government dammed their sacred Cahabón river to build two hydroelectric power plants, Bernardo and his people protested. Because of this, he was smeared, falsely accused, and sentenced to seven years in prison. Our petitions addressed to the Attorney-General of Guatemala supports their call for Bernardo's release, and the protection of his people's land.
- It's been 15 years since Sphere first organized to protect and uphold LGBTI and women's rights in Kharkiv, Ukraine. In 2019, hard-fought, they led the first-ever Pride Parade in the city, giving a platform to almost 3,000 people. But during the march, the police that were stationed to protect them, turned and participated in the hate and harassment against the gathered individuals. Since then, Sphere has sought for accountability from the officers, and increased protection for the LGBTIQ+ community in Kharkiv. These demands are echoed in our letters to the authorities, and shown our support through the many photos of rainbow flags sent to Sphere



## ADAPTING TO CHANGE: STORIES OF WRITE FOR RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Write for Rights have always inspired creativity and innovation from Amnesty members and supporters. This year, however; our activism in the Philippines, faced the compounded challenge of an environment that is unfriendly towards human rights, and a pandemic that limited our usual avenues for taking action and sharing our advocacy. Our familiar face-to-face action booths, workshops, and gatherings were almost too difficult to do, and practically impossible to some. The environments, spaces, and even communities that we have cultivated and sustained for our human rights advocacy became inaccessible and distant.

These challenges may have slowed our stride, but it did not stop us. For many of our activists, we simply shifted our steps. We studied, we explored, and we experimented. We looked at how to create conversations in online spaces, how to take action and how to encourage people to take action on social media, how to build and shape virtual communities for human rights defenders, and to understand what we can and cannot do—and what we have yet to try. From here, our Write for Rights 2021 took shape.

### DAY OF SOLIDARITY: ARTS & LETTERS

Hoping to bring back the feeling of community blurred by the pandemic, the Day of Solidarity: Arts & Letters encouraged individuals to post their artwork, short messages, handwritten letters, and the like throughout the day. Sharing the same hashtag: #WriteForRightsToday, we showed each other that there is always one other person that believes in what you believe, and that every action that we take are connected.

### MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES

Of course, any Write for Rights campaign can only move forward with the effort and initiative of Amnesty International groups, members and supporters. Many have turned to social media to share their petitions, messages and other actions. Here are some of the activities shared with us:

## COMMUNITIES IN THE JUSTICE PROJECT

Members from our communities in the Justice Project left messages and wishes for human rights and our Write for Rights cases on a Miro Board (online collaboration tool). Together, their messages formed a tree which was later displayed in the ART+Fact Exhibit.

Members from Region 10A - CDO and Phinma-COC held a series of simultaneous activities with more than 300 participants, including HRE sessions, t-shirt printing, letter-writing for Write for Rights, candle lighting, and an exhibit on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There was also a discussion on strengthening rights-based programs in their local communities, which was held in the collaboration with BALAOD Mindanaw, CHR X, along with various other schools and partners.

In Bacolod, members of the local group celebrated KinaMATArong: A Celebration of Humanity and Human Rights in collaboration with different groups and NGOs. Handwritten letters and zines were created showcasing messages and drawings of solidarity towards the five cases and to human rights defenders in Negros as well. There was also a sharing led by one of the partners, with priests retelling their stories of resistance during the late President Marcos' Martial Law and how the present will be able to combat history repeating itself.

This year, we have innovated our campaigns. Launched on Human Rights Day, the ART+Fact: Digital Art Exhibit brought together artists from different genres - music, literature, visual and performance art, into an online space that showcases artwork elaborating on the key issues of our Write for Rights cases. By clicking on a link, people may visit and walk through the exhibit; learn more about the stories of Janna, Wendy, Rung, Bernardo, and Sphere; and sign our online petition.

Thank you for participating in Write for Rights 2021! Every year, we sign petitions. Every year, we write letters. And every year, we do what we can to change lives. Thank you to all the members, supports, and activists who refused to let their advocacy waver, and did what they can for human rights another year.

# Art+Facts

A DIGITAL ART PROJECT

AMNESTY@60 X ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY  
PHILIPPINES

**Since Amnesty's founding 60 years ago, artists have been at the forefront of support for Amnesty International. Artists have always valued the freedoms and rights that Amnesty works to protect as an integral condition of their creative expression.**

Amnesty Philippines recognized the challenges brought about the pandemic that many artists are facing, an opportunity to help presented itself for Human Rights Week 2021. After several discussions with artists on how to uplift their livelihood, Amnesty Philippines has decided to provide a free virtual space where artists can showcase their art and a small honorarium to support them and mobilize people to take action for human rights at the same time; the project is called 'ART+FACTS'.

A play on the word 'artifact', 'ART+FACTS' symbolizes the role artists play in upholding the truth through their art and in countering disinformation. All works of art of artists-human rights defenders also serve as 'artifacts' for the advocacies they support towards building a human rights future for a better Philippines.

Amnesty has always harnessed creativity, commitment and support of artists of all disciplines in its 60 years of existence, Amnesty International Philippines said in a statement on human rights day.

**Amnesty International Philippines collaborates with Filipino artists to introduce an inclusive online space where art and advocacy meet.**





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*As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our movement and the 20th year of Write for Rights this year, Amnesty International Philippines launches the ART+FACTS Project to provide Filipino human rights artists and defenders a safe space where art and advocacy meet. It is no coincidence that artists of all disciplines have been at the forefront of support for Amnesty International since our founding in 1961. Hundreds of writers, playwrights, musicians, and poets persecuted and imprisoned for their art have been adopted by Amnesty International as Prisoners of Conscience. Artists have always valued the freedoms and rights that Amnesty works to protect as an integral condition of their creative expression,”*

*- Butch Olano, Amnesty International Philippines Section Director. "*

**Bringing together artists of all disciplines and supporters of Amnesty International in collaborative efforts to support human rights work has brought about some of the largest impact in the Amnesty .**

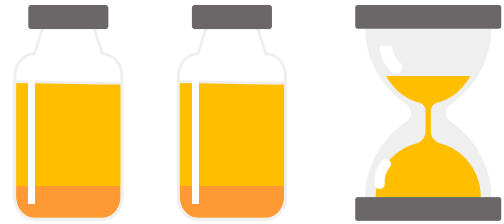
**Supporters may take action on the website while enjoying artworks submitted by several artists. The project is set to run until 2022 with possibility of sustaining Filipino artists for many more years.**

**Art+Facts will be continue this year, transitioning its focus from Write for Rights to other advocacies within Amnesty; the Art+Facts project will continue to accept new submissions for the exhibit!**





# DOUBLE DOSE OF INEQUALITY



## A LIFE-SAVING TARGET

In September 2021, Amnesty International launched the 100 Day Countdown. Our campaign called on states and pharmaceutical companies to share vaccines with low and lower-middle income countries, so that millions more people could be protected from Covid-19 by the end of 2021.

Amnesty calculated that if 2 billion vaccines were delivered to 82 low- and lower-middle income countries, an additional 1.2 billion people could be fully vaccinated by the end of 2021. That's the number of vaccinations needed in for the WHO to meet its 40% target in these countries.

Airfinity estimates that between 100,000 and 225,000 lives can be saved for every 100 million doses delivered – meaning that meeting this target could have saved at least 2 million lives.

Amnesty found that this could be achieved if:

- Pharmaceutical companies deliver 50% of vaccines they produce between 21 September and 31 December to low and lower-middle income countries. More than 2.6 billion vaccines could be provided in this way.
- States redistribute the hundreds of millions of surplus vaccines currently in their stocks. Right now, more than 500 million vaccines could be made available immediately if Australia, Canada, China, the EU, Japan, UK, and US, redistributed their spare vaccines.
- Both states and pharmaceutical companies urgently increase global supply of Covid-19 vaccines through knowledge and technology transfer to local and regional manufacturers by joining initiatives such as the WTO's TRIPS Agreement Waiver, the WHO's mRNA vaccine Technology Transfer Hub and the Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

## THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

The World Health Organization and the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights expressed strong support for the 100 Day Countdown.

These calls were based on a report Amnesty International launched in September 2021 about vaccine inequality. Among our key findings:

- Pfizer and BioNTech had so far delivered nine times more vaccines to Sweden alone than to all low-income countries combined.
- Moderna had not yet delivered a single vaccine dose to a low-income country and had provided just 12% of its vaccines to lower-middle income countries.
- AstraZeneca delivered the most vaccines to lower income countries, sold at cost price, and had issued some voluntary licenses to other manufacturers. However, it has refused to share its knowledge and technology with WHO initiatives, and has opposed efforts that would allow for expanded manufacturing such as the WTO TRIPS Waiver.

In addition to these, it was found that as of late October 2021, 63% of people in high-income countries are fully vaccinated. But elsewhere it's a very different story:

- About half the global population has not received a single dose
- Just 1.4% of people in low-income countries, and 17.5% in lower-middle income countries, are fully vaccinated
- Only 2.8% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose, and 35.6% in lower-middle income countries. In high-income countries, it's 70.5%.

[\* Source: Our World in Data. All figures as of 21 October 2021]

## CONTINUED INACTION

However by the end of 2021, despite repeated calls from Amnesty International and others such as the World Health Organization to ensure at least 40% of people in low and lower-middle-income countries are vaccinated by the end of 2021, wealthy states and pharmaceutical companies have continued to ignore these pleas.

“Although the world has produced some 11 billion vaccines doses – only seven percent of people in low-income countries have received a single dose. Why is it that poorer countries are being denied access to life-saving medicine while rich countries sit on piles of unused stock?” said Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

“The emergence of the Omicron variant should serve as a wake-up call to the wealthy states and pharma companies that failed to address the pandemic at a global level. Failing to vaccinate everyone – no matter where they are from – leaves the entire global population vulnerable to new variants. The only way to break this vicious cycle is by ensuring everyone has access to vaccines.”

This year saw leaders around the world make numerous promises about sharing vaccines, yet time and time again they failed to honour them. In June, the G7 summit pledged to share 1 billion doses by the end of 2021, although reports suggest this target is yet to be met. In September, US President Joe Biden and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen committed to donating an extra 900 million doses to low and lower-middle income countries by September 2022. While this is a welcome move, poorer countries are in need of vaccines right now.

Pharmaceutical companies have also failed to rise to the challenge. US pharma giant Pfizer has made misleading statements that its “vaccine would be available to every patient, country and community that seeks access”, while it-

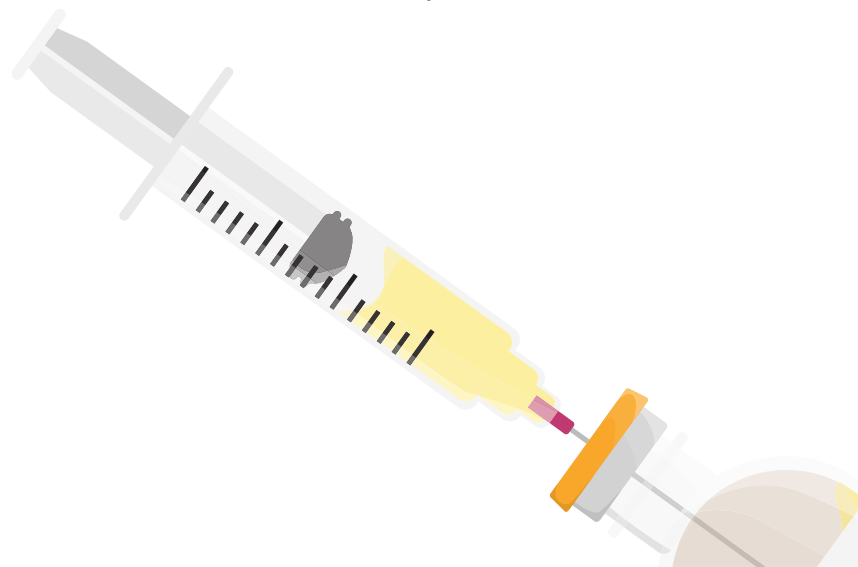
-has in fact delivered the large majority of its vaccines to high and upper-middle-income countries. Its rival, Moderna, was only able to develop its vaccine with the support of US government scientists and huge amounts of financial aid, but has also prioritised sales to wealthy countries. Both companies are still delivering less than 1% of their stock to low-income countries.

Moderna and Pfizer, along with other vaccine manufacturers, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson, have also, critically, refused to support measures that would temporarily lift intellectual property protections and share vaccine technology with other manufacturers around the world, in order to allow for a ramping up of global production.

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

“We hoped that international pressure would help wealthy states and big pharmaceutical companies to see sense, stop hoarding vaccines and share intellectual property rights, but greed got the better of them. Let’s hope their new year’s resolutions include making good on their promises and making sure everyone has the chance to get vaccinated.

“Many low-income countries are now struggling to deal with a deadly new variant while the majority of their populations haven’t even been vaccinated at all. Unless drastic action is taken now, Covid-19 will continue to wreak havoc for years to come and the key question now is, what will happen if large parts of the world remain unvaccinated? It has never been clearer that no one is safe until everyone is safe.”





# APPROACHING 2022 WITH LIGHT





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