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Yasaman and Monireh removed their headscarves and handed out flowers to passengers on a train. They were sentenced to 16 years.

In February 2023, Yasaman Aryani and her mother, Monireh Arabshahi, were released after spending nearly four years in prison in Iran. Their freedom would not have been possible without hundreds of thousands of people from across the world speaking out, maintaining pressure, and demanding justice.

The authorities targeted Yasaman and Monireh in 2019. On International Women's Day that year, Yasaman and Monireh took off their headscarves and

Iran: You helped win Yasaman and Monireh's freedom!

Mother and daughter were jailed for peacefully protesting Iran's forced veiling laws

walked through a women-only train carriage in Tehran to campaign against forced veiling. As they handed out white flowers to passengers, Yasaman spoke of her hopes for a future where all women would be free to choose what to wear. Afterwards, Yasaman and Monireh were arrested and sentenced to 16 years in prison for "inciting and facilitating corruption and prostitution" through promoting "unveiling".

In December 2019, Yasaman Aryani was one of the cases selected for Amnesty's Write for Rights letter-writing marathon. Yasaman's case became only the second in Write for Rights history to amass over one million actions.

The criminalization of women and girls for not wearing the veil is an extreme form of gender-based discrimination. In Iran, a growing movement against forced veiling laws has emerged, with women and girls performing courageous acts of defiance.

In September 2022, the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini at the hands of Iran's "morality police" sparked an unprecedented uprising that continues to this day. Mahsa died days after being arrested for not complying with discriminatory compulsory veiling laws. Since her death, the world has watched in horror as the Iranian authorities responded with violence and impunity—and watched in awe of the women and girls courageously demanding their human rights.

Thank you for calling for all prisoners of conscience to be free. More good news stories on page three.



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NEWS UPDATES

Amnesty's latest Annual Report documents the state of the world's human rights

Amnesty International's Annual Report 2022/23 was launched on March 27 and paints a disturbing picture of the global state of human rights today.

The report analyzes the 2022 human rights situation in 156 countries. Respect for human rights around the world deteriorated in 2022. Armed conflicts led to appalling tragedies. Amnesty's research indicates that more than half of the states Amnesty monitored used torture or other ill-treatment. Across the world, authorities continued their repression of universal freedoms.



Amnesty's South Asia Regional Director Yamini Mishra, Senior Director Deprose Muchena, and Nepal Section Director Nirajan Thapaliya at the launch of Amnesty's Annual Report 2022/23 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

ISHARA S. KODIKARA/PGetty Images

Economic crises led to rocketing price rises for food and fuel, and increased pressure on health and other social services. The most marginalized were hit the hardest, and inequality rose. Women, girls and LGBTI people faced gender-based violence and discrimination. Amnesty International's Report 2022/23 connects these issues at global and regional levels and can be read at amnesty.ca/annual-report

A powerful combination: Write for Rights and the Protect the Protest campaign



An Amnesty supporter in Amsterdam taking part in Write for Rights 2022.



Police confront protesters at a demonstration in Lima on January 24.

Launched in July 2022, Amnesty International's global campaign "Protect the Protest" is challenging attacks on peaceful protest, standing with those targeted, and supporting social movements pushing for human rights change.

Last December, the Protect the Protest campaign teamed up with Amnesty's annual letter-writing event Write for Rights. Held annually since 2001, Write for Rights sees people in more than 200 countries and territories take millions of actions in support of people whose human rights are under attack.

Write for Rights 2022 campaigned for 13 people who have paid a great price for speaking truth to power. They included a lawyer from Hong Kong jailed for encouraging people to light candles to commemorate the Tiananmen Square crackdown, an Iranian activist jailed and tortured for peacefully protesting against inequality and political repression, and three Zimbabwean activists abducted, beaten, sexually assaulted, and jailed.

Protect the Protest: Right to protest under attack in Peru

Amnesty International has deployed a crisis response team to investigate a grave crisis in Peru. A wave of protests that began in December 2022 has been met with a violent crackdown.

Thousands of people took to the streets of Lima and other cities following the arrest of then-President Castillo on December 7 on charges of rebellion. The protesters were met with lethal force by the police and the army. At least 46 demonstrators and one police officer died. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest, but in Peru those rights are under deadly attack.

Amnesty is demanding an immediate end to the excessive use of force by the police and army. There must be an independent investigation into allegations of human rights violations, and human rights must be at the heart of a peaceful solution to the crisis.

GOOD NEWS

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to human rights defenders from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine

In December 2022, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to human rights defenders and organizations from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine, for the vital role they play in defending human rights in their countries and the wider region.

It is also a message of solidarity. Since July 2021, one of the winners—Ales Bialiatski, a pioneer of human rights in Belarus since the 1980s—has been in prison for his peaceful human rights work documenting, among other things, the crackdown on dissent following the disputed 2020 presidential elections.

The other two winners were Memorial, one of the oldest Russian human rights organizations, which was shut down by the Russian authorities at the end of 2021, and the Center for Civil Liberties, which has been documenting Russian war crimes in Ukraine since 2014.



The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony was held in Oslo, Norway, on December 10.



For decades, journalist Maria Ressa has courageously held power to account.

Philippines: Maria Ressa acquitted on politically motivated charges

“Today, facts win, truth wins, justice wins,” prominent journalist and Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa said on January 18 after a court in the Philippines acquitted her of politically motivated tax charges.

Maria Ressa is a global icon for press freedom in the Philippines, and the co-founder of Rappler, an uncompromising news website. For more than three decades, she has worked to expose corruption and abuse of power, including reporting on human rights violations in former President Rodrigo Duterte’s so-called war on drugs.

Amnesty International is calling on the Philippines’ authorities to drop cyber libel and other additional charges looming over Ressa and Rappler, so that she can continue doing her job. Amnesty is also demanding that the authorities release other prominent critics such as human rights defender and former senator Leila de Lima.

Nicaragua: 222 political prisoners freed but then expelled to US

There was both good news and bad news in Nicaragua on February 9 when 222 political prisoners were freed, only to be stripped of their citizenship, and forcibly expelled to the United States. While it’s welcome news that they are no longer in prison under extreme conditions, it’s also outrageous that for the “crime” of demanding their human rights, they were labelled by their own government as “traitors” and deported.

There is a devastating human rights crisis in Nicaragua, which began with severe repression of protests in April 2018 and continues to this day. Freedom of expression remains restricted. Dozens of individuals are still in arbitrary detention. Tens of thousands of others have also been forced into exile by the government of President Daniel Ortega.

The international community must push for a Nicaragua in which justice and human rights are guaranteed for all.



Felix Madariaga was one of the freed prisoners reunited with his family.

No matter how long justice takes, Amnesty supporters never give up



When a person or community is in imminent danger of a human rights violation, Amnesty International mobilizes members of the Urgent Action Network to write messages to the authorities to prevent torture or ill treatment, to secure someone's release or save a life.

Often, a flood of messages quickly brings about a positive resolution to a case. However, when it takes longer for justice to prevail, Amnesty supporters don't stop campaigning. Instead, they continue to demand justice for as long as it takes, no matter if that's years or decades.

On these pages, we focus on some long-term cases of individuals who are wrongly imprisoned and whose freedom you continue to call for.

GAO ZHISHENG



CHINA

Gao Zhisheng is a prominent human rights lawyer. Over the years, he has been persecuted, kidnapped, and sentenced to prison. In August 2017, he went missing again after publishing a memoir detailing the torture and other ill-treatment he experienced while in detention from 2009 to 2014. He has not been seen since.

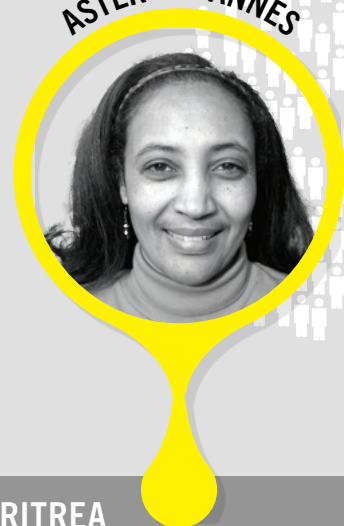
LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA



CUBA

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara is a Black Cuban artist, who became a leader of the San Isidro Movement, a diverse group of artists, journalists, and activists defending the right to freedom of expression. In 2021, Luis Manuel planned to attend a protest in his hometown, Havana, but he was arrested before he could. After an unfair trial, he was sentenced to five years in prison.

ASTER YOHANNES



ERITREA

No one has seen Aster Yohannes since her enforced disappearance almost 20 years ago. Aster had been studying in the USA when her husband, Petros Solomon (a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Maritime Resources), was detained. In December 2003, Aster returned to Eritrea after graduation to be with her children, only to be arrested at the airport.

ZEYNAB JALALIAN



IRAN

Zeynab Jalalian, an Iranian Kurdish woman, is one of the longest-serving women prisoners held for politically motivated reasons in Iran. Zeynab was arrested in March 2008, convicted on charges of “enmity against God”, and sentenced to death for her work focused on empowering women and girls from the oppressed Kurdish minority and Kurdish self-determination. Her death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment.

EMIR-USEIN KUKU



RUSSIA

Following Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014, all dissenting voices were subjected to persecution and harassment. Emir-Usein Kuku, a Crimean Tatar, investigated and denounced human rights violations, and in 2016, Russian security service officers broke into his house, handcuffed him, and took him to a detention centre. In November 2019, he was sentenced to 12 years in a high-security penal colony.

AHMED MANSOOR



UAE

Human rights defender Ahmed Mansoor was arrested in March 2017 and sentenced to 10 years in prison after being unfairly convicted of the offence of “insulting the status and prestige of the UAE and its symbols including its leaders”. In the years following his arrest, Mansoor has been held in solitary confinement in al-Sadr prison in Abu Dhabi, denied a bed, mattress, or pillow.

NASSER ZEFZAFI



**MOROCCO
AND WESTERN SAHARA**

Human Rights Defender Nasser Zefzafi is serving decades in prison for peacefully protesting. A believer in justice and equality, Nasser became a prominent figure in the Hirak El-Rif protest movement. Just for speaking out, he was arrested and tortured by police officers, and, in June 2018, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

KHALIL MA'TOUQ



SYRIA

Khalil Ma'touq, a human rights lawyer and the director of the Syrian Centre for Legal Studies and Research, went missing on October 2, 2012, as he was driving to work from his home in the suburbs of Damascus. There was a reported sighting of him in September 2013 at the notorious Military Security Branch 235 in Damascus. Since then, Khalil’s family has received no updates on his whereabouts.

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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Professor David Kaula: A legacy of scholarly excellence, appreciation for the arts, and a belief in equality, justice, and freedom of expression

We cannot predict the human rights challenges that arise in the future, but David Kaula's legacy gift will contribute towards a vision of a world where equality, justice and freedom of expression are upheld.

Amnesty International would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the dedicated support of the late David Kaula (1928 - 2021), Professor Emeritus of English. In addition to a gift in his will for human rights, David leaves behind a legacy of academic distinction, and a keen appreciation of the arts and cultures around the globe.

A respected scholar and conscientious university teacher in the United States and Canada, David's world view and intellect were shaped by his experiences both as a child and as a young adult. Growing up, he lived in Australia, New Zealand, Holland and the USA. Later, while conscripted in the US army, he was also exposed to the arts and culture in places such as Hong Kong, the Philippines and Japan. After retirement from a Canadian university in 1988, he continued his journey both as a student and a teacher. He was an avid traveller and skilled photographer,

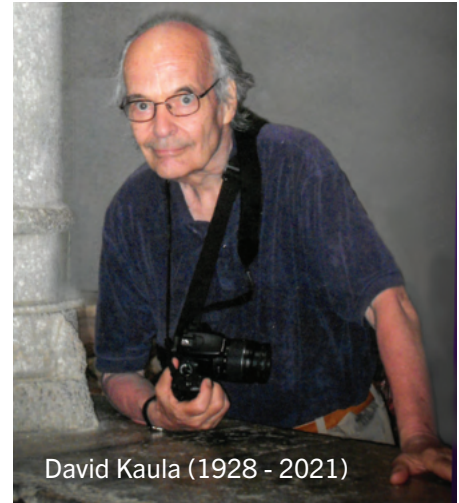
documenting trips to places in Central and South America, as well as Europe.

In the words of Elisabeth Hegenbart, his life partner of nearly three decades: "Despite his accomplishments as a teacher and scholar, and his active, wide-ranging intellectual life, David's demeanor remained modest."

David's legacy for human rights continues through his family's generosity, as Elisabeth has made donations to Amnesty International and two other charities which he supported. Amnesty would like to express our deepest thanks to Elisabeth for her kindness and generosity. We are touched and honoured that she chose to pay tribute to his memory by making an additional contribution and doubling the impact of the gift he left behind.

Impact beyond his lifetime

David made his values known through his legacy gift to Amnesty International and other causes. Through his gift, he



David Kaula (1928 - 2021)

joined others to help accomplish Amnesty International's campaign goals. While he could not have predicted the specific human rights challenges that would arise in the future, David's legacy gift is contributing towards a broader vision of a world where equality, justice and freedom of expression are upheld.

If you would like to find out more about how you can leave a lasting gift for human rights, please fill out the coupon attached, or contact Hala Al-Madi at halmadi@amnesty.ca, or 613-744-7667 ext 223. Or visit [amnesty.ca/legacy](https://www.amnesty.ca/legacy) for more information.



Meet Sara Aubé, newest member of Amnesty's Supporter Services team

Sara Aubé recently joined Amnesty International's Supporter Services team. Before joining Supporter Services,

Sara worked for five years in community fundraising where she fostered a deep understanding of the importance of non-profit membership and activism.

Sara has always had a keen interest in learning more about the human rights injustices that occur in Canada and globally. She had her first opportunity to engage in community fundraising for Amnesty International in 2018, which sparked her goal to one day be a part of the organization and to support Amnesty's work protecting human rights.

Working in Supporter Services at Amnesty International, Sara looks forward every day to connecting with the public, learning from Amnesty members, and hearing what inspired them to join Amnesty. Something that others may not know about Sara is that she loves to paint, but when she doesn't have time for painting, her creative outlet is cooking.

CANADA



SEBASTIEN ST-JEAN/AFP/Getty Images

People seeking asylum in Canada arrive at the Roxham Road border crossing in Quebec in March

Agreement to expand the Safe Third Country Agreement while it is still under review by Supreme Court is shameful

Amnesty International condemns the US and Canadian governments' recent agreement to expand the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) in response to border crossings at Roxham Road.

Since 2004, the STCA has prevented most people arriving at official crossings from claiming refugee protection in Canada. Instead, they are returned to the US and often detained in deplorable conditions, a violation of their human rights.

However, people who arrive in Canada at unofficial crossings

like Roxham Road can seek asylum in Canada. Many are fleeing wars, persecution, or torture. They are afraid the US will send them back to their country of origin. They are hopeful Canada will protect them.

Amnesty has been challenging the STCA in the courts since 2005, and the Supreme Court of Canada is expected to make a decision soon on whether the STCA is unconstitutional. It is unconscionable that the US and Canadian governments expanded the STCA while it is under review by the Supreme Court.

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Your gift will be matched by generous Amnesty International donors Alice and Grant Burton, founders of the Burton Human Rights Impact Fund, which has substantially increased Amnesty's capacity to respond quickly to emerging human rights challenges.

100% of your donation and 100% of the matched gift will go towards funding Amnesty's human rights work.

Your donation will help Amnesty bring together thousands of people to work on important issues like racial justice, gender rights, refugees and migrants, people on the move, youth leadership and activism programs.

Donate today at amnesty.ca/burtonfund

Amnesty podcast:

RIGHTS BACK AT YOU

Amnesty International examines anti-Black racism, policing, and surveillance in a new podcast, Rights Back at You. We delve into stories of resistance and meet the people making change unstoppable. From facial recognition and the right to protest to the war on drugs and defunding the police, this series passes the mic to people building a better future now. Together, we unravel the Canada you think you know and challenge the systems that hold back human rights.

amnesty.ca/rightsbackatyou



Mamadou Konaté, a migrant from Côte d'Ivoire who fears ill-treatment if he is deported from Canada, speaks outside the Quebec premier's office in Montreal at a June 2022 protest against immigration detention in provincial jails.

It's time to end immigration detention across Canada

Since the launch of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch's campaign to end immigration detention in provincial jails, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan have all committed to ending the practice.

But the fight is not over yet, and harms continue every single day in Canada's discriminatory and deadly immigration detention system, in which at least 17 people have died since 2000.

Tragically, another individual died in immigration detention on December 25, 2022. And a recent inquest into the 2015 death of Abdurahman Hassan, a refugee from Somalia, has brought to light shocking details including abusive conditions in provincial jails. A central recommendation of the inquest jury was to end the practice of immigration detention in provincial prisons.



José Francisco Calí Tzay

The Canadian government faced new calls to stop violating the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people when the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay, toured Canada for 10 days in March. Following the visit to Canada, Calí Tzay will make recommendations on how Canada

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples visits Canada

must uphold and advance the rights of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people.

In partnership with First Nations, Amnesty International prepared a written submission ahead of Calí Tzay's visit. The joint letter documented violations against Indigenous Peoples and their right to a healthy environment, the destruction of traditional ways of life, and non-adherence to Indigenous nations' right to free, prior, and informed consent on infrastructure projects affecting their territories.

"Almost two years after Parliament affirmed that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has

application in Canadian law, Canada has made only glacial progress on its promise to respect the rights of Indigenous people and communities," said Ketty Nivyabandi, Amnesty Canada's Secretary General. "The government cannot advance reconciliation and redress past harms while violating Indigenous Peoples' rights today. As always, the best time to change course is now."

Ketty noted that the UN Special Rapporteur's recommendations will have implications for everyone. "Indigenous Peoples are on the front lines of the struggle against human-caused climate change," she said. "The future of our planet depends on their voices being heard."