



MYANMAR

Rohingya people's
long struggle
for justice

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An activist outside the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands demonstrates in support of Rohingya people's human rights.

For years, Rohingya people have been demanding their human rights and Amnesty supporters have been speaking out in solidarity

On August 25, 2017, Myanmar's military began violent operations against the Rohingya population in northern Rakhine State. Whole villages were torched. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people fled to Bangladesh where they remain to this day.

The fifth anniversary of the Rohingya crisis underlines the urgent need to deliver justice to the victims and hold those responsible to account.

Despite the terrible crimes committed by Myanmar's military—including extrajudicial killings and sexual assaults—not a single high-ranking Myanmar military official has yet been prosecuted for the campaign of violence against the Rohingya people.

Five years on, Amnesty International supporters continue to show their solidarity with the Rohingya people by demanding that Bangladesh's government and the international community ensure the participation of Rohingya refugees in decisions that affect them.

The one million refugees living in Bangladesh are not able to return safely to their homes in Myanmar nor are they able to live peacefully in Bangladesh, where violence has been on the rise in refugee camps.

"We face enormous hardship in the refugee camps," San thai Shin, a Rohingya refugee, recently told Amnesty. "We have no security for our lives, no means for livelihood... We are neither safe in the refugee camps nor in Myanmar."

Progress towards justice

Some international justice efforts are moving forward. The Gambian government has filed a case with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against the Myanmar government on the basis of the Genocide Convention. In July 2022, the ICJ decided to continue proceedings despite Myanmar's objections. And a UN fact-finding mission on Myanmar has confirmed massive violations by Myanmar's military. The mission concluded that Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar's military chief and current ruler, and his top military leaders should be investigated and prosecuted for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Thank you for supporting the Rohingya people's struggle

GOOD NEWS

MEXICO

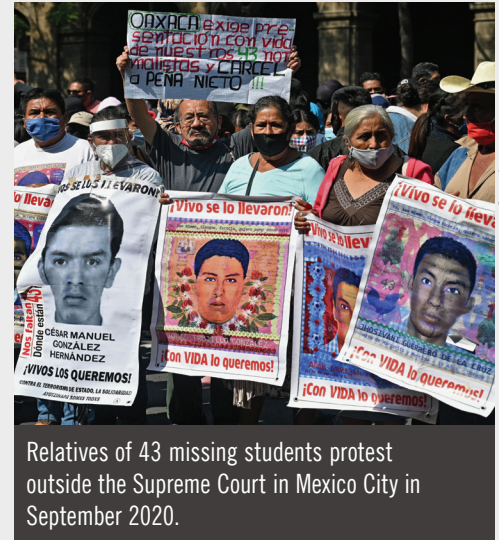
Progress in investigation into disappearance of 43 students

On September 26, 2014, Mexican security forces forcibly took away and disappeared 43 students. They were all young men studying at a teacher training college in Ayotzinapa. The students were never seen alive again.

Eight years later, there has been some significant progress towards ensuring justice in the case of the missing students. A recent devastating report from Mexico's Commission for Truth and Access to Justice has exposed how the

previous government of Enrique Peña Nieto pursued a deliberate policy of concealment and obstruction of justice.

The Truth Commission has concluded that the enforced disappearance of the young Ayotzinapa students was a state crime. Arrest warrants have been issued against the former Public Prosecutor, military commanders, and municipal and state police. This is an important advance in the search for truth and justice for this appalling crime.



Relatives of 43 missing students protest outside the Supreme Court in Mexico City in September 2020.

ALFREDO ESTRELLA/Amnesty Images

EGYPT

Human rights defender Ibrahim Ezz el-Din has been released

Ibrahim Ezz el-Din, a human rights defender and researcher at the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, was released on April 26 after almost three years in detention.

Ibrahim is a human rights researcher who had been documenting forced evictions. On June 11, 2019, Ibrahim was walking home when he was arrested by security officers. For several months, he was subjected to enforced disappearance. During that time, security forces tortured him and caused his health to deteriorate.

His release follows a global campaign for his freedom. Amnesty International supporters showed solidarity with Ibrahim and called on the Egyptian authorities to release him. In a special message of thanks to Amnesty members, Ibrahim said, "You were the rays of sun in pitch dark. Words of thanks cannot express my gratitude to all of you."



Ibrahim Ezz el-Din

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Tayebe Abbasi finally allowed to stay in Norway

In 2018, Amnesty International launched a campaign with Tayebe Abbasi, who was then 18 years old and facing deportation with her family to Afghanistan from Norway, where they had been living since 2012.

For 10 years, Tayebe lived in fear of being deported to a country she had never lived in. But in April 2022, Tayebe received the good news that her mother had finally received a residency permit giving her the right to stay with her children in Norway.

Tayebe shared a message of thanks to Amnesty members who had supported her and her family during their struggle. "Looking back in time makes me feel strong and powerful," she said. "I found all of those support cards that I got from different Amnesty members around the world ♥♥"



Tayebe Abbasi

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POLAND

Court rejects attempts to overturn acquittal of three women activists

It was a huge relief in January when a Polish court dismissed the prosecution’s appeal against the acquittal of three women human rights activists. The women had been tried on absurd charges of “offending religious beliefs” for distributing posters of the Virgin Mary with a halo in the rainbow colours of the LGBTI pride flag.

Elżbieta Podleśna, Joanna Gzyra-Iskandar and Anna Prus should never have been put on trial in the first place. It should not be a crime to distribute posters of the Virgin Mary wearing a

rainbow halo. More than a quarter of a million Amnesty supporters spoke out to demand that the authorities drop the charges against the women.

The women’s case became a symbol of Poland’s anti-human rights trends. Not only is space for free expression, activism and peaceful protest shrinking, but the climate of homophobia in Poland is worsening. This case has also shown how Poland’s criminal justice system is being used to target, intimidate, and harass human rights defenders.



The three activists holding solidarity messages from Amnesty supporters.

SOUTH SUDAN

Renewal of UN arms embargo is a positive step

The UN’s renewal in May 2022 of an arms embargo on South Sudan is a step in the right direction. The arms embargo is crucial to reducing the flow of weapons that have been used to commit war crimes, and human rights violations and abuses including conflict-related sexual violence.

Following an investigation into conflict-related sexual violence and impunity in South Sudan, Amnesty International researchers published a report in May 2022. The report revealed how conflict-related sexual violence is ongoing in the country, and how guns are being used to facilitate sexual violence. Amnesty’s report also exposed how South Sudan’s government has failed to implement critical parts of an action plan adopted in January 2021 that was meant to address conflict-related sexual violence.



STEFANIE GLINSKI/AFRC/Getty Images

A rebel soldier in the north of South Sudan.

DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION

Wins in Malaysia, Zambia, Papua New Guinea, and Kazakhstan



SADIA ASYRAF/AFRC/Getty Images

Amnesty representatives in Malaysia at the launch of a death penalty report in 2019.

Amnesty International’s ongoing campaign to abolish the death penalty in every country in the world has seen a number of recent successes.

Malaysia’s government announced in June that it would begin the process of abolishing the mandatory death sentence that currently exists for 11 offences. In May, on the day after the launch of Amnesty’s annual death penalty report, Zambia’s President announced that the country would begin the process of ending the death penalty.

Earlier in 2022, Papua New Guinea abandoned the death penalty. And in Kazakhstan, the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes came into force. More than two thirds of the world’s countries have now abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.

YOU'RE PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL PROTEST

Throughout history, protest has been a powerful tool for change. But today, around the world, state authorities are cracking down on protesters. These pages show just a few examples of countries where the right to protest is under threat. In response, Amnesty has launched a global campaign, "Protect the Protest", to challenge attacks on peaceful protest, stand with those targeted, and support social movements pushing for change. Further information on the new campaign can be found at [amnesty.ca](https://www.amnesty.ca)

USA

In New York City, facial recognition technology has been used at least 22,000 times since 2017. But in some instances, the technology has been 95% inaccurate. Even when it 'works', it can worsen discriminatory policing and threaten the right to protest, particularly of Black and minority communities who are at particular risk of being misidentified and falsely arrested.

Mexico

In 2019, Mexico's government created a new highly militarized police force called the National Guard. As of July 2020, the National Guard comprised approximately 90,000 troops, of whom more than 60,000 transferred from the Army and the Navy. The National Guard has been involved in the violent dispersal of protests and has faced numerous human rights complaints.

France

In February 2022, a collective of Muslim women soccer players called Les Hijabeuses planned to protest a policy that prohibits women who wear headscarves from participating in competitive matches. But the day before the protest, the police authorities banned it, saying they were concerned about public order and the safety of women protesters. The ban violated the government's obligation to protect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Chile

In recent years, protesters in Chile have demanded greater equality and human rights. The authorities responded with violent repression and criminalization of protesters, excessive use of force, and discriminatory and disproportionate use of pre-trial detention.

Nigeria

The abuses perpetrated by the Nigerian police's Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) gave rise in 2017 to a protest movement. SARS' abusive policing included extortion, rape, torture, and killings. After years of broken promises to rein in SARS, protests finally led to SARS being disbanded by the government.

CHILE

In Santiago, a riot police officer shoots at demonstrators during a protest against the government's economic policies.



JAVIER TORRES/AFP/Getty Images

RUSSIA

Riot police officers detain a protester during a rally demanding that independent and opposition candidates be allowed to run for office in local elections.



KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/AP Photo/Ungeles

Iran

The Iranian authorities made widespread use of lethal force in November 2019 during mass protests about an economic crisis. Hundreds of men, women, and children were killed by the security forces. Most were shot in the head or torso, indicating intent to kill. To this day, no official has been held accountable for the unlawful killings, and the militarized response to protests continued in 2021 and 2022.

Russia

In Russia, the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are severely restricted. The Russian authorities are employing ever harsher and unlawful police tactics and increasing the list and severity of sanctions against protesters. Recently, new laws have introduced heavy penalties for anyone daring to protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Turkey

Turkey

Police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse a peaceful gathering of hundreds of people, some in their 80s, known as "Saturday Mothers/People". The Mothers, other relatives and their supporters, have been holding peaceful weekly vigils in Istanbul since 1995 to protest against the enforced disappearance of their relatives and to demand truth and justice.

Russia

Hong Kong

Hong Kong

In June 2020, a new national security law came into force in Hong Kong. The impact was immediate and sweeping. The law is vague and broad and has been used arbitrarily to restrict the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and to repress dissent and political opposition.

TURKEY

Emine Ocak is detained by riot police in Istanbul during a demonstration to remember the disappearance of relatives in the 1980s and 1990s.



MEXICO

A member of the National Guard takes part in an operation in a neighbourhood of Guadalajara on December 2, 2021.



CANADA

GOOD NEWS: British Columbia to end immigration detention in provincial jails

On July 21, British Columbia became the first province in Canada to announce the end of its immigration detention agreement with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). This historic decision upholds the dignity and rights of people who come to Canada in search of safety or a better life. It is a major victory in the campaign to end immigration detention.

Amnesty's Secretary General Ketty Nivyabandi and Human Rights Watch representatives met with British Columbia's Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety Mike Farnworth in the fall of 2021 following the release of the organizations' joint report and the launch of the #WelcometoCanada campaign. Minister Farnworth personally committed to reviewing BC's immigration detention contract with CBSA. During this review, the province received submissions from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch alongside a BC-based coalition of social justice, academic and grassroots organizations, advocates with lived experience in immigration detention, as well as healthcare providers, lawyers and academic scholars, and religious leaders across Canada. In June, in a historic



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move, Vancouver City Council voted unanimously to urge the BC government to end immigration detention in the province's jails.

BC Corrections has given CBSA its 12-month written notice to terminate the immigration detention contract. After the notice period ends, the province will no longer lock up refugee claimants and migrants in British Columbia jails solely on immigration grounds.

BC's decision proves that change is possible and helps us to work harder for the end of this odious practice across Canada. A huge thank you to Amnesty supporters for backing the campaign. The #WelcometoCanada campaign has now expanded to Quebec and Nova Scotia, and together we are calling for the dignity and rights of refugees and migrants to be upheld in those provinces.

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RIGHTS BACK AT YOU



Amnesty launches new 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 connects the dots and 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. Visit [amnesty.ca/rightsbackatyou](https://www.amnesty.ca/rightsbackatyou) to sign up and be the first to know when an episode drops.

“ I choose to leave a gift in my Will to help ensure that those who might be forgotten by the world will always be remembered by Amnesty International



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So many people languishing in prison for the crime of speaking out for human rights may be abandoned by the world, but not by Amnesty.

Even as the world is preoccupied by the pandemic, Amnesty continues to remind us of ongoing grave human rights abuses, and what we can do about them. I appreciate the work that Amnesty is doing not only in Ukraine, where the eyes of the world are turned, but also other campaigns such as calls to end immigration detention across Canada.

Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.’s life and my own family’s activism, I always ask this question of myself: what are we here for? We are here to try to reduce the suffering of other people who live in horrific conditions. I have been blessed to live a comfortable life. It’s my responsibility to reduce the suffering of others.

I love my family deeply, and they will always be taken care of. I am also passionate about social

justice and environmental protection, and I want to see more progress continue in these areas well beyond my lifetime.

We still had the death penalty in Canada when I was a kid, so I’ve witnessed progress in my lifetime. And I’m confident we’ll make even more progress.

My hope is that my future gift will contribute towards protecting refugees and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and help build a world without torture, the death penalty or racist justice systems. Leaving a gift in my Will to Amnesty is one of the ways in which I choose to express and realise this hope, so that change continues to happen beyond my lifetime.

What would be the point of having money if I couldn’t give it away to help protect human rights?

Gideon Forman

Amnesty International legacy donor

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Hala Al-Madi, Amnesty’s legacy gift planner

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