

ANNUAL REVIEW 2008



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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Thank you for protecting human rights

Dear fellow Amnesty International member,

You and I and more than 2 million other people around the world have made a commitment to human rights by taking action to ensure that all people are treated with respect, dignity and justice.

As you will read in this 2008 Annual Review, in the past year you have supported Amnesty research missions to places like Chad, Zimbabwe and Nepal. You campaigned for the release of people like Aster Yohannes, an Eritrean woman who was jailed because of her husband's peaceful expression of his political beliefs. You also pressed the government of Nepal to protect women in rural areas who were defending women's rights and were threatened with rape and death because of their work.

You campaigned for the release of Moussa Kaka, a journalist from Niger who had been falsely imprisoned. After Kaka was freed in October 2008, he visited Amnesty's offices in Paris and said: "I received really a lot of letters from Amnesty International... I'm keeping them all. My thanks to all those who worked for my release!"

Our work in 2008 had its moments of triumph and its moments of disappointment. Nevertheless, our place is



Clockwise from top left: Brandon Yau, Judith Dueck, Alex Kennedy, Rosemary Ganley, David Kelleher, Michael Bossin, Brenda Dashney, George Harding, Serina Zapf, Derek Evans.

Amnesty International

to live in hope and to stand beside the courageous men and women who are on the front lines of the human rights struggle around the world.

Amnesty is fortunate to have a staff of dedicated and experienced human rights professionals who develop campaigns, conduct research missions, educate our activists and support our human rights partners. But it is Amnesty members like you that make all this work possible. Thank

you for your crucial support and for being part of our global movement for human rights.

Sincerely

David Kelleher
President

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(as at December 31, 2008)

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(as at December 31, 2008)

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Editor: David Griffiths; Contributors: Will Bryant, Rosemary Oliver, Nicole Reynolds, Alain Roy, Heather Warren; Layout: Joss MacLennan
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COVER PHOTO:
Rita Mahato
Chamar,
human rights
defender, in
Kathmandu,
Nepal, on
November

29, 2008 – International Day of
Women Human Rights Defenders.
See page 12 for Rita's story.



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You helped bring the human rights crisis in Sri Lanka to global attention

JS Tissainaygam is a well-known Sri Lankan journalist. Early in 2008, he was arrested while visiting two colleagues who were in jail in the capital Colombo.

The Sri Lankan authorities said they suspected Tissainaygam of being involved with an armed group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). But he was almost certainly detained for political reasons.

JS Tissainaygam writes for the *Sunday Times*, a popular Sri Lankan weekly newspaper, and much of his journalism is focused on human rights issues such as the desperate plight of civilians who have had to flee fighting

between government forces and the LTTE in the northeast of Sri Lanka.

Fighting raged throughout the year after a ceasefire between the government and the LTTE ended on January 2, 2008. The human rights situation quickly deteriorated. Human rights defenders and journalists were harassed, arrested, abducted and “disappeared”. By the end of the year, 300,000 civilians had been driven from their homes by fighting.

Urgent Action appeal

When news came through about JS Tissainaygam’s arrest, Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action

appeal and Amnesty members around the world wrote letters to the Sri Lankan authorities.

Amnesty members called for Tissainaygam’s release and demanded that he receive treatment for a serious eye condition that could have resulted in blindness. Although he remains in jail, Tissainaygam was visited by an eye specialist shortly after Amnesty’s appeal.

Amnesty members’ concern

We know from your emails and phone calls that Amnesty members in Canada were very concerned in 2008 about the grave situation in Sri Lanka.

Throughout the year, Amnesty issued a series of Urgent Action appeals to help protect individuals at risk of torture, ill-treatment, or enforced disappearance. Amnesty also pressed the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE to protect the human rights of ordinary people.

Events in Sri Lanka were barely reported by the world’s media in 2008 although crises elsewhere in the world – in the Congo, Sudan and Zimbabwe – were widely covered. Very little news emerged because the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE deliberately kept aid workers, journalists and human rights organizations out of the conflict region. An important and challenging part of Amnesty’s work in 2008 was bringing the human rights crisis in Sri Lanka to global attention.



Displaced civilians moving to safety in north-eastern Sri Lanka. The human rights situation in Sri Lanka was a priority for Amnesty International throughout 2008.

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FEBRUARY 2008



Peter Macfarland/Getty Images

A Kenyan boy looks out of a truck as he arrives in the town of Nakuru after fleeing his home. Ethnic violence early in 2008 made 300,000 people homeless.

Amnesty members organize International Day of Action for Kenya

On February 27, 2008, Amnesty International members around the world organized an International Day of Action for Kenya.

It was a day of solidarity with the people of Kenya after more than 1,000 people died in the violence that erupted between rival groups disputing the results of presidential elections.

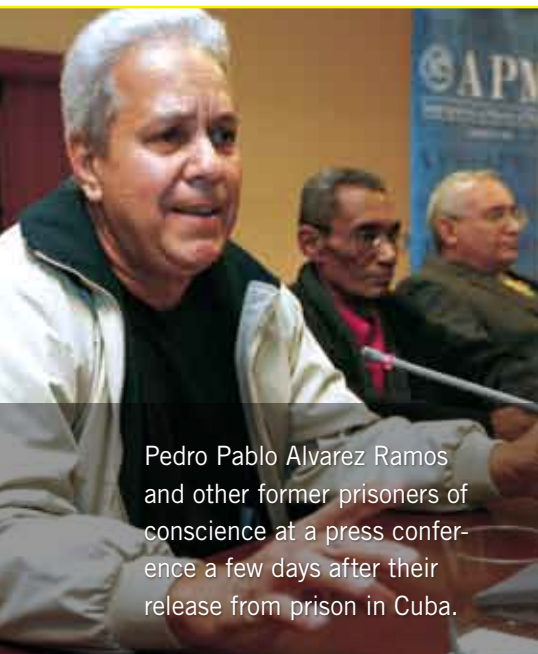
In Australia, Cote d'Ivoire, Canada,

Germany, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay, Amnesty members held vigils and protested against the violence.

The violence forced over 300,000 Kenyans from their homes. About 12,000 crossed into neighbouring Uganda as refugees. In the following days and weeks, Amnesty dispatched a research mission to Kenya, and the

Urgent Action Network mobilized to protect Kenyan human rights defenders who had received death threats.

On February 28, 2008 – the day following the International Day of Action – the Kenyan government and the main opposition party signed a power-sharing agreement. They also promised to promote reconciliation and healing in their country.



Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos and other former prisoners of conscience at a press conference a few days after their release from prison in Cuba.

JAVIER SORIANO/AF/Photo Images

CUBA: You won the release of prisoners of conscience

In February 2008 there was good news from Cuba when it was announced that four prisoners of conscience had been freed.

The four prisoners were reporters Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo and Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, librarian Omar Pernet Hernandez and trade unionist Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos. The Cuban government ordered them into exile and the four travelled to Spain with family members.

The men had been arrested along with dozens of others in 2003 after the government cracked down on people expressing their political views. Amnesty International members campaigned for their freedom.

February 2008 was also the month that Raúl Castro became Cuban president, replacing his brother Fidel. Amnesty International urged Cuba's new leader to seize the opportunity to improve human rights in his country.

Mokarrameh Ebrahimi saved from stoning in Iran

MARCH 2008

It is unbelievable, shocking even, that death by stoning is still happening anywhere in the world in the 21st century. But in several countries, this form of punishment is the law.

Iranian women's human rights defenders who work to end stoning are often harassed, arrested and jailed. For years Amnesty International members

have campaigned and stood alongside these brave women.

In March 2008, just days after International Women's Day, human rights defenders in Iran and their supporters around the world received some good news. Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, a woman sentenced to death by stoning, had been pardoned and

released from jail.

Mokarrameh Ebrahimi had been convicted of adultery along with her partner Ja'far Kiani with whom she had two children. Ja'far Kiani was stoned to death in July 2007. Ebrahimi had been kept in jail awaiting execution. With her in prison was her youngest child, a son named Ali.

A woman walks past an Iranian flag in downtown Tehran. Amnesty International members stand alongside women's rights activists in Iran who are working to end stoning and improve the human rights of women.



A worldwide campaign

Activists from Iran's *Stop Stoning Forever* organization led a campaign opposing Mokarrameh Ebrahimi's execution. In Iran and around the world there was a public outcry.

Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action in July 2007 and Amnesty members wrote to the head of Iran's judiciary and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

After Mokarrameh Ebrahimi was pardoned, Shadi Sadr, a lawyer and women's rights activist in Iran, said, "It was a rare ruling... you cannot deny the role of public opinion and domestic and international pressures."

Since the *Stop Stoning Forever* campaign was launched in 2006, nine people have been saved from stoning in Iran.

However, in 2008, at least five other women and two men were at risk of stoning. Their names were believed to be Khayrieh, Iran, Ashraf Kalhori, Kobra N, Gilan Mohammadi, Gholamali Eskandari, and Abdollah Farivar.

With your help, Amnesty International will continue to support organizations like *Stop Stoning Forever* that work to end stoning, and we will continue to campaign until this cruel and terrible form of punishment has been abolished once and for all.

APRIL 2008



María Eugenia Sampallo Barragán shows pictures of her parents who were arrested and “disappeared” in the late 1970s. As a baby María Eugenia was taken from her mother and illegally adopted.

JUAN VITTALI/AF/Getty Images

Justice for victims of human rights abuses in Argentina

María Eugenia Sampallo Barragán does not know her real birthday. All she knows is that she was born sometime in 1978 in a detention centre in Argentina.

María Eugenia’s parents – Mirta Mabel Barragan and Leonardo Ruben Sampallo – were kidnapped by the government in fall 1977. They were two of the 30,000 people who were “disappeared” by Argentina’s brutal military regime between 1976 and 1983.

Shortly after her birth, María Eugenia was taken from her mother and given to Osvaldo Rivas and María Cristina Gómez, a couple who raised her as their own daughter.

It was only in 2001 that María Eugenia discovered the truth about her past. This was after she had been traced by the *Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo*, an organization that tries to find people abducted as babies in the 1970s and ’80s and then given to

people who supported the government. María Eugenia took a DNA test and learned who her real parents were.

Human rights improvements

In the 1970s and ’80s, the human rights situation in Argentina was grave. At the time, Amnesty International campaigned to end widespread torture, free prisoners of conscience and protect human rights defenders in the country.

Although human rights have improved in Argentina in recent years, Amnesty’s work there goes on. Human rights defenders continue to be harassed from time to time, and Amnesty continues to issue Urgent Actions to protect their safety. Amnesty members have stood alongside the *Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo* since the organization was founded in 1977, often issuing Urgent Actions

when members of the organization were threatened.

The struggle for justice

Ensuring that there is justice for past human rights violations is an important and ongoing aspect of Amnesty’s work. In 2008, in Argentina, there were real signs of progress in this area.

In April 2008, a court charged seven military officers for illegally taking babies decades earlier while their mothers were in detention. In July 2008, Jorge Rafael Videla, former head of Argentina’s military junta, was charged with similar offences.

After discovering the truth about her past, María Eugenia Sampallo Barragán demanded the prosecution of the people who had raised her and who had been involved in taking her from her parents thirty years earlier. In April 2008, María Eugenia was in a Buenos Aires court to finally hear a judge sentence Osvaldo Rivas and María Cristina Gómez to eight and seven years’ imprisonment for their involvement in her kidnapping.

Your support allowed Amnesty to send research missions around the world

When the soldiers entered his home to take him away, Lol Mahamat Choua asked if he might first be allowed to put on his shoes. The leader of the soldiers refused.

“One of the soldiers kicked me in the face twice,” Choua said. “They led me to a vehicle and took me to a place no more than two or three minutes from my home. I was kept blindfolded.”

Lol Mahamat Choua related the details of his terrifying experience in May 2008 to Alex Neve, secretary general of Amnesty International in Canada. Alex was in Chad as part of an Amnesty mission.

Choua is a former president of Chad and an opposition politician. He was one of several opposition figures arrested in the capital N’Djamena late in the afternoon of February 3, 2008.

At that time, armed rebels had been attacking N’Djamena for several days and government forces were starting to regain control of the city. The authorities were taking the opportunity to round up many opponents whether or not they were actually connected with the rebels.

The search for truth

Amnesty acted immediately and Urgent Action appeals were sent to Amnesty members around the world. Choua was freed a few weeks later. Also released was another opposition figure – Ngarlely Yorongar – who was then given asylum in France.

However, a third opposition leader – Ibni Oumar Mahamat Saleh – has not been released and his whereabouts are unknown.

When Lol Mahamat Choua spoke

with Alex, he asked that Amnesty International do everything possible to find out what happened to Ibni Oumar Mahamat Saleh. Alex promised that we would do all we could.

After speaking with Choua, Alex raised Saleh’s case in meetings with Chadian government officials, and after the mission left Chad, Amnesty continued to push for the truth about Saleh’s disappearance.

Gratitude to Amnesty members

In the days and weeks following the rebel attack on N’Djamena, the government was responsible for numerous human rights abuses. Alex Neve and the Amnesty mission investigated cases of torture, harassment, and unlawful arrest. They also revealed how a senseless government campaign of home demolitions had affected more than 50,000 people.

Wherever they went in N’Djamena, the Amnesty team found that people, despite their fears, were taking action to defend their rights. Many were protesting and organizing crisis committees. Alex assured them all that Amnesty members in Canada and around the world would stand alongside them in their struggle.

Lol Mahamat Choua told Alex that humanity needs Amnesty International, and he expressed his gratitude to all Amnesty members. His words are a reminder of how much your support of Amnesty and your commitment to human rights are appreciated and depended upon by so many people around the world.



Alex Neve with Lol Mahamat Choua, a Chadian opposition leader. A former political prisoner, Choua told Alex of his gratitude to Amnesty members.

JUNE 2008

Prisoner of conscience Mutabar Tadzhibaeva released in Uzbekistan

On June 2, 2008, Uzbekistani prisoner of conscience Mutabar Tadzhibaeva was unexpectedly released from prison.

Mutabar Tadzhibaeva is a well-known human rights defender. She is chairwoman of the *Fierce Hearts Club* human rights organization, a 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and winner of the 2008 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders.

Mutabar Tadzhibaeva had been detained on October 7, 2005, as she was about to attend an international conference on human rights defenders in Dublin, Ireland. The following year, she was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Over the years, she has come under a lot of pressure from the authorities for her human rights activities. She had bravely spoken out about the government's crackdown

on human rights and the killing of hundreds of protestors in May 2005 in the city of Andizhan.

After her release from prison, Mutabar Tadzhibaeva was driven to her home and reunited with her family. Her eldest brother said that his sister looked pale and had lost weight, but that emotionally she was fine.

Tadzhibaeva expressed her thanks to her supporters, including Amnesty International members, who had campaigned for her release.

"I spent 900 days on a 'torture island'; 700 of those days I spent in solitary confinement," she revealed.

"I endured only because of the support of people who were concerned about my fate. Only this gave



Amnesty International

Mutabar Tadzhibaeva on a visit to Amnesty's Swedish office after her release from prison in Uzbekistan.

"I endured only because of the support of people who were concerned about my fate. Only this gave me strength."

— Mutabar Tadzhibaeva

me strength. I want to thank them for not forgetting those nearest and dearest to me – that knowledge helped me remain determined."



Taste for Justice launch at Caffe Mio, Ottawa, June 2008.

Amnesty International

Canadians share their Taste For Justice

Amnesty International's annual *Taste for Justice* event certainly lived up to its "foods, friends, freedom" slogan in 2008.

Across Canada, in restaurants, at barbecues, and around dining-room tables, Amnesty members, their friends and families sat down to enjoy good food and celebrate human rights.

Amnesty members hosted their own *Taste for Justice* events throughout the year, but restaurants participated and donated a percentage of their proceeds from June 1-15, 2008. By year-end, *Taste for Justice* 2008 had raised more than \$55,000 to help stop violence against women.

You helped Amnesty investigate human rights abuses in Zimbabwe

In July 2008, an Amnesty International research mission was sent to Zimbabwe to investigate the deteriorating human rights situation.

The Amnesty researchers conducted extensive interviews with people who had been victims of violence during Zimbabwe's presidential elections.

In the first round of the elections, Morgan Tsvangirai of the opposition MDC had beaten Robert Mugabe of ZANU-PF. However, increasing levels of violence led to Tsvangirai withdrawing before voting began for the second round.

The Amnesty researchers met people like Denga, a 74-year-old farmer from the Gokwe region of northwestern Zimbabwe.

Just weeks before meeting with Amnesty's researchers, Denga had been attacked by youths belonging to the local ZANU-PF party. He had been targeted solely because his

son was an activist for the opposition MDC party.

“I want my attackers to be brought to justice,” one elderly victim said. “That is my desire. The rule of law should prevail.”

“My daughter came and knocked at my door screaming that my son was being attacked by ZANU-PF youths,” Denga said. “I saw them assaulting my son and daughter. When I came out they ran away and I took my son into the house, but the youths came back and started stoning my house. I came out and started running, but I fell. They caught up with me and started to hit me with stones. My leg was fractured in three places. I am now

disabled and cannot work. Before the attack I could work in my fields and feed my family, as old as I am.”

Sadly, Denga's story was not an isolated incident. Wherever the Amnesty researchers travelled in Zimbabwe, they met many people who had experienced terrible violence at the hands of ZANU-PF party workers and “war veterans”.

But what was incredible and truly inspiring was that the victims were facing the future courageously and with an overwhelming desire for their perpetrators to be brought to justice.

“I want my attackers to be brought to justice,” one elderly victim said. “That is my desire. The rule of law should prevail.”

As an Amnesty International member, you are joining with people like Denga in demanding an end to human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. Like them, you are calling for a return to the rule of law.

Zimbabweans in Harare wait in line to vote on March 29, 2008. The election process was marred by violence.



AUGUST 2008



Chinese human rights defender Teng Biao joins Amnesty members in Berlin, Germany, in calling on China to improve human rights.

© Jens Liebohen/Amnesty International

You called on China to keep its human rights promises

The struggle to improve human rights in China continued in 2008. Indeed, 2008 was the culmination of several years of busy campaigning in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics, which were held in August 2008.

Amnesty International's *Keep The Promise China* campaign was focused on getting the Chinese authorities to keep the promises they had made when they were awarded the games in 2001.

At the time, the authorities had assured the world that they would make progress on human rights. But instead of progress there were crack-downs and persecution and seven

years of empty promises. People were thrown in jail for criticizing the government, for sending emails overseas and for protesting the forced demolitions of their homes.

Amnesty members were demanding respect for human rights so that China could be remembered as a great Olympics host rather than a country that tortures and silences its citizens.

In the second half of the year, the release of three prisoners of conscience – Bu Dongwei, Ye Guozhu and Mao Hengfeng – was welcome news. Amnesty members had campaigned for all of them to be freed.

SEPTEMBER 2008

GOOD NEWS FROM MYANMAR: U Win Tin released after 19 years

U Win Tin, Myanmar's longest-serving prisoner of conscience, was freed on September 23, 2008, and was reunited with his family after 19 years in jail.

The 78-year-old former newspaper editor was arrested on July 4, 1989, because of his peaceful opposition to the Myanmar military authorities. He was a senior leader in the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won the 1990 general election but was prevented from taking power by the military.

Amnesty International members around the world stood alongside U Win Tin during his long imprisonment. Amnesty members in Canada were moved to send many hundreds of letters and postcards to the authorities

in Myanmar calling for his release.

U Win Tin was the oldest political prisoner in Myanmar, and in recent years Amnesty members marked his birthday each year by focusing world attention on his case. It is heart-warming to know that he will celebrate his next birthday in freedom.

Although U Win Tin spent many years in jail in awful conditions, he remains firmly committed to his beliefs. "I will keep fighting until the emergence of democracy in this country," he told journalists after his release. He has reportedly resumed his work with the NLD and he has also visited the families of other political prisoners to offer his encouragement.



U Win Tin after his release from jail in Myanmar. Amnesty members had stood alongside him throughout his long imprisonment.

Hla Hla Hlay/AFP/Getty Images



A vigil at Parliament Hill, Ottawa, on October 4, 2008, to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Amnesty International

Amnesty members called for the protection of Indigenous women

Amnesty International members worked with Indigenous women's organizations to hold *Stolen Sisters* vigils in nearly 40 cities across Canada on October 4, 2008. The vigils highlighted the continuing need for a national action plan to protect Indigenous women and girls from violence. People attending the

vigils released balloons in memory of missing and murdered women. October 3, 2008, was the fourth anniversary of Amnesty's groundbreaking *Stolen Sisters* report that helped raise awareness of the high levels of violence experienced by Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

Former prisoner of conscience wins Maldives election



Mohamed Nasheed shakes hands with supporters the day after winning the Maldivian presidential election.

LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI/AFP/Getty Images

A former Amnesty International prisoner of conscience was elected president of the Maldives on October 29, 2008.

Mohamed Nasheed replaced President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom who had held on to power for 30 years. Nasheed spent many years in prison under the previous regime. Amnesty declared him a prisoner of conscience in 1991 after he was jailed for contributing to a political magazine.

Throughout the 1990s, he was harassed, arrested and detained on many occasions. On one occasion he was even banished to a remote island.

You helped protect the rights of a free press

"I'm here thanks to you," Moussa Kaka told Amnesty members and staff in Paris in fall 2008. "I received really a lot of letters from Amnesty International that my lawyer gave me, hundreds, maybe thousands... I'm keeping them all. My thanks to all those who worked for my release!"

Kaka is a journalist in Niger, Western Africa. He is director of a radio station and Niger correspondent of French broadcaster *Radio France Internationale*. He was arrested on September 20, 2007, and accused of plotting against the government.

Amnesty believed that he was a prisoner of conscience and was being held because of his activities as a journalist. An appeal court finally ordered his release in October 2008.



Supporters surround Moussa Kaka to congratulate him after he was freed from jail in Niger.

BOUREIMA HAMMA/AFP/Getty Images



Human rights defender Dev Kumari Mahara.



An Amnesty International Nepal youth member with human rights defender Rita Mahato at a Women Human Rights Defenders action in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 29, 2008.

You demanded protection for women human rights defenders

Defending human rights is never easy. Human rights defenders can face threats, intimidation and even death for the work they do. In the case of women who defend human rights, the risks can be even greater.

In November 2008, an Amnesty International research mission visited Nepal and spoke to a wide range of women human rights defenders. The women shared their stories of the challenges they face every day.

The Amnesty researchers were impressed by the tremendous courage of the women. The researchers also concluded that Nepal's government is utterly failing to protect women human rights defenders.

Rita Mahato is one such human rights defender. She lives in south-east Nepal, in the village of Bastipur where she works at the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC). Rita is a counsellor helping women who have been victims of violence.

In 2007, Rita and her colleague

Dev Kumari Mahara were threatened with rape and death if they did not leave their village. Their office was attacked by men who objected to WOREC's work to defend the rights of women. When staff went outside to confront the group, bricks were thrown at them.

Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action appeal, and Amnesty members wrote to the authorities demanding that they protect the two women.

In 2008, Amnesty issued another worldwide appeal after Rita received renewed threats and the police failed to investigate.

Despite the serious risks to their safety, Rita and Dev have refused to yield. They will not give up their work. Their bravery is inspiring.

Amnesty has been pressing Nepal's government to protect women human rights defenders working in rural areas, to establish shelters for women survivors of violence, and

"I will keep on fighting but I want [Nepal's lawmakers] to take up the rights of women. We are waiting for justice."

— Dev Kumari Mahara, human rights defender

ensure that people who commit crimes of violence against women are brought to justice.

Each year, the International Day of Women Human Rights Defenders is celebrated on November 29. It is a day for the world to show appreciation for these courageous people. But as an Amnesty member and a committed supporter of human rights, you can take pride in the fact that you are standing alongside these brave women every day of the year.

A global celebration of Human Rights

DECEMBER 2008

December 10, 2008, marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It was a very special International Human Rights Day.

Amnesty members and supporters around the world participated in the sixth annual *Write for Rights* write-a-thon. Together they wrote an impressive quarter of a million letters calling for the release of prisoners of conscience and demanding respect for human rights. In Canada alone, participants at more than 1,200 *Write for Rights* events wrote 34,000 letters.

The 60th anniversary of the UDHR was also marked by Amnesty's *Small Places* event, a global festival of concerts, plays and exhibitions to which countless musicians, actors and painters gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to the cause of human rights.



Students at Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic High School in Etobicoke, Ontario, participated in *Write for Rights* on December 10, 2008.

"In 1948, hardly a soul understood or took action to defend human rights," said Alex Neve, secretary general of Amnesty International in Canada. "In 2008, millions of women, men and young people on every continent do

so daily. The power of those voices, raised in unison through Amnesty International and other organizations, has confronted injustice and strengthened human rights protection in so many ways."

Aster Yohannes: Fifth anniversary of imprisonment

Many Amnesty International members are familiar with the case of Aster Yohannes, who was arrested in Eritrea in 2003 upon returning home after three years of study in the United States.

The mother of four children, Aster was most likely arrested because her husband Petros Solomon had been jailed for peacefully expressing his political beliefs.

Aster has never been charged and is not allowed to communicate with the outside world. December 11, 2008, marked the fifth anniversary of her

detention.

The case of Aster Yohannes is at the very heart of what Amnesty International's 2.2 million members around the world believe in: that hope and truth will eventually overcome cruelty and injustice.

Despite the length of time that Aster has been in jail, despite the difficulties in getting updates on her condition or even her whereabouts, we will not give up hope that someday soon justice will be done and Aster Yohannes will again be able to enjoy her freedom.



Amnesty members continue to call for Aster Yohannes to be freed.

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In the meantime we continue to campaign on her behalf. Once again we call on the Eritrean authorities to release her.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amnesty International Canadian Section (English Speaking)

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As at September 30, 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets	2,127,298	1,578,863
Long-term investments	–	76,539
Capital and deferred assets	2,322,318	2,446,806
	<u>4,449,616</u>	<u>4,102,208</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	815,278	656,404
Long-term debt and obligation under capital lease	664,968	745,819
	<u>1,480,246</u>	<u>1,402,223</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>2,969,370</u>	<u>2,699,985</u>
Net assets are comprised of:		
General fund	1,755,852	1,789,318
Internally restricted funds	938,851	640,832
Externally restricted funds	274,667	269,835
	<u>2,969,370</u>	<u>2,699,985</u>

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expense

For the year ended September 30, 2008

	General Fund 2008	Internally Restricted Funds 2008	Total Internally Restricted Funds 2008	Externally Restricted Funds 2008	Total 2008	Total 2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE						
Resource development revenue	11,179,622	–	11,179,622	22,109	11,201,731	10,624,135
Less: resource development expense	(3,292,838)	–	(3,292,838)	(14,745)	(3,307,583)	(3,292,277)
	<u>7,886,784</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>7,886,784</u>	<u>7,364</u>	<u>7,894,148</u>	<u>7,331,858</u>
Groups/networks	93,535	5,181	98,716	5,513	104,229	118,486
Publication sales	4,368	–	4,368	–	4,368	11,666
Investments	30,483	–	30,483	12,165	42,648	38,528
Miscellaneous	62,579	1,310	63,889	–	63,889	98,771
	<u>8,077,749</u>	<u>6,491</u>	<u>8,084,240</u>	<u>25,042</u>	<u>8,109,282</u>	<u>7,599,309</u>
EXPENSE						
Action Strategies	2,060,232	9,801	2,070,033	20,210	2,090,243	2,098,713
Grassroots Activism	2,127,430	10,685	2,138,115	–	2,138,115	2,042,824
Communications and Public Awareness	2,680,125	50,857	2,730,982	–	2,730,982	2,554,537
Organization	855,428	25,129	880,557	–	880,557	740,910
	<u>7,723,215</u>	<u>96,472</u>	<u>7,819,687</u>	<u>20,210</u>	<u>7,839,897</u>	<u>7,436,984</u>
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR	<u>354,534</u>	<u>(89,981)</u>	<u>264,553</u>	<u>4,832</u>	<u>269,385</u>	<u>162,325</u>



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Amnesty International members hold a “Day for Darfur” action at the Human Rights Esplanade beside the Eiffel Tower, Paris, France, on September 16, 2008. Amnesty members around the world continued to demand protection for the people of Darfur, Sudan, throughout 2008.

Amnesty International’s mission

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Our vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty International’s mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses

of these rights.

Amnesty International seeks to expose human rights abuses accurately and quickly. We systematically and independently investigate the facts of individual cases and patterns of human rights abuses. These findings are publicized, and members, supporters and staff then mobilize persistent public pressure on governments, armed political groups, companies and others to prevent and stop these violations.

Amnesty International promotes public awareness and understanding of the full range of human rights, and we work with a global community of organizations to ensure broad support and respect for all human rights.

Amnesty International is governed by our members; we are independent of all governments, political persuasions and religious creeds. We are funded by our members and donors, and no funds are sought or accepted from governments.

Bequests keep the candle bright



Amnesty International gratefully acknowledges the estate gifts received during 2008 from the following donors. We honour the memory of these dedicated Amnesty supporters. Their final gifts serve as a lasting legacy of their commitment to protecting human rights for everyone.

- Bette Hall Adlington
- Jack W. Allen
- Barbara Armitage
- Eleanor Butcher
- Florence Cox
- Dr Mary Cronin
- Bernard Roy Evans
- Herta Maria Freyberg
- Doris Gammon
- Muriel Gilchrist
- Patricia Graham
- Margaret Anna Hall
- Paul Hord
- Daisy Ireland
- Alan Mackenzie Keith
- Mary McColough
- Norma Naldony
- Catherine Pile
- Mary Polovnikoff
- Lillian Russell
- Donald David Sacks
- Issac Shulman
- Esther Josephine Stemp
- Lillian Stewart

A tribute

In 2008, Amnesty International in Canada received a very moving bequest. This anonymous bequest was made in the memory of three family members who perished during the Second World War in the Auschwitz death camp and another who survived the Terezin concentration camp. The bequest came from wartime reparation funds, and the family “could not imagine a better place for this money to go than to Amnesty, an organization that is very close to all our hearts.”

- Pauline Topp
- Evalyn Neysa Turner
- Jeanine Carol Vogan
- Charles Edward Watters
- Pearl Wilson
- Anthony Wright

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Roma children in Zilina, Slovakia, take part in an Amnesty International event calling for improved human rights in China before the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

