

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



2011

ANNUAL REPORT

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
CANADIAN SECTION (ENGLISH SPEAKING)**

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

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Among the many triumphs for human rights supporters in 2010 was the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's pro-democracy leader. After spending 15 of the past 21 years unjustly held under house arrest, she was finally freed on November 13, 2010. Amnesty members continued to work for the freedom of 2,200 political prisoners still in jail in Myanmar.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

Amnesty International members in Canada can be proud that 2010 was a year full of excellent human rights work. We spoke out with messages of justice and solidarity through events like *Write for Rights*, our G20 actions, and the photo petition for the Lubicon Cree. We raised the awareness and funds that sustain our work through events like *Taste for Justice*, film festivals and *Cities for Life*. We saw exciting successes like the release of Raúl Hernández in Mexico, the halting of forced evictions in Zimbabwe, and Canada's endorsement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. And we nurtured leadership and activist capacity through initiatives like the Human Rights College, the expansion of our country coordination program, and the launch of new leadership development and membership revitalization projects.

It was also a year of significant internal change for Amnesty. At the international level we welcomed our new Secretary General, Salil Shetty. We began developing new global governance, management and financial systems that will have significant impacts across the organization in the coming years. We developed a new International Youth Strategy and International Growth Strategy, and began more detailed planning for our work in Brazil, Russia, India, China and parts of Africa. We conducted a review of working with partners, and began developing a new Gender Action Plan. Our Branch has been an active participant in developing, informing, assessing and implementing these changes, with many of our staff and members providing leadership aimed at building a stronger and more effective Amnesty.

Here in Canada, we continued to experience the financial impacts of the recession, and we made the difficult decision to reduce our staff. In the spirit of continuing to ensure the effective use of our resources, we began developing new impact assessment mechanisms and also welcomed Matt Beard (formerly of Amnesty Germany, UK and Australia) as our new Director of Communications and Marketing. Finally, we developed and passed a new six-year Branch Plan through a process that saw outstanding participation from members and staff across the country.

As we mark Amnesty's 50th birthday we should celebrate our successes to this point; but we must also consider how to best prepare ourselves for the challenges to come. We have so much to be proud of; together we have changed the world beyond what our first members could have imagined. As this report goes to print against the backdrop of countless indignities still faced by those living without basic resources, freedom and justice, let us find in our celebration renewed dedication to shining our light on the struggles that remain.



Sarah Beamish
President

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

This past year, we stood with and worked with people in their struggles for dignity, rights and justice. In our global *Demand Dignity* campaign we moved forward our campaign to make the struggle against poverty a struggle for human rights. Focusing on slums in Kenya, isolated villages in Peru and First Nations communities within Canada, we stood with women who face alarming risks of dying while giving birth, and with young people struggling against great odds just to have clean water and safe housing.

We took the simple but powerful message into the corridors of power at the United Nations that we will only overcome poverty through stronger human rights protection. We demanded that world leaders gathered for a ten-year review of the UN's Millennium Development Goals take human rights seriously.

In solidarity with many people trapped in the midst of conflict and violence or who are rebuilding in the aftermath of war, we pressed for an end to many situations of long-term human rights abuse—in Egypt, Zimbabwe, Iran and Israel; and, in our own hemisphere, in Colombia, Haiti and Mexico.

A CANADIAN VOICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Standing together, we called for stronger human rights protection in Canada, and for Canada to do more to protect human rights globally. Although Parliamentarians voted down by a small margin a Bill that would have established a human rights framework to govern the overseas operations of Canadian oil, gas and mining companies, we are left with no doubt that we have momentum to press for greater human rights protections in trading relationships and business practices.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Canada's aggressive opposition to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples shifted in the fall when the government finally announced its support for the Declaration. While this is an important step forward on the world stage, there are many pressing concerns about Indigenous peoples' rights at home.

- We stood with the Lubicon Cree of northern Alberta, whose land rights have been trammelled for decades, in events across the country, meetings in oil company boardrooms, and campaigns on the web that took their story to the world.
- Once again we stood with Indigenous women across Canada, insisting that the alarming levels of violence, killing and discrimination they face daily must come to an end. More people turned out for nationwide vigils in October than ever before.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION TAKES A HIT

It was not a banner year for freedom of expression in Canada.

- As we came together for our Annual General Meeting, free expression came under siege in Toronto when more than 1,000 people were arrested during the G8 and G20 protests. Most of those who were arrested were simply involved in peaceful protest. We immediately demanded a public inquiry into this assault on human rights.

- Free expression has come under siege in many other ways as well. Many organizations have had their funding slashed, often because the government disagrees with their advocacy on issues like the rights of Palestinians, women's equality and international development.

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

It has been an up and down year for refugee protection in Canada, as the government pushed ahead with two new pieces of legislation.

- In the spring, a longstanding demand of Amnesty's was finally addressed—introduction of an appeal process in the refugee determination system. This came, however, in the context of legislation that also raised a number of concerns.
- Then in the fall, the government proposed legislation which clearly violates Canada's human rights obligations—to lock up individuals who arrive through a smuggler for a minimum of one year and without access to a detention review.

STANDING AGAINST TORTURE

We continue to stand against torture. Working closely with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, we have been at the heart of efforts to ensure accountability for Canada's approach to handling prisoners picked up by Canadian Forces on the battlefield in Afghanistan. These prisoners continue to face a serious risk of torture once transferred into Afghan custody.

Omar Khadr, who has been held at Guantánamo Bay since 2002, was sentenced to an eight-year prison term following a last-minute plea deal. The trial did not recognize his status as a child soldier, nor take into consideration his disturbing allegations of torture and ill-treatment at the hands of his US captors. We were at Guantánamo Bay. We were before the Supreme Court of Canada. We wrote letters and sent petitions to the Canadian and US governments. And we will continue to do so.

MAKING REAL CHANGE

The last months of 2010 highlighted the inspirational struggles of two of the world's most courageous human rights defenders—Aung San Suu Kyi's release from imprisonment and the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chinese prisoner of conscience Liu Xiaobo. Amnesty has long stood with these two human rights heroes and will continue to do so.

At the time of writing we are witnessing across North Africa and the Middle East waves of popular protest on a daily basis undertaken by people exercising their rights of expression and assembly, and demanding change. We are witnessing an astonishing movement with enormous consequences for human rights across a large number of countries and the world.

Just as we did in 2010, in the upcoming year we will stand with the courageous women, men and young people whose rights are on the line. In solidarity with them, we write our letters and circulate our appeals and petitions—on websites, in schools and shopping malls. We speak out in the media, on Facebook and through Twitter, and attend and organize demonstrations, film festivals, write-a-thons and concerts.

Our work is that of standing with others—across our country and world—absolutely firm in our commitment not to stop until real differences in people's lives have been achieved.



Alex Neve, Secretary General



Bob Goodfellow, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The work of the Executive Committee (EC) in the period of March 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 was carried out in the context of ongoing financial challenges for the Branch. Traditionally, the last quarter of the calendar year is our strongest in terms of fundraising. This year, because of changes to our fiscal year, what used to be our first quarter has now become our last quarter, leading to a fair degree of uncertainty as to whether we would meet our budget targets. In the end, in spite of an outstanding effort (again!) by our fundraising team, our revenue ended up approximately \$500,000 under budget.

What this environment of fiscal uncertainty means is very careful monitoring by the EC of the Branch's financial health, guided by the Finance and Audit Committee, and a cautious approach to future spending. As was the case last year, also in the background was the prospect of significantly increased contributions to the international movement. The EC devoted a considerable amount of time this past year to this and to other international developments, as 2011 is an International Council Meeting (ICM) year.

The focus on international issues also meant a very busy year for the International Strategy Committee and, as the year progressed, the ICM Preparatory Committee. In regard to the 2011 ICM, the EC submitted a resolution calling for changes to the way in which election results are announced at ICMs. This resolution will go to our Branch's 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for ratification.

After successfully gaining approval of a new Branch Plan at the 2010 AGM, the EC's Planning and Evaluation Committee began work on identifying key performance indicators by which to meaningfully measure progress on the Plan's goals.

Other initiatives by the EC this past year included: the formation of a Gender Strategy and Steering Committee, the aim of which is to realize the Branch's gender mainstreaming objectives; the establishment of a group focusing on membership revitalization; and a project to update the Branch Policy Manual, a long overdue project spearheaded by George Harding. On an extremely cold weekend in January, several EC members also participated in a "think-tank retreat" concerning leadership.

Ongoing committee work included special attention to the 2011 AGM, which is being jointly organized with the francophone branch, and which has required some flexibility and creativity on the part of the AGM Planning Committee. The working group formerly known as the "Biennial General Meeting Committee", while still in search of a new name, continued its work on how we meet and how we make decisions. By year's end, it had developed a "road map" setting out proposals for the future regarding these matters.

This past year saw the Membership Engagement Committee work on strengthening ties between the EC and intermediate structures (the fieldworkers and coordinators) and ensuring as much as possible an EC presence at regional meetings. The Nominations Committee, as always, was dedicated to bringing forward a diverse and committed group of candidates for this year's EC election.

Much of the EC's work is done in collaboration with senior staff and, in many instances, other staff as well. Their invaluable contribution is deeply appreciated.

The Executive Committee of 2010/11 performed its duties in an atmosphere of good will and mutual respect. Collectively we learned that while governance can be a challenge in tough economic times, it can also be a very fulfilling experience when shared by a team of dedicated individuals.



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In September 2010, an Amnesty International team of runners took part in *OutRun Poverty*, a 5k fun run to raise awareness about the Millennium Development Goals. The event was organized in Ottawa by Make Poverty History.

BRANCH AT A GLANCE

GROUPS AND ACTION CIRCLES

115 in 2004 **103** in 2010

YOUTH GROUPS

405 in 2004 **500** in 2010

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

52,312 in 2004 **54,535** in 2010

MONTHLY DONORS

25,322 in 2004 **29,666** in 2010

WEBSITE VISITS

630,000 in 2004 **1,400,000** in 2010

NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	MEMBERS
British Columbia	13,137
Alberta	6,409
Saskatchewan	1,364
Manitoba	1,576
Ontario	24,963
Quebec	3,229
New Brunswick	657
Nova Scotia	1,950
Prince Edward Island	150
Newfoundland and Labrador	413
Yukon	144
Northwest Territories	115
Nunavut	23
Foreign addresses/unknown	405

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS GLOBALLY

GOAL 1: TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS WORLDWIDE

“THIS IS MY COMMUNITY AND I’M TAKING ACTION.”

—Flash-mob participant, Winnipeg, Manitoba

On three occasions in September and October 2010, Amnesty International members were among dozens of activists in Winnipeg, Manitoba, who gathered to form a series of flash mobs in public locations in the city to raise awareness about missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

The activists created a human billboard by wearing T-shirts that spelled out “No More Stolen Sisters” in large letters. The T-shirts also included 19 key messages designed to educate the public about this important issue.

This was coordinated, high-impact activism. Other volunteers moved amongst onlookers, distributing action-pledge cards and challenging them to take concrete action to stop the violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- International Women’s Day on March 8, 2010, was celebrated in communities across Canada. Amnesty members in Halifax held a *Taste for Justice* potluck event, while Amnesty’s Action Network for Women’s Human Rights in Toronto joined forces with the Human Rights for Iran action circle to take part in an annual march. They handed out Amnesty materials to hundreds of people and collected over 600 signatures on postcards and petitions. In Vancouver, Amnesty members hosted *Women’s Voices at the Table*, a rally and conference calling for the inclusion of women in decision-making at the G8/G20 summits. The Ottawa Amnesty Gender Rights Network participated in *I’m Still Not a Feminist, but...*, a coalition event held at the National Library and Archives. The event included the annual *Femmy* awards that recognize women’s rights activists in the national capital region. Amnesty members also hosted events in Orillia, Kingston, and Barrie.
- In May 2010, Amnesty members in Ottawa held a public meeting with Celine Narmadji, a women’s human rights defender from Chad. Celine is a courageous human rights activist who provides support for victims of violence. She gave a compelling report of the situation in Chad and her work to protect women’s rights.
- Amnesty activists were vocal in condemning the Iranian authorities’ treatment of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, who was convicted in May 2006 of having an “illicit relationship” with two men, and received 99 lashes as her sentence. Despite this, she was then also convicted of “adultery while being married”, which she has denied, and sentenced to death by stoning. In July 2010, the government of Iran stated that Ms. Ashtiani would not be stoned.
- In October 2010, Canada’s federal government announced its National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Amnesty International had been pressing Canada to develop an action plan since the passing of a United Nations Security Council resolution in 2000.



Celine Narmadji, a women's human rights defender from Chad, visited Canada in May 2010 and met with Amnesty members. Celine provides support for victims of violence in Chad.



Chef Dan MacDonald and owners Josephine and Shawn Anderson of Kameleon restaurant in Quadra Island, British Columbia, participated in Taste for Justice 2010 and raised money for Amnesty International's human rights work to protect and promote women's human rights.

- On October 4, 2010, over 80 communities across Canada joined Amnesty International, the Native Women's Association of Canada, KAIROS, and other organizations to honour missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. In Prince George, British Columbia, 50 people attended a vigil and displayed placards with the names of 18 women who have gone missing or been murdered on the "Highway of Tears", the stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway that runs between Prince George and Prince Rupert. In Ottawa, hundreds of people gathered on Parliament Hill where they heard family members of the victims sharing their stories of loss. Toronto's *Sisters in Spirit* vigil attracted over 300 people to Allan Gardens. In Halifax, people gathered at the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre to hear moving stories from friends and family of missing women. In Hamilton, around 100 participants gathered at the Hamilton Police Service and the Native Women's Center to remember missing women. A Sisters in Spirit event and candlelight vigil titled "Reclaiming Space and Spirit" was held in Regina. Amnesty members in Lethbridge participated in a candlelight vigil where Beverley Jacobs, past-president of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), was a guest speaker.
- In November, Canada's federal government announced a package of initiatives to address violence against Indigenous women. However, the measures fell short of what is needed to uphold the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis women to live in safety. Amnesty International raised concerns that funding for NWAC and other Aboriginal organizations remained uncertain. NWAC's *Sisters in Spirit* initiative has been crucial for research and advocacy on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women.
- *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence* is an international campaign which emphasizes that violence against women is a human rights issue. The campaign begins each year on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs through to December 10, International Human Rights Day. In 2010, Amnesty members took action to protect the rights of women and girls in Nicaragua, Indonesia, Swaziland, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH INSPIRATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

**GOAL 2:
TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY, LEGITIMACY AND PUBLIC PROFILE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE WHO ARE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED**

**“WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK SO THAT THEY GIVE US INFRASTRUCTURE, SCHOOLS,
MEDICAL CLINICS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AND I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK.”**

—Indigenous rights activist and former prisoner of conscience Raúl Hernández

After serving two years in Guerrero state prison in Mexico, Raúl Hernández was finally released on August 27, 2010. Hernández smiled broadly as he walked out of the jail where he had been unjustly imprisoned on false charges of murdering an alleged army informant. The Guerrero State judge who ordered Hernández’s release stated that Hernández “is neither guilty nor judicially responsible for the murder.”

Amnesty International believes the local authorities falsely accused Hernández because of his activities promoting Indigenous rights with the Me’phaa Indigenous Peoples’ Organization. Amnesty members in Canada supported Hernández in his long struggle for justice, pressing the Mexican authorities to release him and funding some of Amnesty Mexico’s activism work on Hernández’s case. Amnesty members took further action when Hernández was threatened after his release.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- In July 2010, members in Canada took action on behalf of human rights defenders in Colombia who were experiencing threats and attacks. Our Branch’s focus was on pressing the Canadian government to call for justice and protection. The strategy was effective. One activist received a phone call to her home from a top Canadian official, just hours after she sent a message of concern. Other activists heard back from the Canadian ambassador to Colombia stating that Canada was responding without delay.
- Amnesty activists were tireless in contacting their Members of Parliament to express concern about serious human rights abuses in Colombia. Throughout spring 2010, opposition MPs repeatedly referred to Amnesty reports in the House of Commons during debates on a free-trade agreement between Canada and Colombia. Amnesty pressed both opposition and government MPs for an independent human rights impact assessment of the free-trade agreement. When the free-trade agreement was passed in June, it had been amended to include a mandatory annual report to Parliament about human rights impacts. While it does not go as far as we demanded, this important precedent could have a lasting impact on future international agreements.
- Amid ongoing threats and attacks, inhabitants of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in northwestern Colombia courageously marched through Colombia’s capital Bogotá in defence of their rights in November 2010. Amnesty members created a unique way to show their support. Activists traced their feet and added the message “I walk with you for

justice and human rights”. Hundreds of colourful footprints were delivered to Colombia in time to be carried on the march.

- Branch representatives met Canadian officials and expressed concern about the growing threats and attacks against Mexican human rights defenders. Especially at risk are human rights defenders working in isolated rural areas.
- On the occasion of a state visit to Canada in May 2010 by Mexico’s President Calderón, Amnesty Canada and Amnesty Mexico sent an open letter to both governments calling for action to confront a massive increase in grave abuses by Mexican state security forces in the context of its “war on drugs”.

“I WAS 13... [WHEN] I RECEIVED COMBAT TRAINING. THERE WERE MANY OTHER YOUNG BOYS AMONG US. I WAS TAKEN INTO THE BUSH AND THEN WE HEADED BACK TO CHAD TO FIGHT AGAINST THE CHADIAN NATIONAL ARMY.”

—Salama, former child soldier

ALEX NEVE’S CHAD MISSION

For two weeks in May and June 2010, Alex Neve was in eastern Chad, near the border with Darfur, as part of an Amnesty International research mission. It was Alex’s fourth visit to the country since 2006.

A main focus of the mission was child soldiers. All armies, militias and armed opposition groups in the region have thousands of young children in their ranks and regularly send them out onto the battlefield.

The Amnesty researchers interviewed dozens of former child soldiers and uncovered evidence that boys as young as 13 have been recruited to fight.

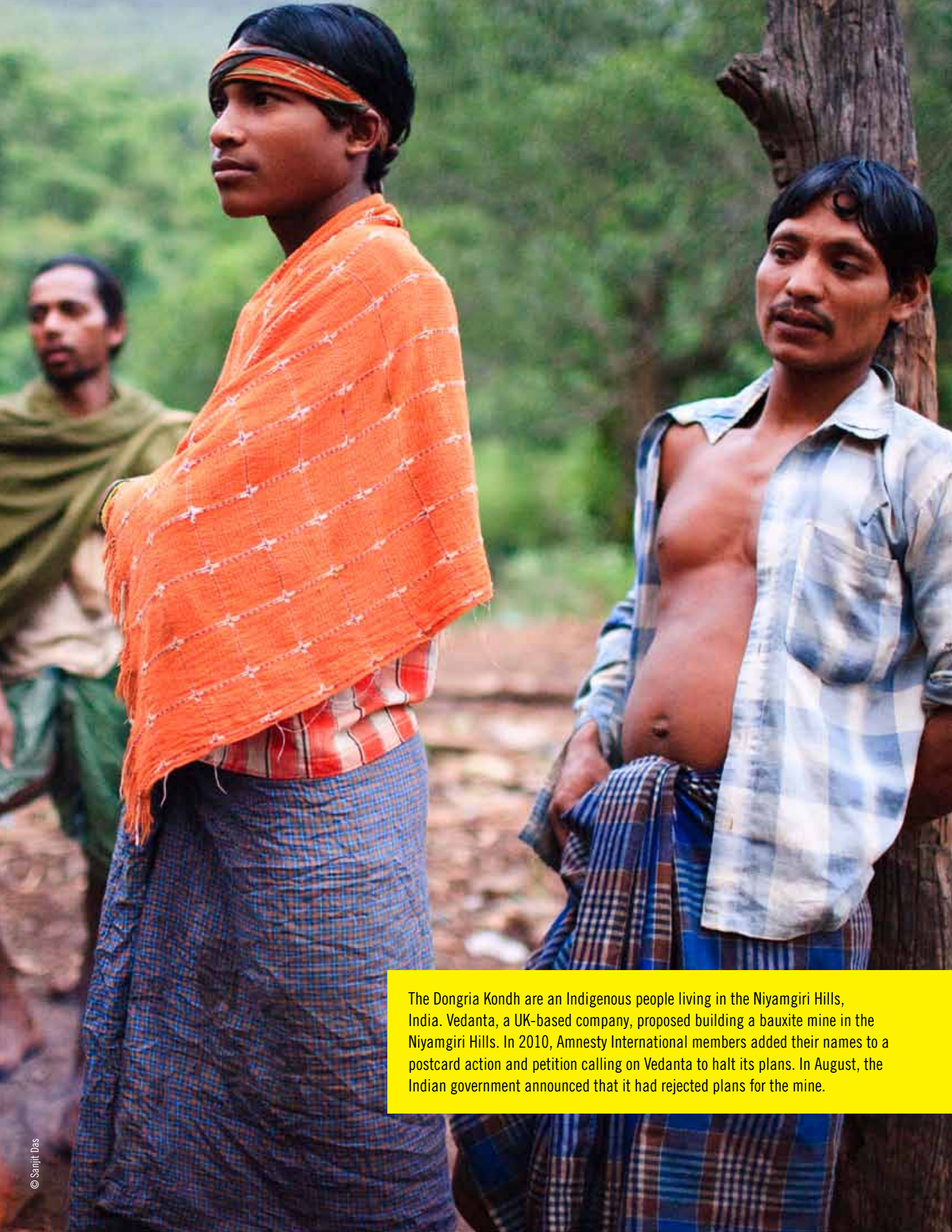
What all of the children had in common was a similar story of what propelled them to join the armed groups in the first place: human rights violations. They talked of poverty; they talked of insecurity; they talked of discrimination; and they talked of a lack of alternate opportunities.

The boys Alex met were working hard towards a better future. Many were in school; many were excelling. They had great hopes and dreams for themselves and their families. But while thinking about the future, the boys were also aware of the insecurity and injustice their communities still face. All recognized that the next day could bring another wave of violence that they might be caught up in again.



© Amnesty International

A painting by a former child soldier on the wall of a children’s centre in N’Djamena, Chad. For two weeks in May and June 2010, Alex Neve was in Chad as part of an Amnesty International research mission investigating the issue of child soldiers.



The Dongria Kondh are an Indigenous people living in the Niyamgiri Hills, India. Vedanta, a UK-based company, proposed building a bauxite mine in the Niyamgiri Hills. In 2010, Amnesty International members added their names to a postcard action and petition calling on Vedanta to halt its plans. In August, the Indian government announced that it had rejected plans for the mine.

CAMPAIGNING ALONGSIDE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**GOAL 3:
TO ADVANCE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND DEVELOP GREATER CAPACITY TO RESPOND
EFFECTIVELY TO VIOLATIONS OF THESE RIGHTS WITHIN CANADA**

“I’M STANDING UP FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN. THIS IS THE PLACE THAT I COME FROM.”

—Daphne Ominayak, Lubicon Cree student

In March 2010, Leticia Gladue, Daphne Ominayak and Dawn Seesequon, three students from the Lubicon Cree community in Little Buffalo, Alberta, joined an Amnesty International delegation to the United Nations in New York. The three had won an Amnesty-sponsored essay contest that asked them to write about human rights in their own lives. The visit was made on the 20th anniversary of a ruling by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) that condemned Canada for violating the rights of the Lubicon Cree by failing to recognize Lubicon rights to their lands and failing to protect those lands from the environmental impacts of intensive oil and gas development.

Since the beginning of massive oil and gas development on their lands in 1979, young people in the Lubicon community have faced overwhelming poverty and have struggled to maintain ties to the culture and way of life of their elders.

Leticia, Daphne and Dawn met with members of the UNHRC and vividly related how their community continues to live in poverty while billions of dollars of oil and gas are taken from their land.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- Amnesty members enthusiastically supported the *20 Days of Action for the Lubicon Cree* campaign from March 21 to April 10, 2010, in the lead-up to the 20th anniversary of the UNHRC decision.
- In June 2010, Amnesty released a ground-breaking report “Lubicon Cree: From Homeland to Oil Sands”, which details the impact of 2,600 oil and gas wells on Lubicon Cree land. This intensive development has taken place against the wishes of the Lubicon people and has led to tragic consequences for their society which, until 1979, had been largely self-sufficient through hunting, trapping and other traditional activities.
- The case of the Lubicon Cree featured in many local *Write for Rights* events in December 2010. An Amnesty UK Greeting Card Campaign case led to more than 2,000 letters of support being sent to youth in the Lubicon community.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples highlighted the situation of the Lubicon Cree in his September 2010 report to the UN Human Rights Council.
- In June, Amnesty urged the province of British Columbia to ensure that the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline through the Fraser River valley does not proceed without the consent of affected First Nations. Amnesty activists in Prince George, British Columbia, organized visits to First Nations communities to show their solidarity.



Daphne Ominayak, 16, Leticia Gladue, 15, and Dawn Seeseequon, 17, from the Lubicon Cree community Little Buffalo, Alberta, won an essay contest sponsored by Amnesty International. They were asked to write about human rights in their own lives. The three young women later joined an Amnesty International delegation to the United Nations in New York.

- Amnesty members took action on the case of Inés Fernández and Valentina Rosendo, two Me'phaa Indigenous women raped by Mexican army soldiers in 2002. In March 2010, Amnesty members sent messages of support in the form of maple leaves to the two women. Letter-writers were mobilized when the women and their families faced increased danger in the days before their cases were heard by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Canadian government took interest in the case, attending the Inter-American Court session. Good news came in August when the Court issued a decision ordering the Mexican government to provide access to justice for the two women.
- In December 2010, Amnesty helped organize a visit to Canada of two leaders of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia. The visit raised awareness in Canada of the more than 32 Indigenous nations in Colombia that are threatened with extinction. In addition to public meetings in five cities, the visit included key meetings with Canada's All Party Group on Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity, government officials and the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations.
- Amnesty members took action in 2010 in support of Guarani-Kaiowá Indigenous families in Brazil who were evicted from their traditional lands in September 2009 and are living in makeshift shacks by the side of a busy highway.

- In November 2010, Canada's federal government turned down a proposal for a mine that would have caused loss of lands and waters vital to the Tsilhqot'in people of British Columbia. Amnesty members had participated in an action appeal in the run-up to the government's decision.
- Stan Jolly, an Amnesty member in Toronto, undertook extensive research into the Ontario Provincial Police's handling of Indigenous land rights protests on the edge of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. His research supported Amnesty's continued work on this issue.
- The US House of Representatives passed the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, a groundbreaking piece of legislation that addresses the disturbing rates of sexual violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, a subject that Amnesty drew global attention to in a 2007 report, *Maze of Injustice*.
- Continuing In 2010, Aboriginal and civil society organizations from across Canada called on the federal government to commit to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. On November 12, 2010, the government finally endorsed the Declaration. Then, in December, global consensus in support of the Declaration was achieved with US endorsement. The Branch has been instrumental in distributing 100,000 copies of the UN Declaration in Canada, many to school students.
- In March 2010, Amnesty welcomed the Organization of American States' decision to hear a complaint about Indigenous land rights on Vancouver Island. Amnesty members in Victoria joined with the local Aboriginal Neighbours Program to host a well-attended public forum.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TORONTO, JUNE 25–27, 2010

Anyone who attended our Branch's Annual General Meeting (AGM) from June 25 to 27, 2010, will be unlikely to forget it. For the first time, our AGM was being held at the same place and time as the world's headlining news event: Toronto, during the weekend that G8/G20 leaders were holding their annual summit.

AGM delegates took part in a peaceful protest march on Saturday June 26. Many who marched through torrential rain that afternoon described how exhilarating it was to walk side by side with numerous other civil society groups and thousands of other peaceful demonstrators calling out for a better world. Amnesty members were calling on G20 leaders to put human rights at the heart of the global effort to fight poverty.

Later, news came through to the AGM that violence had occurred in some parts of downtown Toronto. An Amnesty public statement issued on June 27 conveyed Amnesty members' deep concern that important rights associated with peaceful protest had suffered amidst heavy security measures and acts of vandalism. Amnesty later called on the Canadian government and the government of the province of Ontario to launch an independent review of the security measures that were put in place for the G8 and G20 Summits.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

GOAL 4: TO ENSURE THAT CANADA PROVIDES EFFECTIVE PROTECTION TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND OTHER UPROOTED PEOPLE WHO FACE GRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THEIR COUNTRIES

In 2010, the Branch's Refugee Program worked on approximately 140 refugee cases and intervened in 50 cases. So far, we know that there have been successful outcomes in 12 of these.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

- In March 2010, the Canadian government introduced Bill C-11, the *Balanced Refugee Reform Act*, to reform the refugee system. The government claimed that the changes proposed in Bill C-11 would result in a “fast, fair, and efficient” process to determine who is a refugee. While C-11 included some good initiatives, notably the implementation of the Refugee Appeal Division, it also sacrificed fairness in the name of speed and efficiency. In May, Amnesty International raised serious concerns about the “designated country” list, the unrealistic and inappropriate timelines, and the significant changes to humanitarian and compassionate applications. Amnesty believed the proposed legislative changes would violate Canada's international and Charter obligations regarding equality before the law. More importantly, they would have increased the likelihood that persons in need of Canada's protection would instead be exposed to risk. Our Branch's advocacy, together with that of other NGOs, ensured some improvements to the Bill before it was proclaimed on June 29. While the Safe Country of Origin concept remained, all refugees, including those from so called “safe” countries will be allowed access to the Refugee Appeal Division. The right to a lawyer will be protected, and “failed” refugees will be allowed to make a humanitarian and compassionate application within one year.
- Amnesty campaigned against Bill C-49 which aimed to tackle human smuggling. The proposed legislation fell far short of Canada's international human rights and refugee protection obligations and would have resulted in serious violations of the rights of refugees and migrants. “Bill C-49 does not get it right in drawing the line between tackling crime and upholding rights. It goes after smugglers, in large part, by punishing the individuals who turn to them—in desperation—for assistance,” said Alex Neve. The Bill had not passed by the end of February 2011, and was likely to be defeated if it proceeds to a second reading as all opposition parties have indicated they will vote against it.
- Amnesty staff and members participated in activities in support of Refugee Rights Day (April 4) and World Refugee Day (June 20), and public forums in response to legislative changes which affect refugees.
- In November 2010, in comments to the Globe and Mail's Editorial Board, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney described Amnesty International's efforts on behalf of refugees as “ideological”. Amnesty responded robustly, reminding the Minister that Amnesty's role is to highlight the human rights issues at stake and demand that governments live up to the obligations that they themselves have assumed. Secretary General Alex Neve then met with the Editorial Board in January 2011.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENTS TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

GOAL 5: TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENTS TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

“TODAY THE JURY RETURNED WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT OMAR KHADR BE SENTENCED TO A STAGGERING 40-YEAR PRISON TERM IN ADDITION TO THE EIGHT YEARS HE HAS ALREADY SPENT IN DETENTION AWAITING TRIAL. EVERYTHING ABOUT OMAR KHADR’S ORDEAL AT GUANTÁNAMO BAY OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS HAS BEEN A FIASCO. IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE, THEREFORE, THAT THIS FINAL PHASE AND STUNNINGLY PUNITIVE JURY DECISION ONCE AGAIN SO STARKLY HIGHLIGHT THE INJUSTICES OF THIS PROCESS.”

—Alex Neve, November 1, 2010

2010 was another year of intense campaigning around the continued detention of Canadian citizen Omar Khadr in Guantánamo Bay.

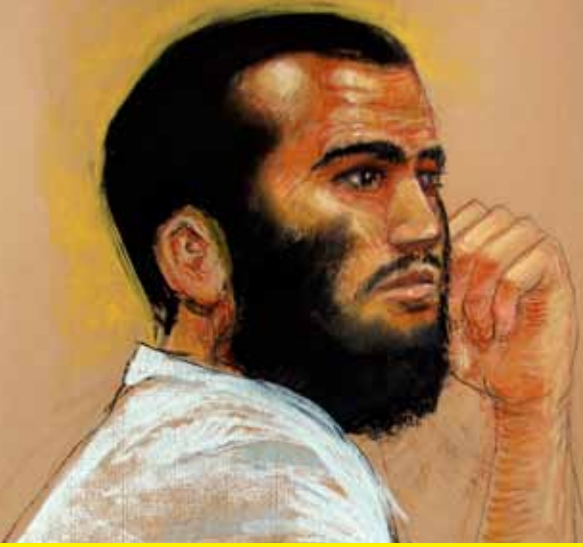
Alex Neve travelled to Guantánamo Bay three times in 2010 to observe the legal proceedings, the latest stage in a process that he described as unjust, lengthy and expensive.

Amnesty International members and staff who have worked on the case have addressed several crucial human rights concerns: protecting child soldiers; standing firm for human rights in the “war on terror”; Canada’s global human rights reputation; the struggle against torture; and the urgent need to close the Guantánamo Bay facility.

Throughout 2010, Amnesty members pressed Prime Minister Stephen Harper to take firm action to ensure that Omar Khadr’s human rights were protected. On July 27, Amnesty members in Toronto took part in a solidarity vigil outside the US consulate to mark Khadr’s eighth anniversary in illegal detention. In October and November, Amnesty International and Les Films Adobe screened the documentary *Omar Khadr: You Don’t Like the Truth* at venues across Canada.

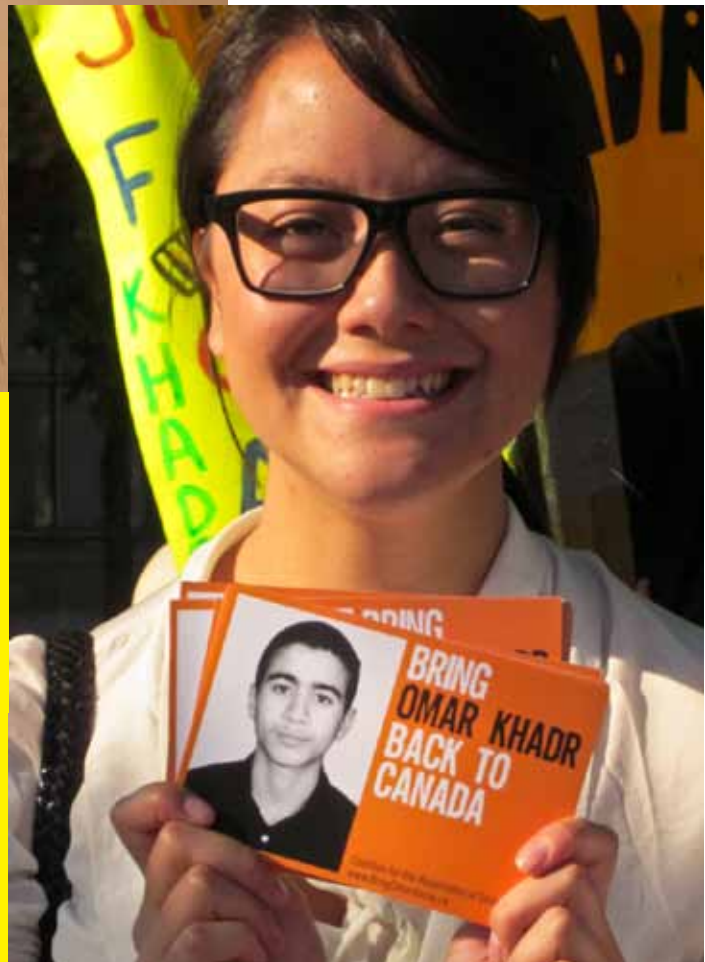
OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- In April 2010, Amnesty International joined with the Network to Oppose War and Racism to host a screening of and panel discussion on *Ghosts*, a documentary about the foreign detention and torture of three Canadian Muslim men. Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin were detained and tortured for years in Syria and, in Ahmad El Maati’s case, Syria and Egypt. The documentary won the “Prix du Public” at the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival 2010.
- After Canadian citizen Bashir Makhtal fled fighting in Somalia in 2006, he was arrested in Kenya and “extraordinarily rendered” to Ethiopia. In 2009, he was subjected to an unfair trial and sentenced to life imprisonment. In 2010, Amnesty International members continued to take action calling on the Ethiopian authorities to bring Bashir Makhtal to fair trial or release him immediately and unconditionally and allow him to return to Canada. In June, Amnesty and the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations pressed Prime Minister



A courtroom artist's sketch of Omar Khadr attending a hearing at Guantánamo Bay in April 2010. Amnesty International members and staff worked intensively on Khadr's case in 2010. In November, he was sentenced to a staggering 40-year prison term.

On July 27, 2010, Amnesty International members and the Coalition to Repatriate Omar Khadr held a solidarity vigil outside the American consulate in Toronto. The event marked the eighth anniversary of Omar Khadr being taken into US custody.



Stephen Harper to intervene in the case and ask Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to release Mahktal during Prime Minister Zenawi's visit to Canada for the G20 summit.

- When alleged child soldiers come into the custody and care of Canadian Forces, Canada's is required by international law to ensure that such children are demobilized and receive the help they need to recover and reintegrate into society. Documents disclosed in fall 2010 indicated that Canadian forces in Afghanistan had mishandled some cases. In December, Amnesty International and the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association pressed Peter MacKay, the Minister of National Defence, to take immediate action to ensure that the policies and practices of Canadian forces in Afghanistan complied with international law with regards to the treatment of child soldiers.
- In December, both Alex Neve and Béatrice Vaugrante (Director General of the francophone Branch) wrote to Vic Toews, the Minister of Public Safety, and Richard McFadden, the Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), to seek assurances that human rights violations will not be tolerated in the name of security. This came after the WikiLeaks organization released a July 2008 diplomatic cable summarizing a meeting between former CSIS Director Jim Judd and US Department of State Counsellor Eliot Cohen. In the cable, Mr. Judd is to have said to have suggested to Mr. Cohen that the courts, and Canadians more generally, have an "Alice in Wonderland" view of the world and that, as a result, judges have tied CSIS "in knots".

A YEAR OF INTENSE ACTIVISM ON CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

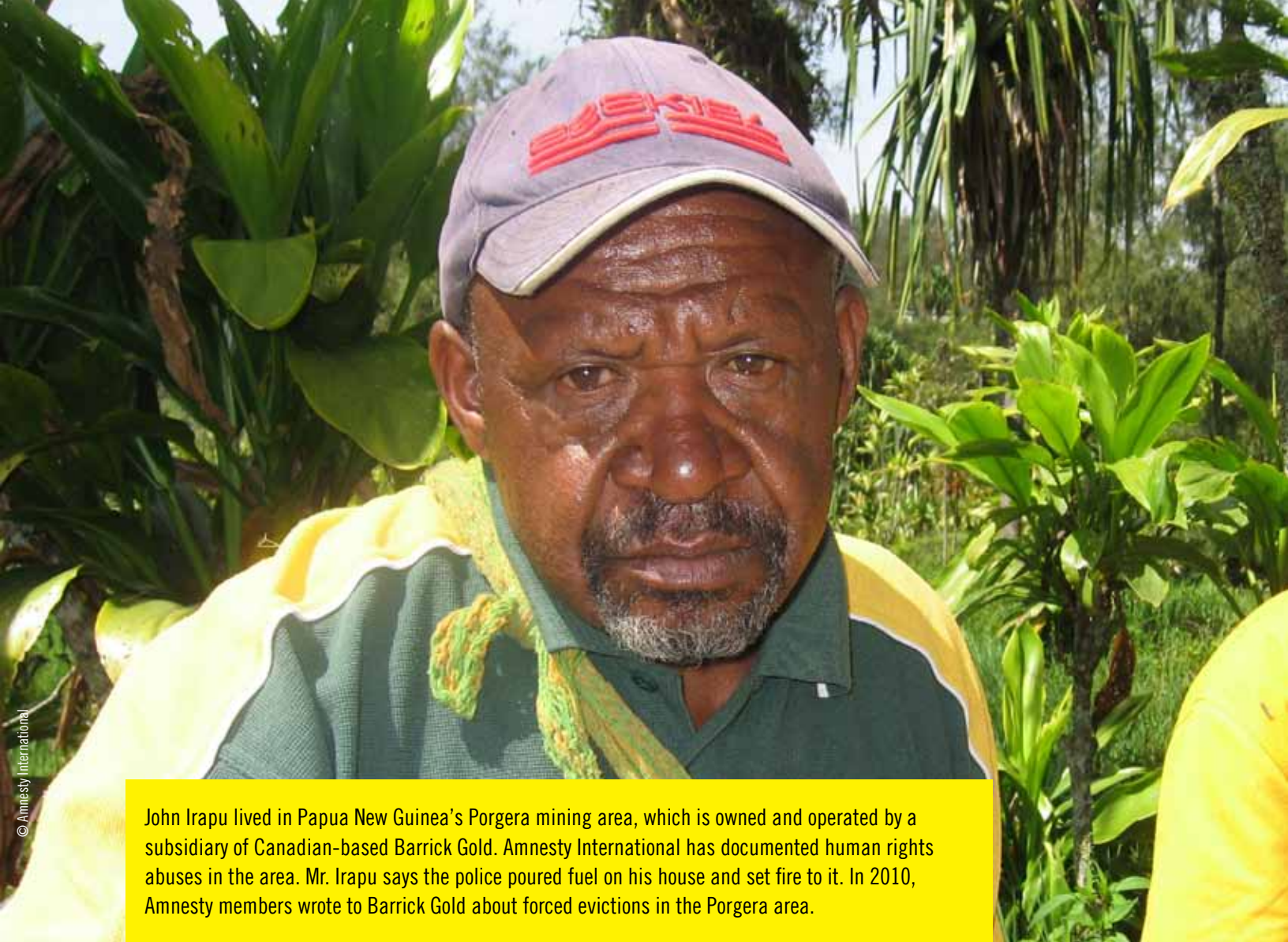
GOAL 6: TO ENSURE THAT ALL ECONOMIC ACTORS, INCLUDING BUSINESSES, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND TRADING BODIES, PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

2010 was a year of intense activism and campaigning around Bill C-300, the proposed legislation that would have ensured that Canadian mining, oil and gas companies face repercussions for violating human rights in developing countries.

- In addition to sending thousands of online letters, Amnesty International members phoned and met in person with their MPs in support of Bill C-300, participated in a rally on Parliament Hill, organized Bill C-300 events, and wrote letters to the editors of local newspapers.
- Amnesty staff strategically targeted key MPs for our Bill C-300 advocacy work, and published advertisements in community newspapers in key ridings.
- We launched a new corporate accountability blog on amnesty.ca to give our members and the public quick and convenient online access to all information and activism related to Bill C-300.
- Branch volunteers and staff members collaborated closely with allies in the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability to produce briefings, conduct media work, and organize events for parliamentarians.
- 1,000 people who signed Amnesty's Bill C-300 petition were phoned and invited to become regular financial supporters, an initiative that attracted 75 new monthly donors.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- Our members and staff communicated directly with Canadian companies to raise our human rights concerns regarding their activities. Among the companies we contacted were Barrick Gold, Goldcorp, Hudbay, Fortuna Silver and Pacific Rim. Public letter-writing actions were directed at Barrick Gold and Porgera Joint Venture regarding the Porgera mining area in Papua New Guinea where Amnesty International has documented human rights abuses committed by police.
- The Branch sent letters to major Canadian investors holding shares in Vedanta, a UK mining company. Amnesty had human rights concerns related to the company's proposed bauxite mine in Orissa State in India. Signatures were gathered on a Vedanta postcard action and petition. The campaign was successful: in August 2010, the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests rejected the mine project and suspended the clearance process for the expansion of a refinery.
- Amnesty members added their names to a petition sent to the Guatemalan authorities calling on them to respect the rights of Carmen Mejía and other community activists in Guatemala whose lives are at risk because they are campaigning against the impact of a Canadian-owned mine on their community's land.
- Amnesty members and staff lobbied Canada's Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) regarding the review of the IFC's Sustainability Framework and Performance Standards. We lobbied the Canadian government regarding the UN Special Representative



© Amnesty International

John Irapu lived in Papua New Guinea's Porgera mining area, which is owned and operated by a subsidiary of Canadian-based Barrick Gold. Amnesty International has documented human rights abuses in the area. Mr. Irapu says the police poured fuel on his house and set fire to it. In 2010, Amnesty members wrote to Barrick Gold about forced evictions in the Porgera area.

to the Secretary General on Business and Human Rights' new Framework and Guiding Principles. And we lobbied the National Contact Point, the Canadian government office that encourages observance of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's guidelines for multinational enterprises.

- The Branch's Business and Human Rights (BHR) network met with Canada's new Corporate Social Responsibility Counsellor. This position, established in 2009, is intended to ensure that Canadian mining, oil and gas companies meet their social and environmental responsibilities when operating abroad.
- Volunteers and staff of the BHR network hosted a four-day meeting for the international movement's Business and Economic Relations Network.
- Amnesty's Business and Human Rights film won gold at the 2010 Summit Creative Award competition and also won a CINE Golden Eagle Award.

DEMANDING GOVERNMENTS TAKE ACTION TO END POVERTY

GOAL 7: TO BUILD GREATER INTEGRATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR WORK ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL (ESC) RIGHTS LEADING TO MORE ACTION ON ESC RIGHTS

As the Demand Dignity campaign moved into its second year in 2010, one of the Branch's main campaigning focuses was on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically on ending maternal mortality.

World leaders agreed upon the MDGs in September 2000 when they met at the United Nations in New York and signed the Millennium Declaration. There are eight MDGs, which, if achieved, would result in extreme poverty being eradicated by 2015.

On the tenth anniversary of the Millennium Declaration, world leaders again gathered at the United Nations to review progress on the MDGs and set out a plan for achieving them by 2015.

The run up to the summit was a period of intensive campaigning by Amnesty members across Canada and around the world to ensure that world leaders lived up to their responsibilities in the fight against poverty.

Amnesty members in Canada joined their counterparts in Peru, USA, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, and Russia in demanding a human rights approach to the MDGs. Canadian members signed thousands of postcards, and staged a send-off for Prime Minister Stephen Harper on his way to the summit. Members also joined supporters of Make Poverty History in a 5K run in Ottawa that publicized the need for full implementation of the MDGs.

The postcards collected throughout the summer contributed to the over 40,000 signatures that were delivered in New York to the MDG summit by Salil Shetty, Amnesty's global Secretary General. Amnesty USA set up a maternal death clock in Times Square, New York, which counted the number of women dying in pregnancy and childbirth during the summit.

Write for Rights 2010 featured several Demand Dignity campaign cases on which thousands of members and supporters took action. The cases were focused on ending maternal mortality in Burkina Faso, demanding justice for the Lubicon Cree of Northern Alberta, demanding accountability for forced evictions and police brutality in Papua New Guinea, and calling for adequate housing for Roma families living in Romania.

In 2010, Amnesty members in Canada also joined forces with members from several Amnesty Sections in Europe in a new program to respond to threats of imminent forced eviction. When people are forced out of their homes without consultation or adequate alternative housing, they not only become homeless; they also face a range of challenges to their basic human rights including access to water, markets for food, schools, employment and health care. In the fall of 2010, the new program was activated when Amnesty learned of threats of forced eviction in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Action was followed by good news: evictions were prevented in all four countries.

OUR BRANCH'S COMMITMENT TO *ONE AMNESTY*

Throughout 2010, the Branch continued to show a strong commitment to One Amnesty (the ongoing program of work to globalize Amnesty's operations).

The Executive Committee and its International Strategy Committee (Geoff Evans, Sarah Beamish, David Kelleher, Renee Saviour, Tricia Edgar, Gina Hill, Cheryl Hotchkiss, Deborah Smith, Shauna MacLean, Bob Goodfellow) have played an increasingly active role in discussing a wide variety of international issues. Both bodies have been involved in responding to numerous requests for input and feedback from the international organization on a wide variety of issues, including Assessment to Distribution (A2D), global governance, and ICM resolutions, and have proposed a number of Amnesty's Canadian members for international roles.

Several Canadian members worked on international committees in 2010: Gina Hill on the Chairs Forum Steering Committee; Samantha Burdett on the Activism Impact Assessment Advisory Group; Nancy Kingsbury as a Director of Amnesty International Charity Limited; Sharmila Setaram on the Membership Appeals Committee, and Gary Ockenden on the Interim International Nominations Committee. Brenda Dashney served on the A2D Task Force.

In August 2010, Secretary General Alex Neve visited Lima at the request of the International Executive Committee to take part in a special international working group meeting to consider options for supporting Amnesty's presence in Colombia. And in October, Executive Director Bob Goodfellow also visited Lima for a meeting of directors from Amnesty's Americas Sections. This meeting was also focused on strengthening Amnesty's presence in the region. Bob is also a member of the Interim Global Management Team

Rosemary Oliver, Resource Development Director, is a member of the global Fundraising Management Team of fundraisers from the 12 largest Sections. In 2010, they met monthly by phone and twice face-to-face. The Fundraising Management Team organized an international skillshare in May 2010. Because of Rosemary's extensive experience of managing a successful monthly giving program, she took a leadership role in developing and growing the monthly giving programs of other Amnesty Sections.

Our Branch also launched a fundraising project to support Amnesty Mexico. Rosemary and Director of Campaigns and Activism Alain Roy continue to meet with Amnesty Mexico frequently to advise them on their fundraising and activism programs.

Director of Communications and Marketing Matt Beard is leading a project for Amnesty's Global Communications Team. Shauna MacLean of our Grassroots Activism Team is an advisor to the International Youth Advice and Action Body.

At our AGM in June, Amnesty members welcomed Colm O Cuanachain, Senior Director of Campaigns at Amnesty's International Secretariat, and Ruth Mier y Teran, a campaigner with Amnesty International Peru. Both participated in a panel discussion on a human rights approach to eradicating poverty.

SUPPORTING ACTIVISTS ACROSS CANADA

GOAL 8: TO SUPPORT AMNESTY'S HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS THROUGH POWERFUL, WELL-COORDINATED MEMBER ACTION

“ASK EVERYONE TO KEEP WRITING. THE POSITIVE IMPACT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IS SUBSTANTIAL AND GIVES US COURAGE. BE ASSURED THAT WE DO SEE YOUR LETTERS. PLEASE KEEP WRITING THEM UNTIL WE GET WHAT WE NEED. IF YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO EMAIL, SEND LETTERS BY MAIL. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW IMPORTANT EVEN ONE MESSAGE IS.”

—*activist Guillermo Chen to Urgent Action Network members*

In May 2010, Guatemalan human rights defender Guillermo Chen made an inspirational visit to Amnesty International's office in Toronto where he met with members of the Urgent Action Network.

Guillermo is Director of the New Hope Foundation, which campaigns for justice for crimes committed during Guatemala's internal armed conflict between 1960 and 1996. In 2008, when he had been threatened with death, Amnesty had issued an appeal and members quickly responded by calling on the Guatemalan authorities to protect Guillermo and his family.

In 2010, Urgent Action Network letter-writers in Canada responded to 267 cases. Many actions protected human rights defenders whose lives were at risk because of their work. Other actions protected Indigenous groups, refugees and migrants, and communities affected by mining interests. Several actions addressed violations of economic, social and cultural rights especially in cases of forced evictions where displacement could affect access to water, food, schools, work and health care. Letter writers also responded to Urgent Actions on concerns of torture, unlawful arrest, execution and violations on freedom of expression.

Young Amnesty activists in Canada responded to letter-writing actions in the *Lifesaver*, a monthly Urgent Action written especially for youth.

Throughout 2010, Amnesty fieldworkers were active across Canada supporting human rights activism at the grassroots level. Fieldworkers supported community groups and action circles with materials and provided groups with guidance around leadership and best practices, website development and print newsletters. They also provided support to school and university groups by attending meetings, advising, sharing their experience and knowledge, organizing workshops, and supporting fundraising events and media training.

Fieldworkers, group members, and staff helped organize regional Amnesty meetings for members based in British Columbia and Yukon, Alberta and the Northwest Territories, the Maritimes, Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, and the Kawarthas and Lakeshore region.

Members were also involved in developing the new *One Amnesty* Branch Plan for 2011–16. During the creation of the Plan, there were two stages of consultation with members, and workshops were organized at the June 2010 Annual General Meeting.

The Branch established a new Iran coordination team and a new West Africa coordination team, each made up of three volunteer members.

A NEW BRANCH PLAN

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting in Toronto, Amnesty International members approved a new Branch Plan outlining the strategic directions for the Branch from 2011 through 2016. The plan is named the *One Amnesty Plan*.

The Branch's work is guided by the priorities set internationally, and so over the next six years our Branch will focus on four key human rights goals that are aligned with the goals of the global movement.

PROTECTING PEOPLE'S FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

Much of Amnesty's core work consists of demanding that people not suffer human rights violations because of what they believe or who they are. Standing alongside human rights defenders, working to free prisoners of conscience, and campaigning on women's human rights and on the rights of Indigenous peoples will all continue to be areas of focus for our Branch.

DEFENDING PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE BY STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS

Violence is at the heart of a great deal of our human rights work. We will speak out not only about violence committed by government police and security forces but also violence committed or tolerated by a range of non-state actors including armed opposition and militia groups, companies, and international financial institutions.

DEFENDING UNPROTECTED PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Globally and within Canada, Amnesty International has long worked to protect the rights of refugees. Over the coming six years, we will highlight the serious human rights violations experienced by all people "on the move".

EMPOWERING PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY

Our Demand Dignity campaign is highlighting instances where interconnected human rights violations make people poor and keep them that way. We will strive to strengthen the ability of people living in poverty to claim and defend their own rights. In the campaign's first stage, we will take up the global themes of the campaign, including maternal mortality and slums.



© Amnesty International

Amnesty supporters in Regina, Saskatchewan, held a *Write for Rights* event on December 10, 2010. Across Canada more than 26,000 people participated in Write for Rights.

GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS IN ACTION

**GOAL 9:
TO BUILD A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL-ORGANIZED
ACTIVISTS WHO CAN, WITH CONFIDENCE, CARRY OUT HUMAN RIGHTS WORK AT
LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS**

“AT REYNOLDS SCHOOL, ABOUT 110 STUDENTS WROTE LETTERS FOR AMNESTY AS PART OF EITHER THEIR ENGLISH OR SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS. THERE WAS ALSO A TABLE IN THE FOYER AT LUNCH WHERE STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT ISSUES, SIGNED PETITIONS AND WROTE LETTERS. IT WAS GREAT BECAUSE STUDENTS WERE ACTUALLY ABLE TO TALK ABOUT PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD, THINK ABOUT THE ISSUE ... AND THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!”

—*Reynolds School Write for Rights participant, Victoria, British Columbia*

Young Canadians remain passionate about human rights. There are more than 400 youth and student groups active across the country, and youth are among the most enthusiastic participants in our biggest events such as *Write for Rights*. Competition for places at the Human Rights College each summer is keen.

Many youth members become lifelong Amnesty activists, and several former youth members currently hold senior positions within the Branch. In 2010, the membership elected Sarah Beamish, a former youth member, as Branch President.

Several Amnesty fieldworkers are past or present youth members. In May 2010, Salahuddin Rafiquddin joined the National Office in Ottawa as a summer intern. In the fall, he became president of the University of Toronto Amnesty club and also started training as an Amnesty fieldworker.

Aengus Bridgman represented Amnesty International at the annual CIVICUS Youth and World Assemblies held in Montreal in August 2010. Aengus joined Amnesty youth delegates from the francophone Branch, Amnesty Paraguay, Amnesty Australia, and Amnesty Burkina Faso and 600 other delegates from over 100 countries for four days of debate and discussion on global issues ranging from climate change to economic justice and aid effectiveness.

In August 2010, Amnesty's Vancouver office hosted three one-week Human Rights Leadership day camps for youth. The program provided Amnesty International leadership experience to more than 20 volunteer interns from universities in British Columbia and as far away as Sweden and Brazil.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- Halifax artist and Amnesty activist Carol Morrison was featured in *Portraits of Injustice*, an art exhibition held at Pier 21 in Halifax in March 2010. Carol painted portraits of some of the Urgent Action cases she and her Action Circle have worked on over the years, including Women of Zimbabwe Arise, Indigenous leader Kimy Pernia, and persecuted members of the Baha'i faith in Iran.
- For the third year in a row, country singer and Amnesty supporter Pat Moore presented a stellar group of country musicians at the National Library and Archives in Ottawa, Ontario, in April 2010. All the musicians and singers performed in support of Amnesty's human rights work, raising thousands of dollars.



© Amnesty International

In the summer of 2010, Vancouver-area Amnesty activists created a slum-dwelling installation that focused attention on people's right to shelter and the threat of forced eviction. The installation was displayed at several festivals over the summer.

- Throughout the year, Amnesty members organized events in their communities that increased awareness of human rights issues while also raising more than \$70,000 for Amnesty's human rights work. Amnesty supporter Lola Reid Allin held her third *Taste for Justice* dinner, raising nearly \$2,000. Toronto members put together yet another sensational *Dance for Justice* event that brought in over \$8,000. Amnesty members also took part in walks and runs in Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa to help raise awareness and support for Amnesty's work. Amnesty groups and members enthusiastically fundraised on December 10, raising a total of \$20,000 to mark International Human Rights Day.
- Amnesty members attending the Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Toronto in June 2010 contributed almost \$5,000 to help a vital project to reduce maternal mortality among Indigenous women in Peru. The Amnesty members also helped create a special quilt with the message "We are thinking of you" in English and Quechua, an Indigenous language spoken in Peru. Ruth Mier y Teran, an Amnesty Peru campaigner who attended the AGM, was presented with the quilt to take back to Peru.
- In Vancouver, in 2010, Amnesty members and staff took part in a World Water Day panel discussion on March 22, and—in collaboration with Oxfam and Fair Trade Vancouver—a World Food Day event on October 16. Amnesty volunteers tabled at numerous concerts and festivals in British Columbia including *Justice Rocks*, *Under the Volcano*, and the *Vancouver Folk Music Festival*. In the summer of 2010, Vancouver-area Amnesty activists created a slum-dwelling installation that focused attention on people's right to shelter and the threat of forced eviction. The installation was displayed at several festivals over the summer.
- A team of 25 Amnesty volunteers staffed an Amnesty information tent at Toronto's *Afrofest* in July 2010. The volunteers spoke with hundreds of *Afrofest* visitors, and collected about 2,000 petition signatures.



© Florin Zamfirescu/Amnesty International

The fifth annual Toronto Reel Awareness film festival sold out every screening, reached a broad audience (60% were non-Amnesty members) and resulted in hundreds of petition signatures.

- Ottawa Group 56 members took an innovative approach to raising awareness of human rights abuses in Colombia. As a way of showing solidarity with the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in northwestern Colombia, Group 56 members took 100 palm-sized stones and painted them yellow, wrote the name of a person who had been killed on one side of the stone and attached a label to the other side of the stone explaining how the object commemorated the murdered individual. The group members distributed the stones throughout downtown Ottawa in places where passersby would easily find them. The initiative was profiled in Ottawa’s *Embassy* newspaper.
- Amnesty film festivals continued to be a powerful force for engaging interest in human rights issues. In 2010, film nights and festivals were held in Victoria, Whitehorse, Nelson, Castlegar, Kaslo, Abbotsford, Vernon, and Richmond. The Vancouver film festival celebrated its 15th anniversary with a four-day event featuring compelling films and guest speakers, and was attended by an audience of close to 2,000. The fifth annual Toronto *Reel Awareness* film festival was an inspiring event. It sold out every screening, reached a broad audience (60% were non-Amnesty members) and resulted in hundreds of petition signatures.
- The 22nd annual Amnesty International Festival for Freedom concert was held at the Royal George Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake on October 4, 2010.



© Paula Kelsall/Amnesty International

Stones painted by members of Group 56 Ottawa raised awareness of human rights abuses in Colombia. On one side of each stone was the name of a person killed; on the other side was a label explaining how the object commemorated the murdered individual. The stones were distributed around downtown Ottawa where passersby could easily find them.

- Amnesty members in Toronto marked *Cities for Life Day* on November 27, 2010 at St James Cathedral. *Cities for Life* is a worldwide event in which public buildings are illuminated in protest against the death penalty. Legendary death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean gave the keynote address.
- *Write for Rights* 2010 on December 10 turned out to be the largest write-a-thon yet. The Branch continued to provide an important leadership role within the international movement for this event. 26,000 people in Canada participated. The global letter-writing count was close to 750,000.
- On December 10, 2010, imprisoned Chinese democracy activist Liu Xiaobo was to have received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. On that day, Amnesty International members in Canada joined thousands of activists around the world in calling for his release. Over 4,000 Amnesty supporters across Canada signed an online petition that was delivered to the Chinese embassy in Ottawa. (Embassy officials refused to accept the petitions.) In Oslo, Amnesty International delivered nearly 100,000 signatures collected internationally to the Chinese Embassy. China refused to acknowledge the prize, and has continued to harass and detain those celebrating Liu Xiaobo's win.



In October 2010, Chinese scholar Liu Xiaobo won the Nobel Peace Prize for his outstanding contribution to human rights. Liu is serving an 11-year sentence after an unfair trial. 4,000 Amnesty International supporters in Canada and nearly 100,000 worldwide signed a petition calling for his release.

DIVERSITY: BUILDING ON PAST SUCCESSSES, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

GOAL 10: TO BUILD AMNESTY INTO AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS TRULY CULTURALLY COMPETENT

NEW VISION FOR DIVERSITY WORK IN OUR BRANCH

2010 was the tenth year of our Branch's diversity program. Following an extensive evaluation of the program by the Diversity Task Force in fall 2009, we were able, in 2010, to create a new vision of our Branch's diversity work.

LESSONS LEARNED

The 2009 review had provided affirmation of the long-term value of diversity training and diversity work within our Branch. We learned that the best diversity efforts occurred organically within the context of one's work, not when it is forced or artificially imposed. At the same time, diversity does not "just happen". We need to be intentional about it.

We have seen some fundamental changes in attitude and approaches amongst our members, leaders, and staff. If you take a look at our current human rights work, you will see a high level of diversity, both in the composition of the members involved, and also in the types of activities that they are engaged in.

MOVING FORWARD IN 2011

Members of the Diversity Task Force met in July and November 2010 to outline our future plans. We defined two main priorities:

- **Putting more attention on capacity building.** This includes training, awareness raising, modelling, and providing opportunities and space for experimenting, developing, and learning. While we want to maintain our special emphasis on inclusion of youth in all our activities, we want to broaden our work to increase diversity.
- **Building inclusive social spaces for dialogue and learning.** We are building a special social networking tool (a Wiki) to encourage greater sharing and exchange of information. The Wiki will include: a forum where activists can discuss diversity; a resource folder with background documents, sample agendas, and other tools (such as simulation games and videos); and links to other resources. We hope that this new tool will enhance our networking capacities. At the same time, we have to be mindful that the use of new technology will mean exclusion for those who do not have access to this technology. We will want to continue using other communications methods, including face-to-face meetings.

NEW APPROACHES TO COMMUNICATING OUR MESSAGE

GOAL 11: TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF AMNESTY'S PROFILE IN CANADA, THE RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS, AND AN INCREASE IN MEMBER ACTIVISM

A NEW COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

The Branch established a new communications and marketing department in the fall of 2010. The Branch's communications function has been growing in importance year after year, and a new department was needed to support activism, campaigning and fundraising. A position of Director of Communications and Marketing was created to lead the new department.

THE WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2010, traffic to amnesty.ca grew 15% to 1.4 million visitors. We continued to integrate the site with our rapidly growing number of social media outlets, and to serve the needs of those who look to us for information content to distribute in their *Facebook* and *Twitter* channels.

This year we redesigned several key areas of the website, including the "News and Reports" section and the blogs, which together represent 30% of the site's traffic and attract ever-increasing numbers of visitors.

In 2010, traffic to Amnesty Canada's blogs increased by over 100%. In order to support this growing audience, the blogs were redesigned to be able to integrate rich media, link to social media channels and perform well in search-engine results.

The online Action Centre, launched in 2009, did well in its first year. It featured more than 100 actions, received over 70,000 visitors, and led to 850 e-activists signing up for our ongoing work. The new Action Centre also generated over 19,000 emails and signatures on campaign actions and petitions.

Another innovation was the new online registration system for the Annual General Meeting, which has improved the sign-up process for our members.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN THE NEWS

Several long-standing human rights issues with Canadian connections continued to have a high media profile in 2010.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- *APTN, Peace River Radio, Edmonton Journal and Peace River Gazette* interviewed three Lubicon students who went to the United Nations to present a brief to the Human Rights Council (HRC) on the 20th anniversary of the HRC ruling that Canada had violated the human rights of the Lubicon Cree.
- The Prime Minister's decision to make maternal health a focus of the G8/G20 meetings in Toronto prompted media interest in Amnesty's campaigning work on the issue. The *Globe and Mail* referred to Amnesty's maternal mortality clock in Times Square, New York, and an op-ed by Alex Neve ran in *Embassy*. On April 7, 2010, Widney Brown, a senior director at the International Secretariat, was interviewed on *CBC's As It Happens* about Amnesty's report on sexual violence against women in Uganda.
- There was intense media coverage of the Afghan detainee issue throughout the year as hearings progressed in Parliament and at the Military Police Complaints Commission (MPCC). After former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci was appointed to review sections from documents,

Alex Neve was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* and *National Post*. Paul Champ, Amnesty's and the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association's lawyer who testified at the Afghanistan Committee, was on *CBC TV's Power & Politics*. There was extensive radio and print coverage of a heavily redacted "dump" of documents at the end of March 2010. A leaked memo about the transfer of prisoners to the National Directorate of Security led to Paul Champ's interview on *CBC TV's The National*. In April and May ongoing coverage of the MPCC hearings continued. There was commentary in national print and radio in June and August.

- Amnesty's immediate call on June 27 for an independent review of police actions at demonstrations around the G20 summit in Toronto had an instant and massive media impact. Alex Neve was on *CBC News Channel*, *CBC Radio*, *CHCH*, *Global* and *CBC's The National*. Andy Buxton of Amnesty International Toronto was interviewed by *CIUT*. Shanaaz Gokool, also of Amnesty Toronto, was interviewed by *CTV*, *CBC Radio's The Current*, *Toronto Star*, *Epoch Times* and *Global TV's Ontario Focus*.
- Omar Khadr's continued detention in Guantánamo and the hearings received major media attention during the year. Alex Neve's trip to Guantánamo in April 2010 led to interviews in the *Globe and Mail*, *CTV National News* and *OMNI TV*. In August there was extensive coverage when Alex Neve was an observer at the beginning of the trial. Alex was on *CBC TV's The National* and *CTV's National News* along with print and radio coverage. There was an editorial noting Amnesty's concerns in the *Toronto Star* on August 10. After the trial was suspended, Alex was on *CBC Radio's World at Six* and *The National*, and he wrote an op-ed in *The Ottawa Citizen*. In October, there was extensive coverage of the trial and verdict. Alex posted daily to a blog from Guantánamo and was interviewed on *CTV National News*, *CTV's Power Play*, *CTV National News*, *CBC World Report*, *CBC News Network and Broadcast News*, *Globe and Mail*, *National Post* and *Toronto Star*. He commented on the verdict on *Global National* and *CBC TV's The National*.
- *Cities for Life*, a global anti-death-penalty event, was held in Toronto in November and featured Sister Helen Préjean as a keynote speaker. She was interviewed by *CBC*, the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail*.
- Secretary General Salil Shetty visited Canada in August to give a keynote address at the CIVICUS World Assembly in Montreal. He was interviewed by *La Presse*, the *Globe and Mail*, *Canadian Press*, *Broadcast News*, *Ottawa Citizen* and *CBC's The Current*.
- Amnesty's Media Awards were presented on April 15, 2010. The *Globe and Mail's* Paul Koring won in the print category for a series about Abousfian Adelrazik, a Canadian citizen trapped in Sudan. Jennifer Hollett was the audio/video winner for a *CBC* radio documentary about conscientious objectors in Israel. The local alternative-print winner was David Hayes for *Abandoned in Canada*, a feature in *Chatelaine* about children brought into the country and left without support.
- *Write for Rights* received significant media coverage. *CBC's* George Stroumboulopoulos interviewed actor Eric Peterson about the global event. For the first time, PEN International joined with Amnesty to promote *Write for Rights* letter-writing cases. On December 10, Chinese-language media, *OMNI* and *CTV* covered Amnesty members and staff delivering petition signatures to the Chinese Embassy calling for the release of jailed Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.
- Other human rights issues covered by the Canadian media included the visit of Indigenous representatives from Colombia. The visit was covered by *APTN*, *CBC* and *RCI*. The release of Aung Sang Suu Kyi in Myanmar led to Amnesty researcher Benjamin Zawacki being quoted in the *Toronto Star*, and Alex Neve was interviewed by *CTV National News* and *Broadcast News*. Alex Neve gave a year-end human rights review on *OMNI* and published an op-ed in *Toronto Star* on Canada's human rights policy.

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

GOAL 12: IN 2010 TO RAISE \$15.4 MILLION FROM APPROXIMATELY 100,000 MEMBERS IN CANADA

The financial results of all our fundraising efforts for 2010 were disappointing. The Branch's revenue fell by 3.5% from 2009 following a 2.5% fall from 2008 to 2009. Each of our various fundraising programs faced extraordinary pressure to meet targets. All programs, with the sole exception of Monthly Giving, failed to grow or even experienced a decline in donations compared to the previous year. We ended the year at \$10.5 million, \$500,000 below our June reforecast.

Yet in the wider context of charitable giving in Canada, the Branch performed strongly. These are extraordinarily difficult times in which to raise money. Income for a reference group of Canadian charities, which includes our Branch, dropped by 12% from 2008 to 2009. The Branch's results during that period show that we did comparatively well—or, to put it another way, we fared much less badly than other charities.

Charities in Canada are facing some of the greatest challenges of the past two decades. A December 2010 *Globe and Mail* article (based on Statistics Canada figures) showed that donations in Canada dropped by \$900 million from \$8.65-billion in 2007 to \$7.75-billion in 2009. That represents a decline of more than 10% in just two years. The number of donors giving to Canadian charities also fell: 5.6 million people donated in 2009, down from 5.8 million in 2008.

It is impossible right now to predict when charitable giving in Canada will once again enjoy a period of sustained growth. What is clear is that there is keen competition between charities for the remaining donor dollars. Our fundraising team will have to remain focused and innovative to maximize our income. But we have an experienced and skilled team, and we remain optimistic that we can meet the challenges ahead.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR BY FUNDRAISING PROGRAM:

- The Monthly Giving program grew in 2010—both in dollar terms and as a proportion of the Branch's total income. In 2010, for the first time, Monthly Giving accounted for more than 70% of the Branch's income. Although the number of monthly donors remained the same compared to 2009, monthly donors, on average, gave more in 2010. Many monthly donors increased their monthly gift amount in the fall, and many others donated to a special additional gift appeal that raised \$60,000. Monthly donor recruitment is robust (about 5,000 new monthly donors joined Amnesty in 2010) but, as most charities have been finding in recent years, attrition is high. We are working with our street-canvassing partners to better understand the causes of attrition, and to implement solutions. We hope to speed up the time between recruitment and the processing of the first monthly gift because the sooner the first monthly gift is processed, the stronger the donor's relationship with the organization. Many of our new donors are young adults. This is both a strength and a weakness. It shows that young people in Canada believe strongly in human rights, but young people are also less likely to make a long-term financial commitment to a charity. One of our goals in 2011 is to ensure that we recruit people who are willing to make a long-term financial commitment to Amnesty. A new Mastercard service introduced in 2011 to provide

updated credit card information should significantly reduce the number of monthly donors lost through credit card declines.

- Direct Mail is our second biggest source of revenue after monthly giving. In 2009, several direct mail appeals performed far beyond expectations, but unfortunately, in 2010, some appeals fell far short of their targets. Although Direct Mail is generating less money each year from fewer donors, it remains the giving method of choice for some of our most loyal supporters. Direct Mail will provide significant funds for our human rights work for many years to come.
- Major Gifts revenue stayed flat in 2010, which, considering the economic climate, was an achievement. An important new initiative with Toronto's financial community resulted in a significant gift. For the second successive year, the Major Gifts team secured a commitment to a \$50,000 matching gift from a generous donor.
- Planned Giving revenue is always the most difficult to predict, and unfortunately 2010 was a year when the value of bequests income was far lower than the long-term average. But by year-end, the number of expectancies was the highest in recent history. We are optimistic that this program will perform strongly in coming years.
- Donors chose to donate more than \$350,000 online in 2010. During the year, our Online Giving team also launched the year's most promising new fundraising initiative. Called two-step acquisition, the first stage of this fundraising technique is engaging new supporters to take action for human rights, and the second stage involves following up with an invitation to join Amnesty as a monthly donor.
- Third-party giving maintained a diverse and exciting portfolio of special events—*Taste for Justice*, *Yoga Day*, *Write for Rights* and a number of race events. *Taste for Justice* was moderately successful and *Write for Rights* had its second best year ever in terms of funds raised. *Yoga Day*, which had experienced amazing growth in the previous year, was not able to maintain the same level of revenue.
- Our Member Services team continued to provide a high level of service to our members and the public.
- In September, we were given a rare opportunity to have a 15-second video showing several times an hour for three weeks on four large screens overlooking Dundas Square in Toronto. The time was donated to the Branch by advertising company Agency 59, an advertising company. We used the opportunity to do outreach in the square and sign up new members.
- Early in 2010, Amnesty's long-format television program came off air. Television was an excellent way of connecting with the Canadian public for over a decade, and had brought more than 30,000 new members to Amnesty since 1999. Over the last few years, reduced return on investment meant it was no longer prudent to continue the long-format television program. In December, we tested a two-minute television advertisement with John Lennon's *Imagine* as the soundtrack. Results, however, were disappointing.

Although 2010 was a difficult year, the Branch has a solid foundation of loyal donors and a strong fundraising strategy, and is well-positioned to grow over the coming years.

ENSURING A POSITION OF FINANCIAL STRENGTH

GOAL 13: TO SUPPORT INFORMED DECISION-MAKING THROUGH AN ANTICIPATED PERIOD OF GROWTH AND TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY IN THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION WE PROVIDE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND TO THE PUBLIC

Amnesty International Canadian Section (English Speaking) has typically maintained its accounts on a fiscal year basis, with its fiscal year ending on September 30 of each year. However, with the authorization of the Canada Revenue Agency, the Branch has changed its fiscal year-end and will report on a calendar-year basis. The new year-end of the Branch is, therefore, December 31.

Given that the independent audit firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has yet to complete the year-end audit and has yet to express an opinion on the financial statements for the 15-month period from October 1, 2009, to December 31, 2010, all financial data appearing in this report is unaudited at the time of writing and so subject to change.

From a financial standpoint, the 15-month period ending December 31, 2010 has been a difficult one for the Branch. Although the draft financial statements reflect the fact that the Branch reported net revenue for the period from general operations of \$255,400, a change in accounting policy that took place in 2008/09 resulted in an accounting adjustment to the current period of \$229,300, which effectively means that the reported net revenue for the period is \$26,100. Given that the reporting period contains both the holiday period for December 2009 and the holiday period for December 2010, times of the year when donations are typically higher, a better result for the 15-month period had been expected.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Due to the change in the Branch's year-end and the reporting of figures at the end of December rather than at the end of September, current assets, which include cash in banks, short-term investments, receivables and prepaid expenses, reflect an increase of almost 16% from September 2009 to December 2010.

Long-term investments amounted to approximately \$386,000, an increase of 5.3% from September 2009. These investments will be recorded at their fair market value in the Statement of Financial Position. Realized and unrealized changes in fair value will be recognized in the Statement of Revenue and Expense.

Capital Assets at the end of the period of \$2,051,000 were initially recorded at cost and were then depreciated over their estimated useful lives at annual rates of 4% (building), 10% (integrated management information system, or iMIS. database) and 20% (computers and office equipment).

Current Liabilities have increased from \$528,900 in 2008/09 to \$635,800 in 2010. At the same time, there has been a decrease in long-term debt and in the obligation under the Branch's capital lease from \$622,000 in 2008/09 to \$508,000 in 2010. As a result, the Branch's Total Liabilities reflected a slight decrease of 0.6% from September 2009 to December 2010.

Net Assets, which comprise the General Fund (including investments in capital assets) and Internally and Externally Restricted Funds, increased by \$166,400. This increase represents

net revenue from General Fund operations of \$255,400 plus a net surplus from the Externally Restricted Funds of \$38,500 (primarily stemming from net contributions to the Toronto Building Fund), minus a deficit in Internally Restricted Funds of \$127,500 (primarily due to severance payments made to departing employees from the Contingency Reserve Fund).

To summarize the Branch's financial position, its current assets have increased by \$277,000 from September 2009 to December 2010, and the Branch is quite able to meet its financial commitments as they come due. The current ratio (current assets compared to current liabilities) is higher in 2010 at 2.3:1, compared to 2.2:1 in 2009, meaning that the Branch's current assets were more than twice its current liabilities at year-end.

REVENUE AND EXPENSE AND FUND BALANCES

Resource Development (RD) revenue for the 15-month period totalled \$14.138 million while, for the calendar year 2010, it was \$10.543 million. Shrinkage in RD revenue from the previous fiscal year was significant, amounting to \$372,000, or 3.5% lower than the amount achieved in the previous fiscal year of \$10.915 million.

Other income for the 15-month period amounted to \$249,132, slightly less than the amount budgeted for the period of \$255,000.

When it was determined that revenues would not meet expectations, efforts were made to reduce expenses for Action Strategies, Grassroots Activism, Communications, and Public Awareness and Organization, resulting in expenses for the 15-month period being lower than budgeted by \$213,000. Included in these expenditures are the contributions to the International Secretariat (IS) which totalled \$4.086 million and which was paid in full, and additional voluntary development contributions of \$84,107 used to provide assistance to other Sections.

Special Funds are classified as Internally Restricted or Externally Restricted. In the 15-month period ending December 31, 2010, Special Fund Revenue amounted to \$64,900 while total expenses from Special Funds amounted to \$153,800. Transfers amounting to \$70,000 were made to the Special Funds from the General Fund resulting in a net decrease in the Funds of \$18,900. Special Fund Revenues included gifts to the Toronto Capital Campaign of \$59,300, designated donations to Relief Funds of \$4,400, contributions to the Membership Cooperation Fund of \$300, and contributions to the Campaign and Action Fund of \$1,000. Fund expenses consisted of expenditures from the Contingency Reserve Fund of \$120,000, from Relief Funds of \$11,900, from the Toronto Building Fund of \$13,200, from the Membership Cooperation Fund of \$5,900, and from the Campaign and Action Fund of \$2,800.

Note: The audited financial statements will be available by May 28, 2011. Contact the National Office at 613-744-7667 or email members@amnesty.ca to receive the statements.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM 2010 DECISIONS

RESOLUTION B1

COMPOSITION OF THE ICM DELEGATION

The Branch now elects one member of its ICM Delegation at the AGM.

RESOLUTION B2

ACCEPTANCE OF BRANCH PLAN 2011–2016

The 2011 Operational Plan was set within this Branch Plan. As required by this resolution, beginning in 2012, the Executive Committee will report annually to the AGM regarding evaluation, focus, activism and materials.

RESOLUTION B3

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES RE AFFILIATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

An international initiative is underway to be completed over the course of 2011–2012 to take stock of current partnerships, develop necessary guidelines and articulate partnership strategies. Our Branch regularly provides advice and guidelines to members about local-level partnership. A longer report on this will be provided as part of the AGM 2011 documents.

RESOLUTION B4

MEMBER ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

A report in response to this resolution will form part of AGM 2011 documentation.

RESOLUTION B5

JOINT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WITH AMNESTY CANADA (FRANCOPHONE)

AGM 2011 is being held jointly with the Francophone Branch in Montreal. The AGM Planning Committee is exploring various sites in Western Canada for AGM 2012.

RESOLUTION C6

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS—FISCAL 2010

PricewaterhouseCoopers have conducted the audit for fiscal 2010 and the stub period of October–December 2009. Audited Financial Statements will be distributed at AGM 2011 and are available on request.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(DECEMBER 31, 2010)

- President:** Sarah Beamish, Edmonton, Alberta
Vice-President: David Kelleher, Maxville, Ontario
Chairperson: Michael Bossin, Ottawa, Ontario
Secretary: George Harding, Prince George, British Columbia
Treasurer: Brenda Dashney, Greely, Ontario
Directors:
 Renee Saviour, Toronto, Ontario
 Sharmila Setaram, Mississauga, Ontario
 David Smith, Hemmingford, Quebec
 Lana Verran, Vancouver, British Columbia
 Brandon Yau, Vancouver, British Columbia

FIELDWORKERS

(DECEMBER 31, 2010)

- Dave Abbey, Regina, Saskatchewan
 Kim Assailly, Calgary, Alberta
 Gordon Barnes, Regina, Saskatchewan
 David Buchanan, Vancouver, British Columbia
 Samantha Burdett, Bowmanville, Ontario
 Alexandra Catchpole, Vancouver, British Columbia
 Remzi Cej, St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
 Stephanie Coward-Yaskiw, Ottawa, Ontario
 Corinne de Réland, Gatineau, Quebec
 Karen Eaton, Thornhill, Ontario
 Tricia Jane Edgar, North Vancouver, British Columbia
 Alison Etter, Halifax, Nova Scotia
 Carrie Froese, Coquitlam, British Columbia
 Bill Gilsdorf, Alexandria, Ontario
 Marcel Lennon, Montreal, Quebec
 Ian Mathieson, Edmonton, Alberta
 Linda Murray, Napanee, Ontario
 Dave Myles, Burnaby, British Columbia
 Mariann Northeast, Langley, British Columbia
 Matthew Ponsford, Halifax, Nova Scotia
 Nadine Poznanski, Vernon, British Columbia

- Toshio Rahman, Vancouver, British Columbia
 Berta Ramirez-Galan, Scarborough, Ontario
 Alexa Romanelli, Lasalle, Quebec
 Wilf Ruland, Dundas, Ontario
 Charlene Scharf, Edmonton, Alberta
 Sharmila Setaram, Mississauga, Ontario
 Deborah Smith, Gatineau, Quebec
 Mary Trumpener, Edmonton, Alberta
 Pedro Valdez, Toronto, Ontario
 Seiko Watanabe, Prince George, British Columbia
 Zewditu Wayeissa, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
 Cyril Weeratunge, Windsor, Ontario
 Tracy Wright, Regina, Saskatchewan
 Kristi White, Lindsay, Ontario

FIELDWORKERS IN TRAINING

- Audra Foggin, Magrath, Alberta
 Priti Maheshwari, Lethbridge, Alberta
 Mary Pyne, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
 Salahuddin Rafiquddin, Mississauga, Ontario

COORDINATORS

(DECEMBER 31, 2010)

- Campaign for Abolition of the Death Penalty:**
 Aubrey Harris, Toronto, Ontario
Medical Network: Don Payne, Toronto, Ontario
Medical Network (Nurses Committee):
 Ken Agar-Newman, Victoria, British Columbia
Business and Human Rights Steering Committee, Chair:
 Ian Heide, Ottawa, Ontario
Parliamentary Relations Coordinator:
 Tariq Ahsan, Ottawa, Ontario;

AFRICA

- West Africa:** Yao Klousseh, Montreal, Quebec
West Africa: Laura Dutfield, Winnipeg, Manitoba
West Africa: David Shellnutt, Toronto, Ontario
South Africa/Southern Africa: Josée Fillion, Ottawa, Ontario
Nigeria: Katie Omstead, Wheatley, Ontario
Zimbabwe/Southern Africa:
 Stephanie McBride, Greely, Ontario
Rwanda/Burundi/Democratic Republic of Congo:
 David Smith, Hemmingford, Quebec

AMERICAS

- Central America:** Rafael Silver, Nelson, British Columbia
Mexico: Cara Gibbons, Toronto, Ontario
Mexico: Michael Ballin, Toronto, Ontario
Mexico: Cesar Peralta, Toronto, Ontario
Haiti: Andrew Thompson, Waterloo, Ontario



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Amnesty International members demonstrated in Toronto on June 26, 2010, and called on leaders meeting at the G20 summit to put human rights at the very heart of the global effort to fight poverty.

- Colombia:** Sarah Beamish, Edmonton, Alberta
- United States:** Mark Warren, Almonte, Ontario

ASIA

- China:** Yvonne Christensen, Montreal, Quebec
- China:** Michael Craig, Toronto, Ontario
- South Korea/North Korea/Japan:** Sue Hickey, Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Sri Lanka:** John Argue, Toronto, Ontario
- Malaysia/Singapore:** Margaret John, Ancaster, Ontario
- Myanmar:** Brian John, Ancaster, Ontario

EUROPE

- Turkey:** Mala Naraine, Toronto, Ontario

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

- Iran:** Lily Pourzand, Toronto, Ontario
- Iran:** Nazila Mofrad, Toronto, Ontario
- Iran:** Renee McKenzie, Ottawa, Ontario
- Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories/Lebanon:** Jim Joyce, Pointe Claire, Quebec

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

We'd like to express our thanks to the numerous other Amnesty International members in Canada who also contributed to the work of our Branch in other ways,

including organizing *Write for Rights* events, conducting human rights research and raising much needed funds. The immense achievements outlined in this report could not have happened without your dedication to human rights.

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE MEYER

Joyce Meyer, a 30-year member of Group 19 Winnipeg, passed away on May 19, 2010, at the age of 83.

Joyce worked in the news room of the Winnipeg Tribune for many years. In the 1960s she lived in Italy where she worked as a public relations official for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. She returned to Canada in the early 1970s, subsequently writing a book *Ricordi* about her life in Italy.

Joyce's excellent writing skills made her a valuable member of Group 19. She was particularly active in the successful efforts to defeat a 1987 private member's bill to reinstate the death penalty in Canada.

She will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by her many friends in Group 19 Winnipeg.

BRANCH STAFF (DECEMBER 31, 2010)

STRATEGY UNIT

Executive Director: Bob Goodfellow
Secretary General: Alex Neve
Director of Communications and Marketing: Matt Beard
Director of Finance and Administration: Gordon Mair
Director of Resource Development: Rosemary Oliver (T)
Director of Campaigns and Activism: Alain Roy
Executive Assistant: Bonnie Harnden (Aden Seaton on leave)

CAMPAIGNING AND ACTION

Campaigners
Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
Craig Benjamin
Security and Human Rights:
Hilary Homes
Business and Human Rights:
Fiona Koza* (V), Tara Scurr* (V) (on leave)
Major Campaigns and Women's Human Rights:
Lindsay Mossman
Central and South America:
*Kathy Price (T)
Urgent Action Network:
Marilyn McKim (T)
Refugee Program Coordinator:
Gloria Nafziger (T)
Articling Student:
Tiisetso Russell

GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

Regional Development Coordinator—
Nova Scotia/New Brunswick: Kim Cahill* (H)
Regional Development Coordinator—
Greater Toronto Area: Elena Dumitru (T)
Write for Rights Outreach Coordinator:
Bonnie Laing* (C)
Grassroots Support and Organizing Coordinators:
Shauna MacLean, Lily Mah-Sen
Regional Development Coordinator—
BC and Yukon: Don Wright (P)

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Online Fundraising: Andrew Bales*, George Irish*
Media and External Communications:
Beth Berton-Hunter (T), John Tackaberry

Information Services Coordinator: Denise Glasbeek
Operations Support Coordinator: Louise Mulvihill
Website Editor: Susanne Ure

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION, SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

Database Administrator: Chris Beausoleil
Information Technology Coordinator: Brenda Jamieson

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Accountant: Nelly Almeida
Computer Records Coordinator: Sue Bellefeuille
Accountant: Kathy Breau
Toronto Office Coordinator: Nancy Cameron (T)
Finance Clerk Autodraft: Diane Daley
Mail Clerk/Office Maintenance: Sandy Lagimoniere

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Resource Development Manager—Ottawa:
David Griffiths
Major Gifts and Planned Giving Manager:
John O'Leary* (T)
Fundraising Assistant: Sara Ageorlo (C) (T)
Special Events/Annual Giving: Hala Al-Madi*
Member Services:
Jennifer Auten, Jessica Brodrigg*, Will Bryant
Direct Marketing: Nicole Burgess (on leave)
Major Gifts: Lorena Harrison (T), Grace Wu (T)
Monthly Giving: Cheryl Rooney (T)
Planned Giving: Heather Warren*

Legend: (C) Fixed-term contract (H) Halifax
(T) Toronto (P) Pacific Regional Office
(*) Part-time

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



NATIONAL OFFICE 312 LAURIER AVE E, OTTAWA ON K1N 1H9

TORONTO OFFICE 1992 YONGE ST, 3RD FLOOR, TORONTO ON M4S 1Z7

VANCOUVER OFFICE 430-319 WEST PENDER ST, VANCOUVER BC V6B 1T3

TEL: 613-744-7667 OR 1-800-AMNESTY (1-800-266-3789)

FAX: 613-746-2411; EMAIL: MEMBERS@AMNESTY.CA