



Aung San Suu Kyi is a Myanmar pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

The courage of Aung San Suu Kyi

Pro-democracy leader receives shameful verdict after unfair trial

On August 11, 2009, a guilty verdict was announced in the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi. A Myanmar military court sentenced the Nobel Peace Prize winner and pro-democracy leader to 18 months' house arrest.

The punishment was cruel and unjust. Ms. Suu Kyi had been brought before the court after a bizarre incident involving an American named John Yettaw who swam across a lake and visited her house uninvited.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been detained for more than 14 of the past 20 years. It may be that the authorities extended her house arrest to stop her from taking part in elections

in 2010. Ms. Suu Kyi was appealing the sentence as we went to print.

The last time elections were held – in 1990 – Ms. Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, won 82% of the vote. Ms. Suu Kyi should have become prime minister; instead she was arrested.

Pro-democracy supporters inside Myanmar are immensely courageous. Aung San Suu Kyi is one of more than 2,100 people detained because of their political beliefs.

It may sometimes seem as if their situation is hopeless. But the long history of other human rights struggles shows that we must never give up and

Ambassador of Conscience

In July 2009, Aung San Suu Kyi was named Amnesty International *Ambassador of Conscience*. The award – Amnesty's most prestigious – recognizes exceptional human rights leadership. The announcement of the award was made by Irish rock band and long-time Amnesty supporters U2 at a concert in Dublin.

that change is possible.

It was only through relentless pressure and decades of hard work that apartheid was brought to an end in South Africa, that the Berlin Wall was brought down, and that respect for human rights was restored in countries such as Chile and Argentina.

If we continue to work and maintain pressure, human rights will come to Myanmar. We must persevere. ■



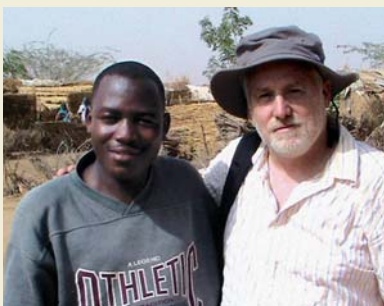
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Journalist Houada Mahamat Maloum and Alex Neve. Houada's work draws attention to the plight of women and girls in eastern Chad.



© Amnesty International

People line up to receive food at Bredjing Camp in eastern Chad.



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Alex Neve with Darfur refugee Adam Hassan. Adam was Alex's translator during meetings at Gaga Camp.

Free DVD offer

Please phone **1-800 AMNESTY (1-800-266-3789)** email **members@amnesty.ca** or fill out the enclosed coupon to receive a copy of a DVD of Alex's latest Chad mission.

CHAD: "It is not yet safe to be a woman here"

By Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada

Houada Mahamat Maloum is a remarkable young woman, a journalist, who is doing everything she can to draw attention to the plight of women and girls in eastern Chad.

Houada travels to refugee camps and hears from women about the violence they experience on a daily basis.

She shares these stories on the radio in an effort to open peoples' eyes to the injustices women and girls continue to face.

I met Houada while I was part of an Amnesty research mission to Chad in April 2009. The entire mission and all of our research was only made possible by the support of Amnesty members like you. Wherever we travelled in Chad, people expressed their deep gratitude to Amnesty members for making human rights in Chad a priority.

time I visited in April this year, international peacekeeping troops had been on the ground for about 18 months, and a new police force had been deployed in and around the refugee camps.

Sadly, more security forces have not brought increased safety for women and girls.

Women face the reality of violence at every turn: violence in the family and rape even at the hands of camp staff. When women leave the camps in search of firewood or to go to market, they are targeted by armed bands.

Houada Mahamat Maloum's assessment was straightforward and bleak: "It is not yet safe to be a woman here." She said that it will not be safe until the justice system takes rape and other violence against women seriously.

"The entire mission and all of our research was only made possible by the support of Amnesty members like you."

It was the third time I had visited Chad in three years, and my second visit to the east of the country.

When I was in eastern Chad in 2006 there was absolutely no protection for women. But by the

A recent Amnesty report, which I co-authored, lays out in detail the findings of our mission to Chad. In the report, we add Amnesty's voice to Houada's in demanding justice and protection for women in Chad. ■

THE CANDLE

AUTUMN 2009
VOLUME 8,
NUMBER 2

The Candle is a publication of Amnesty International Canada. Please let us know if you would like extra copies, or if you would prefer not to receive the newsletter in future. If you have questions or comments or would like more information on any aspect of our work or how to get more involved, please contact us at: Amnesty International, 312 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa ON, K1N 1H9.

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LAYOUT: Joss MacLennan Design www.joss.to

Printed by union labour at MPH Graphics Inc.

Canadian Publication Mail Agreement
Number 40065443



GOOD NEWS

Six Gambian journalists released

Six Gambian journalists who had been falsely imprisoned were freed on September 3, 2009.

They had been arrested in June and then convicted in August for criticizing President Yahya Jammeh for comments he had made on state television about the unsolved 2004 murder of newspaper editor Deyda Hydara. The president had suggested that journalists should “ask Deyda Hydara who killed him”.

Amnesty International considered the jailed journalists to be prisoners of conscience, and called for their immediate release.

“Amnesty International is overjoyed at the release of the journalists, who were wrongly convicted in the first place,” said Tania Bernath, Gambia researcher for Amnesty International. “Their families must be relieved and happy that they are safely back with them.” ■



Zimbabwe Peace Project

Jestina Mukoko, director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project, was released from prison in March 2009.

ZIMBABWE Jestina Mukoko released

Jestina Mukoko was abducted from her home by Zimbabwean armed state security agents early in the morning of December 3, 2008. Ms. Mukoko is the director of the human rights organization Zimbabwe Peace Project. After her abduction, her whereabouts were unknown for almost three weeks and it was feared that she might be dead.

Amnesty International quickly issued an Urgent Action appeal, and Amnesty members around the world wrote letters to the Zimbabwean authorities to protect Ms. Mukoko's safety. She was freed in March 2009. After her release, she thanked Amnesty members for their support.

“I've gone through a mound of cards from Amnesty International members,” she said. “Thank you so much – the cards mean a lot to me and I will try to live up to your expectations.” ■

Freedom for Malaysian human rights activists



Malaysian human rights activist Uthayakumar Ponnusamy.

“Freedom is incredible,”

Uthayakumar Ponnusamy told a crowd in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that greeted him as he came out of prison. “The feeling overwhelms.”

Uthayakumar Ponnusamy was one of three human rights activists released on May 9, 2009. All three belong to the Hindu Rights Action Force (HINDRAF), a group dedicated to defending the rights of ethnic

Indians, who are at risk of human rights violations in Malaysia.

In 2007, HINDRAF had organized a series of meetings and rallies to protest the demolition of some Hindu temples to make way for development projects. The three recently released activists had been jailed for organizing protest rallies without a permit. Amnesty International considered them to be prisoners of conscience. ■

Thank you for your support of human rights in Iran

On July 17, 2009, human rights defender Shadi Sadr was walking along a busy Tehran road on her way to Friday prayers, when a group of men tried to pull her into a car.

In the struggle, she lost her headscarf and coat. She managed briefly to escape, but the men,

With your support, Amnesty International is able to work on a broad range of human rights issues in Iran. You are helping Amnesty campaign to:

- Stop stoning
- End child executions
- Prevent torture
- Protect freedom of speech
- Free prisoners of conscience
- Protect women's human rights defenders
- Protect religious and ethnic minorities

who were probably security agents, quickly caught her and beat her with batons before taking her away.

Sadr is a leading lawyer, and she was likely arrested because of her human rights work. Amnesty International quickly issued an Urgent Action calling for her release, and Amnesty members around the world wrote to the Iranian authorities demanding Sadr's freedom.

Global solidarity

Shadi Sadr is one of many activists who were arrested in the weeks following Iran's disputed June presidential

elections. After the elections, tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Iran's cities to peacefully protest against possible election fraud.

The authorities responded with a brutal crackdown. Security forces beat up, shot and detained demonstrators. There was global outrage. On July 25, thousands of people marched in cities around the world to show solidarity with peaceful protestors in Iran and to call on the Iranian authorities to show restraint.

Ongoing struggle

The Iranian elections, the protests and the crackdown made headline news throughout summer 2009. But there is an ongoing struggle for human rights in Iran that you, as an Amnesty member, are supporting day in day out, and year after year. With your help, Amnesty is campaigning to end stoning, child executions and torture, and to protect freedom of speech in Iran.

Your crucial support

Shadi Sadr was released on July 28, 11 days after her arrest. On that same day, Shirin Ebadi, another Iranian lawyer and human rights defender, and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was in London visiting Amnesty International. "People in Iran need international support now more than ever," she said that day. Her words show how crucial your support is to the Iranian people in their struggle for human rights. ■



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(Left:) An Amnesty member at an event held in London, UK, to show solidarity with peaceful protestors in Iran.

NEWS UPDATES

Chechen human rights activist Zarema Sadulayeva was killed because of her work.



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CHECHNYA Human rights defenders murdered in cold blood

Amnesty International has been pressing the Russian authorities to take action to prevent any further murders of human rights activists in Chechnya. In recent months, three have been killed.

In August 2009, Zarema Sadulayeva, head of the Russian charity *Let's Save the Children*, and her husband were found shot dead in the trunk of their car in the Chechen capital Grozny. Four weeks earlier, leading Chechen human rights activist Natalia Estemirova was murdered.

The situation in Chechnya is critical. International organizations and journalists are banned from the region, and human rights activists are being killed. The Russian authorities must fully investigate the killings, ensure the murderers are brought to justice and protect the safety of human rights activists. ■

SRI LANKA It's time to unlock the camps

Since fighting between the Sri Lankan army and rebel forces ended in May 2009, there has been less and less media coverage of events in Sri Lanka.

However, 300,000 people fled their homes because of the fighting and are forced to live in camps. The camps are run by the military who stop anyone from leaving. People have even been stopped from talking to aid workers.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has described conditions inside the camps as "appalling".

Amnesty International has been working to unlock the camps in Sri Lanka. We have demanded that the Sri Lankan government let people living inside the camps leave if they want to. Amnesty has also pressed for independent observers and aid agencies to be allowed into the camps. ■

At Menik Farm camp in northern Sri Lanka, displaced people wait in line for food.



© Amnesty International

CANADA Justice for the Lubicon Cree

Oil, gas and logging companies have devastated the land of the Lubicon Cree of northern Alberta.

Billions of dollars of wealth have been removed in oil and gas revenue. The traditional economy of the Lubicon people has been virtually destroyed, driving the community into extreme poverty. The federal and provincial governments have done nothing to help the Lubicon cope with the harm that has been done.

In fall 2009, members of Amnesty International sections around the world are taking part in a global letter-writing action that calls on the Premier of Alberta to respect the rights of the Lubicon Cree by not licensing any more oil and gas development against their wishes.

For more information, please visit amnesty.ca/lubicon. ■



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The perfect match: yoga and human rights

This year, hundreds of people in dozens of yoga studios across Canada have been doing yoga to raise vital funds for Amnesty International's human rights work.

Amnesty's *Yoga Day* is held each March, but there are yoga events

held throughout the year. As well as raising awareness of human rights, yoga events have so far raised over \$20,000 in 2009 for Amnesty's work.

If you're interested in finding out more, please visit our online page at amnesty.ca/yogaday. ■

Across Canada by bike – for human rights

In summer 2009, Tucker Mertens and his dad Bob bicycled across Canada to raise money and awareness for Amnesty International's human rights work.

They set off from Nova Scotia in June, and after 78 days and 6,344 kilometres, they arrived in Vancouver.

Tucker folded 1,000 paper cranes and along the way he gave the paper birds to people in exchange for donations to Amnesty. In Japanese culture, the crane is a mystical bird and the folding of 1,000 paper cranes represents world peace.

By the end of their journey, Tucker and Bob had raised more than \$3,000 for human rights. "We want to thank everyone we met, who fed us, housed us and gave us donations and encouragement along the way," Tucker said. ■



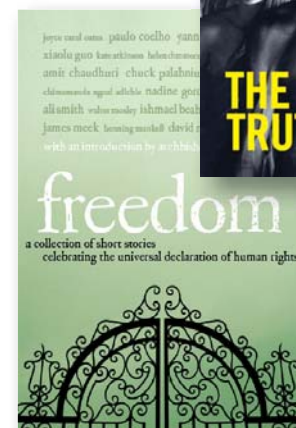
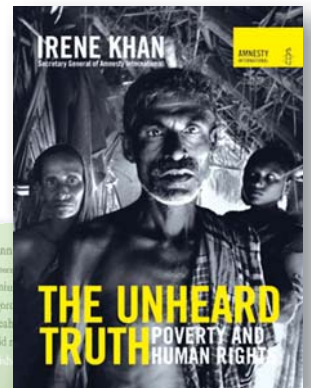
Tucker Mertens

Bob and Tucker Mertens head into British Columbia on their cross-Canada bike ride for human rights.

New books, great reads

- *Freedom* is a rich new collection of short stories by some of the best writers of fiction in the world today. *Freedom* celebrates 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and each contributor has used the UDHR as his or her inspiration. The superb line-up of authors has writers from many different countries including Yann Martel, Rohinton Mistry, Joyce Carol Oates, Ali Smith, Paulo Coelho, Amit Chaudhuri, Walter Mosley, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Kate Atkinson. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has written a foreword to the collection.

- In *The Unheard Truth*, Irene Khan, Amnesty International's global secretary general, shows through personal reflection and case studies why poverty is first and foremost not a problem of economics but of human rights. She argues that giving people a say in their own future, and treating them with dignity and respect for their rights is the only way we can make progress in tackling global poverty.



Taste for Justice host Sonia Petricca – a community fundraising champion



Amnesty International

Sonia Petricca (*front*) became an Amnesty community fundraising champion after raising \$1,000 for Amnesty's human rights work.

Sonia Petricca is an Amnesty International community fundraising champion.

In July 2009, Sonia held a *Taste for Justice* event at her workplace and through her enthusiasm and hard work raised more than \$1,000 for Amnesty. Her company agreed to donate a further \$150.

Taste for Justice is an annual Amnesty event. The idea is that participating Amnesty supporters host dinners or barbecues, and their guests make a donation to Amnesty.

We'd like to thank Sonia and every *Taste for Justice* participant for making the 2009 campaign our most successful so far.

Profiles of more Amnesty community fundraising champions like Sonia are featured on our website at amnesty.ca/heroes. ■

Are you thinking of leaving a gift to Amnesty in your will? Heather can help

Heather Warren joined Amnesty International as a donor in 1982, because of her strong belief in the importance of human rights activism.

Heather soon became more involved, first through letter-writing and then by helping to start an Amnesty group in Lanark, Ontario. She later served as Treasurer on our national Executive Committee.

In 1999, Heather began working at Amnesty's national office. For 10 years she has been assisting people who plan to leave a gift in their will to Amnesty International.

If you ever have any questions about leaving a gift to Amnesty International in your will, Heather would be very happy to assist you. You can contact her at **613-744-7667** ext **239**, or by email at **hwarren@amnesty.ca**, or by filling out the enclosed coupon.

Heather Warren can help answer your questions about wills.



Amnesty International

How your everyday shopping can help support human rights

The Amnesty VISA card is unlike any other credit card.

Buying your groceries, eating out, or shopping online – every time you use your Amnesty VISA card, no matter the amount of your purchase, a donation will be made towards Amnesty's life-saving work to free prisoners of conscience, end torture and protect the human rights of all people.

As soon as your application is approved, Citizens Bank of Canada will donate \$20 towards Amnesty International's human rights work, and every time you use your Amnesty VISA card, Citizens Bank will donate another \$0.10. Plus there's no annual fee and



great VISA benefits. Please go to www.citizensbank.ca/amnestyvisa or phone 1-800-611-8472 for further information.

The next time you shop, use the card that cares: The Human Rights Card.

* VISA Int./Amnesty International and Citizens Bank of Canada, Licensed Users. Note: The Amnesty International VISA card is not available to Quebec residents.



On December 10 – International Human Rights Day – you can join Amnesty supporters in Canada and around the world in our largest, most popular event – our annual global *Write for Rights* write-a-thon.

What is *Write for Rights*?

It's people writing letters to free prisoners of conscience, end human rights abuses and send messages of hope to those who have been unjustly jailed.

It's easy to get involved

You can get involved on your own, or with family or friends. Or you can organize an event at your school, workplace or faith community. At our website writeathon.ca you'll find everything you need to get started including all the letter-writing cases, and tips on how to write a letter.

Write for Rights public events and open houses

Some Amnesty community groups will be holding *Write for Rights* events that are open to the public. And Amnesty International's offices in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver will be holding open houses – so please drop by! More information on public events and open houses can be found at the write-a-thon website.

How can I find out more?

To find out how to organize your own *Write for Rights* event, or for information on attending a public event or Amnesty office open house, please check out our website writeathon.ca.

