



People in Cairo's Tahrir Square celebrate after the announcement on February 11, 2011, that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was giving up power.



THE STRUGGLE FOR CHANGE:

How you are standing in solidarity with the people of North Africa and the Middle East

"I wanted to express my opinion," said Chadi Abidi as he lay in a Tunisian hospital bed recovering from a bullet wound to his leg.

Chadi was speaking with an Amnesty International researcher, explaining his reasons for taking to the streets on January 9, 2011. The 20-year-old had just wanted to peacefully protest against a corrupt government. He'd been exercising a basic human right—expressing his opinion—when someone fired on him with live ammunition. Chadi was injured; dozens of other protestors in Tunisia were killed.

For human rights supporters, the first months of 2011 have been both

exhilarating and deeply distressing. In countries across North Africa and the Middle East, people have been demanding their freedom. In many instances the authorities have responded with violence and brutality.

But repression has not stopped the protestors. In Tunisia and in Egypt, people power toppled two presidents, offering hope of a brighter human rights future and inspiring demonstrations in other countries.

Your crucial support

During the first few months of 2011, teams of Amnesty International human rights experts have been on the ground in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Bahrain. Amnesty has

also mobilized quickly in response to human rights abuses against protestors elsewhere. None of this could have happened without your support.

You spoke out against the brutality of security forces in Syria. You condemned the killing of protestors in Yemen. You demanded an end to the crackdown on peaceful demonstrations in Sudan.

In North Africa, the Middle East and all over the world, individuals and communities are fighting for dignity and justice and trying to end human rights violations. As an Amnesty International member, you are among them, standing in solidarity with them.

Thank you! Amnesty's life-saving work depends on you

A message from Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada

You are—right now—part of an important global campaign to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Chad.

It's a campaign that wouldn't exist without loyal supporters like you.

This campaign began with a research mission to eastern Chad, which was followed by a detailed report exposing the magnitude of the problem. The campaign continues now as we work at the highest international levels to demand action. As an Amnesty International member, you've been there the whole way.

I was part of the mission to eastern Chad. For several days in May and June 2010, I interviewed former child soldiers. Some were Chadian; others were

from Darfur. Most became soldiers when they were very young—sometimes as young as ten years of age.

Salama's story was typical. He was 13 when he received combat training. He described how he was taken into the bush and then made to fight against the Chadian national army.

The stories that I heard during my time in Chad have stayed with me and have been an important focus of Amnesty's work over the past 12 months.

After returning from the research mission, I immediately got to work with Amnesty colleagues to write a report detailing our findings and concerns. And, in February 2011, I travelled to the United Nations



Alex Neve was part of an Amnesty mission to eastern Chad in 2010 that investigated the issue of child soldiers.

in New York to meet with delegates there, and press them to take action to end the recruitment of children to armed forces and groups in Chad. We continue to campaign on this issue.

Our work on child soldiers in Chad—like our work on all human rights issues everywhere—depends completely on you. I cannot thank you enough for your committed support.

Amnesty's 2010 Annual Review

Amnesty's Annual Review for Canadian members will be published in July 2011. The Annual Review is our report back to you on how we used your faithful donations to advance human rights around the world in 2010. The Annual Review will be available online at amnesty.ca/annualreview.

If you would prefer to receive a paper version of the Annual Review, please let us know. We would be more than happy to mail you a copy. Please fill out the enclosed coupon, phone us at **1-800-AMNESTY**



Last year's review

(**1-800-266-3789**) or email members@amnesty.ca. (If you requested a paper version last year, there is no need to let us know again—we will automatically send you one this year.)

THE CANDLE

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EGYPT: Amnesty researchers among 35 freed

On February 4, 2011, 35 human rights activists and journalists—including two Amnesty International researchers—were freed in Egypt after spending several days in military custody.

The 35 were detained in Cairo during a sudden, brutal crackdown

by Egyptian security forces on the independent reporting of Egypt's unrest.

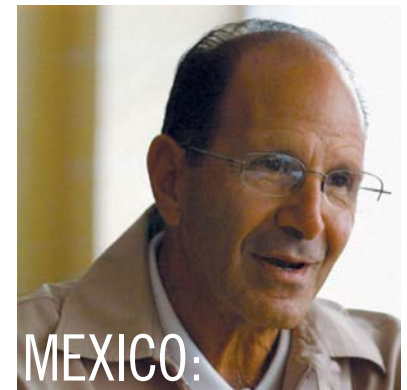
The whereabouts of the activists remained unknown for many hours. Amnesty International was concerned that they were at risk of torture and issued a global Urgent Action appeal.

The overwhelming response to the appeal by Amnesty members created real pressure on the Egyptian authorities to release the activists and likely contributed to the positive outcome.



STAN HONDA/AFP/Getty Images

Amnesty members in New York call for human rights to be respected in Egypt, February 12, 2011. A few days earlier, Amnesty researchers in Cairo had been detained by security forces.



Amnesty International/Ricardo Ramirez Arriola

MEXICO: Father Solalinde receives protection

Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra is a priest who risks his life to run a shelter for migrants in Mexico. He has been harassed, intimidated and threatened by those who oppose his work.

After Father Solalinde's case was featured in Amnesty International's *Write for Rights* letter-writing marathon in December 2010, the Mexican authorities provided him with two bodyguards. Father Solalinde has also said that working with Amnesty has raised his profile so that he is now able to arrange high-level meetings with the authorities to discuss human rights issues.

During *Write for Rights*, Amnesty members wrote solidarity letters to Father Solalinde's shelter. The staff at the shelter, who are also threatened for the work they do, were encouraged by the letters and are making them into a banner. The banner will be displayed in the shelter to show that people from all over the world support the work that is done there.

YEMEN: Human rights activist released

Human rights activist Zahra Salih was released in Yemen on January 11, 2011. She had been held for over two months and during that time family and friends were unable to communicate with her.

Ms. Salih belongs to the Southern Movement, which campaigns against discrimination. The government has acted brutally against protests organized by the Southern Movement, and dozens of demonstrators have been killed.

Ms. Salih was arrested on November 8, 2010, in the city of Aden. Security forces first searched her family home but could not find her. Later that day, they forced her out of a car and detained her.

Concerned that she might be tortured, Amnesty International launched a worldwide appeal on her behalf. After her release, Ms. Salih thanked Amnesty members for their support.

AMNESTY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Members uniting across the world against injustice

New website—www.AI50.ca—offers powerful opportunity to take action from May 2011

It all started 50 years ago when one man saw that by using our rights—our freedom to act for a just world—we can achieve incredible things. Outraged by human rights abuses around the globe, Peter Benenson, a British lawyer, made an appeal to others to unite with him in common action. In 1961, Amnesty International was born.

Since then, ordinary people have been joining together and acting as one for human rights for almost 50 years. From London to Santiago, from Winnipeg to Kampala, one person joined with another to insist that the rights of each and every human being are respected and protected.

Over five decades, Amnesty members have secured the release of tens of thousands of people who had been imprisoned for their beliefs or their way of life. Amnesty members have helped bring human rights abusers

to account. Amnesty members have changed laws and changed lives. 50 years on, severe problems still persist but we know we can change this. 50 years has shown that we can.

We are at our most powerful when we stand together for human rights. When we unite as a global movement, against injustice, our voice can be heard. And through your support for Amnesty International, you have already been part of that powerful global voice demanding justice, freedom and dignity for everyone.

In Amnesty's 50th year, please be one of the millions of people around the world uniting in common action on five critical human rights campaigns. They are campaigns we can win; from maternal health to the death penalty to corporate accountability, these will all be campaigns on which concerted global action—human rights “people power”—can



How to take action

It's simple. Please visit www.AI50.ca

The website will be available to Amnesty members from May 23.

Please also do one more thing:

Ask one more person

who is not yet an Amnesty supporter to do the same. Just one more. Imagine the impact this could have if all 3 million Amnesty members asked one more person.

really make a difference.

A fantastic new website—www.AI50.ca—will enable you to take action on these critical campaign areas. The site will do so much more than just provide an opportunity to take action. It will also provide exciting new ways to see how each action combines with thousands of others to achieve real impact and improve lives.



Please visit www.AI50.ca to take action on critical human rights issues. And please also do one more thing: Ask **one more person** who is not yet an Amnesty supporter to do the same.

Aung San Suu Kyi thanks Amnesty members



SOE THIAN WIN/AF/Photo Images

Aung San Suu Kyi has expressed her gratitude to Amnesty International members for standing alongside her and the people of Myanmar.

In her New Year message for 2011, Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi specially thanked Amnesty International members for standing alongside her and the people of Myanmar in their long struggle for human rights.

Ms. Suu Kyi has also been speaking directly with Amnesty International. Just two weeks after her release in November 2010, a phone meeting was arranged between Ms. Suu Kyi and Amnesty youth members from Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.

The former prisoner of conscience urged young human rights supporters to continue to do everything they could to bring about the release of the remaining 2,200 political

prisoners in Myanmar. She said that many of the prisoners were young people who had been given long prison sentences.

Ms. Suu Kyi has also been very supportive of Amnesty's "Three Freedoms" campaign, which was launched just before Myanmar's November 2010 elections. The "Three Freedoms"—freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association—are severely restricted in Myanmar.

"I think that [Amnesty International] has done more for political prisoners around the world than really any other organization and we appreciate it very much," she said. "We have been in touch with you since 1988 so you are our longest international ally."

Justice in Haiti: Amnesty plays a central role

It is wonderful to be able to share some hopeful news about human rights in Haiti.

Following the surprise return to Haiti of former president Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier in January 2011, Amnesty International played an important role in ensuring he will face justice for the torture, political killings, and disappearances that marked his brutal rule from 1971 to 1986. Duvalier had been in exile in France for 25 years.

As soon as news broke of Duvalier's return, Amnesty called for him to be brought to justice for his human rights crimes. Canadian Gerardo Ducos, Amnesty's expert researcher on Haiti, was in the country at the time and immediately took action,

briefing reporters and meeting with Haitian officials, diplomats and local activists.

Amnesty had extensively researched human rights abuses in Haiti during Duvalier's years in power. So we quickly turned to our archives and gathered our key reports.

Four days after Duvalier returned, Gerardo met with the Haitian Minister of Justice to deliver those reports and to press Amnesty's demand for justice. Haitian officials revealed they had decided to charge Duvalier for crimes against humanity. Immediately after the meeting, Gerardo shared the remarkable news with local activists and the international media.



HECTOR RETAMAL/AF/Photo Images

Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier in Port au Prince, Haiti, on January 21, 2011. Later that day, the Haitian authorities announced plans to investigate the former president for crimes against humanity.



Kadir van Lohuizen/NOOR

NIGERIA: Polluted water a daily reality for 30 million people

In August 2008, oil began to pour from a burst pipe in the Niger Delta in Nigeria and into the Bodo Creek and surrounding swamp. It continued to gush out for weeks. The area became covered in a foul thick slick that killed the fish that people depended on for food and for their livelihood.

The local people were desperate for the leak to be stopped, but oil kept pouring out. It was not until November that the oil company plugged the leak. The area has still not been cleaned up many months later. Leaks like this have happened many times in the Niger Delta over the past four decades.

The Niger Delta is home to one of the world's most important wetland and coastal marine ecosystems. But underneath the Delta lie massive oil deposits. Oil has generated an

estimated US\$600 billion in revenue since the 1960s; yet the majority of the Niger Delta's 30 million people live in extreme poverty. Many people have to drink, cook with and wash in polluted water, and eat fish contaminated with oil and other poisons.

The oil industry is responsible for the pollution, but the Nigerian government is also to blame for its failure to control the industry despite the overwhelming evidence that serious environmental damage is being caused.

New oil spills in the Niger Delta are still happening; past oil spills have yet to be cleared up. Fundamental human rights are being violated: the right to water; the right to food; the right to health; and the right to work. Local activists who defend these rights face the threat of violence.

A woman in the Niger Delta stands next to an oil wellhead that is spilling crude oil. Amnesty is launching a global campaign to end pollution-related human rights abuses in the Niger Delta.

On May 28, 2011, Amnesty International is launching a major global campaign to end pollution-related human rights abuses in the Niger Delta. The campaign will begin by calling on the Nigerian government to hold the oil industry to account. The goal is to ensure the oil industry ends decades of pollution and cleans up the Niger Delta for the 30 million people who live there.

More information on the campaign and the opportunity to take action will be available on our website at amnesty.ca/dignity.

THE DEMAND DIGNITY CAMPAIGN: Your support = Human rights protection = Less poverty

- Hundreds of millions live in poverty because of human rights abuses committed by governments and corporations.
- If we can end these human rights abuses, many millions of lives will improve.
- Amnesty's three million members—your influence and your voice—can help ensure that the rights of the poor are recognized and protected.

Burkina Faso: President must keep his promise to improve maternal health care

Mariam was 23 when she died in a hospital in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou, 13 days after delivering a stillborn baby.

There were problems with Mariam's delivery and she became ill ten days later. When her husband Ali took her back to the emergency ward, medical staff repeatedly demanded payment for medical supplies and treatment.

While the delivery and trips to the hospital cost Ali about \$200—the delays in care cost Mariam her life.

Mariam's eldest brother said: "My sister died due to a lack of means and adequate treatment. The hospital, it is like a chamber of commerce. If you

are poor, you are 'left'; if you can pay, you are treated."

In a February 2010 meeting with Amnesty International, the President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaoré, committed to making maternal health care more accessible to poor women. But so far, he has not fulfilled that promise.

The coupon inside this issue of *The Candle* features a Mother's Day card for President Compaoré calling on him to keep his promise.

Please fill out and return the card and we will deliver it along with thousands of others from Amnesty members around the world.



Salam Dipama, who lost his wife in childbirth, now lives with his one year old son Alassan and his mother, who cares for the baby.

Hala can help you turn something you love to do into a way to raise money and awareness for Amnesty



Hala Al-Madi can help answer your questions about raising money and awareness for Amnesty.

We all have something that we love to do. Perhaps you love to entertain, practise yoga regularly, or you enjoy playing a musical instrument, or teaching a language. Whatever it might be, you have what it takes to take Amnesty International into your community and raise more funds for much needed human rights research and campaign work.

Hala Al-Madi joined Amnesty in 2002. She has held *Taste for Justice* events, sought sponsors for her letter-writing efforts on December 10, and this year, to mark Amnesty's 50th anniversary, she will be walking at a local race, and collecting sponsorships to benefit Amnesty.

Looking for ideas on how you, too, can raise money and awareness for Amnesty? Hala would be happy to

mail you a copy of "50 Ways to Raise Money for Human Rights", a new exclusive booklet by Amnesty on ways to raise money in your community.



Hala will also answer any of your questions, and provide you with advice and/or materials to help you carry out your chosen fundraising activity or event. You can contact her at halmadi@amnesty.ca or 613-744-7667, ext 223, or by filling out the enclosed coupon.

Food.
Friends.
Freedom.

Share your **Taste for Justice** in 2011



Tallulah Photography

A tea party held in support of Amnesty's human rights work. The party was hosted by Tallulah, a talented photographer and Amnesty member.

You and friends can **dine in** and **dine out** this spring/summer in support of Amnesty's work.

You can take part by dining in—hosting an Amnes-tea party, a BBQ or formal dinner at any time—and by dining out—booking a fun night out with a group of friends and colleagues at participating restaurants during the month of June.

For more colourful ideas on how to participate, order our new **Taste for Justice** kit by signing up at tasteforjustice.ca or calling us at **1-800-266-3789**.

Top 3 reasons to hold a **Taste for Justice** gathering:

- 1** You can grow much needed financial support for human rights work.
- 2** You can share an action or petition that you care deeply about.
- 3** You can gain at least one more member for Amnesty International.

Celebrate your **Taste for Justice!**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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