

*“Amnesty members
around the world—
they are everything.”*

Tanele Maseko

Thulani and Tanele Maseko are both human rights defenders in Swaziland. When Thulani was jailed, Tanele launched a campaign for his freedom, backed by Amnesty supporters.

TANELE AND THULANI MASEKO: Reunited—thanks to you!

When Tanele Maseko’s husband, Thulani, was thrown in jail for daring to question the fairness of Swaziland’s judicial system, Tanele fought courageously to free him. After a long campaign, Tanele was successful, and Thulani, a respected human rights lawyer, was released. Recently Tanele and Thulani spoke about their ordeal, the joy of experiencing freedom together, and their deep gratitude to Amnesty International supporters for standing alongside them in their struggle.

It all began on March 17, 2014. It was just a normal day until Tanele received a text message from her husband: “They have taken me in for questioning”. At that moment, life was turned upside down. In jail, Thulani had to sleep on a

hard floor, cold and hungry. It would be 14 months until he was reunited with his wife and their baby son.

How you helped reunite the couple

Hours after Thulani’s arrest, Amnesty International demanded that the Swaziland authorities release him. Amnesty declared that he was a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to free expression. Amnesty supporters never stopped working for his freedom.

Thulani says that knowing Amnesty supporters were with him meant so much. “[The authorities] want to break your spirit, they want to make you feel you have been deserted, you are on your own, no one cares about you,” he said.

“Just to know that somebody out there in the world cares about your wellbeing, your safety, your dignity, your humanity as a prisoner—it lifts your spirit.”

Tanele expressed her gratitude for all that Amnesty supporters have done. “Amnesty members around the world—really, for me, they are everything,” she said.

**As an Amnesty supporter,
you are calling for the
release of all prisoners
of conscience around
the world. Thank you!**

THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS THE WORLD OVER



Burundian human rights defender Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa thanked Amnesty supporters during a recent visit to Canada.

Dear partner in human rights,

Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa is an incredible human rights defender from Burundi, who I had the honour to work with in 2005 when an Amnesty International research mission was in Burundi for two weeks. In early October, Pierre-Claver visited Amnesty's Ottawa office.

In recent years, a human rights crisis in Burundi has been spiralling out of control. Pierre-Claver has personally suffered during the crisis and has survived horrific violence. He was a prisoner of conscience in 2014, and in August 2015 he was shot in the face and neck. In 2015, both his son and son-in-law were

murdered within a few weeks of each other. Pierre-Claver is now living in exile in Belgium where he is continuing his crucial human rights work.

During his recent visit to Amnesty's office, Pierre-Claver expressed heartfelt thanks to Amnesty supporters for defending the human rights of the Burundian people. Pierre-Claver is an inspiration. I'm in awe of his courage and his personal sacrifice.

Around the world right now, human rights defenders like Pierre-Claver are under attack, which is why Amnesty International—with your support—has launched a global campaign to protect these brave women and men.

In Turkey, my close colleague Idil Eser, who does my job at Amnesty International Turkey, heading up our national section there, was put behind bars on July 5 because she defends human rights. Turkish authorities have also locked up Taner Kılıç, the chair of Amnesty Turkey, who was detained on June 6. Both are facing up to 16 years in jail.

Thank you for standing with Pierre-Claver, with Idil and Taner, and with human rights defenders the world over. Thank you for demanding an end to the global crackdown on the brave individuals and communities who are protecting human rights on the front lines.



—Alex Neve, Secretary General

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN CANADA RECEIVES AMNESTY AWARD

On May 27, in Montreal, the Indigenous rights movement of Canada was awarded Amnesty's highest honour, the Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience Award. Also receiving the award was Alicia Keys, the music artist and activist. Every year, the Ambassador of Conscience Award celebrates those who speak out for justice and use their talents to inspire others



to fight for human rights. The 2017 Award celebrates the resilience and courage of the Indigenous rights movement in Canada. Accepting the award were six individuals representing the strength and diversity of the movement—Cindy Blackstock, Delilah Saunders, Melanie Morrison, Senator Murray Sinclair, Melissa Mollen Dupuis and Widia Larivière.

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SUDAN: You helped free Dr. Mudawi after months of wrongful imprisonment

Your support helped free an unjustly jailed human rights defender in Sudan on August 29. Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam was reunited with his family in emotional scenes in the city of Omdurman.

Dr. Mudawi, a prisoner of conscience, was facing six trumped-up charges, including two charges that carried either the death penalty or life imprisonment. All charges against him have been dropped.

Dr. Mudawi had been arrested in December 2016 by National Intelligence Security Service agents at the University of Khartoum, where he works as an engineering professor. Amnesty International believed he was at grave risk of torture and quickly issued an Urgent Action appeal calling for his safe treatment and release.

Dr. Mudawi is well known for his work speaking out for families fleeing violence in Sudan. This was not the first time Dr. Mudawi was arrested. He was detained in December 2003 for eight months in connection with his human rights work in Darfur. He was also arrested twice in 2005.

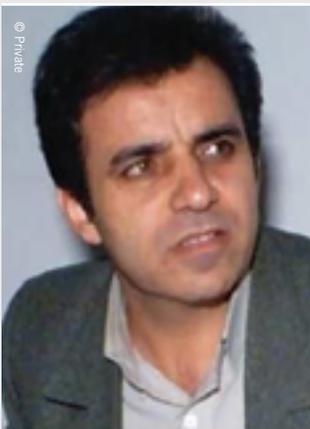


ZAMBIA: Opposition leader released

Opposition party leader Hakainde Hichilema and five others accused with him have been released in Zambia. The leader of the United Party for National Development was arrested in April and charged with treason after it was alleged that he obstructed President Edgar Lungu's motorcade. However, video evidence showed that he had clearly not held up the president's vehicle. Amnesty International demanded that the Zambian authorities drop the bogus treason charges and release the six accused unconditionally. In August, the state withdrew charges against Hakainde Hichilema and his five co-accused.

CHINA: Labour activists freed

"It was your support that allowed my family to be more determined! Thank you!" said Hua Haifeng in a message to Amnesty International supporters after he was released on bail on July 18 in Ganzhou, Jiangxi Province, China. Hua Haifeng, Li Zhao, and Su Heng had been detained while they were investigating labour conditions at Huajian shoe factories, which produce shoes for Ivanka Trump's brand, among others. The three will remain under close police surveillance for the next 12 months and Amnesty will continue to monitor the situation.



IRAN: Human rights defender freed after a decade in prison

On May 12, Iranian Kurdish human rights defender and journalist Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand was freed in Iran. Amnesty supporters had long campaigned for his release. He was unjustly imprisoned on fabricated charges and it is deplorable that he was forced to spend 10 years of his life behind bars. His case shows the extreme lengths to which the Iranian authorities will go to criminalize the work of human rights defenders and journalists. Throughout his time in prison, Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand's health sharply deteriorated. He suffered from heart and kidney problems and rarely received adequate medical treatment.

YOUR SUPPORT PUTS AMNESTY ON THE FRONTLINES



Rohingya refugees fleeing from Myanmar into Bangladesh on October 9, 2017.

MYANMAR: You are a powerful voice calling for an end to ethnic cleansing

The outpouring of compassion and concern from Amnesty International supporters in Canada to the crisis in Myanmar has been truly incredible.

Since August 25, over 500,000 Rohingya refugees have been chased from their homes by military forces in Myanmar. Their villages have been burned to the ground, and women and children shot at as they fled their homes.

Thank you for helping keep the Amnesty crisis response team on the ground. The Amnesty team, led by experienced experts Tirana Hassan and Elise Tillet, has heard shocking first-hand accounts of brutal attacks on Rohingya. The crisis response team is tirelessly documenting evidence of human rights violations, including crimes against humanity.

Because of your support, the full force of Amnesty's global movement is pressing the Myanmar authorities to end its campaign of violence and ethnic cleansing.

IRAQ: You're demanding justice for the victims of the battle for Mosul

More than 600,000 civilians were displaced in 2017 from west Mosul, Iraq, and thousands were killed during a battle in which the Iraqi forces, backed by the US-led coalition, retook the western part of the city from the armed group calling itself Islamic State (IS).

Over the spring and summer, Amnesty International's team in Iraq spoke with hundreds of civilians fleeing west Mosul. Amnesty's researchers found that all sides in the conflict violated international

humanitarian law, and committed war crimes. IS killed hundreds, if not thousands, of men, women, and children as they tried to flee. Meanwhile, Iraqi government forces and the US-Led coalition failed to protect civilians during attacks on the city.

Amnesty is calling on Iraqi forces and the US-led coalition to stop the use of indiscriminate weapons. Civilians trapped by conflict and abused by IS must be treated with dignity and humanity.



Amnesty's Donatella Rovera collecting evidence in northern Iraq.

CAMEROON: You're helping expose widespread torture at secret detention sites



Amnesty researcher Ilaria Allegrozzi speaks with journalists about a report into the widespread use of torture in Cameroon.

Amnesty International's Central Africa researchers have recently uncovered evidence of the widespread use of torture in Cameroon's illegal detention sites. Hundreds of people accused of supporting Boko Haram, often without evidence, are being mistreated by security forces.

Amnesty International conducted five research missions inside Cameroon, interviewed 200 people, and attended

20 court trials. Amnesty's researchers found that victims were held in secret and tortured in at least 20 facilities run mainly by the military and the intelligence agency. At least 24 torture methods were used.

Amnesty is demanding that Cameroon live up to its international human rights obligations and take all necessary steps to end torture, investigate all allegations of torture and bring to justice anyone who has committed torture.

REMEMBERING LIU XIAOBO: a giant of human rights

Liu Xiaobo, the imprisoned Nobel Peace laureate, human rights advocate, and thorn in the side of the Chinese government, died in custody in July.

Throughout his life, Liu Xiaobo bravely spoke truth to power in spite of the huge personal cost. He was imprisoned for the first time from 1989 to 1991 after playing a key role in the pro-democracy movement.

After his release, Liu Xiaobo continued to write articles and essays about China's political system and its human rights record.

He was imprisoned again in 1995 and for a third time in 1996. He was detained for the last time in December 2008 and sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment under the charge of

"incitement to subvert state power".

In 2010, Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Chinese authorities responded by placing his wife, poet and activist Liu Xia, under house arrest, and scrubbing any reference to Liu Xiaobo from the heavily censored internet in China.

After Liu Xiaobo was transferred to hospital with end-stage liver cancer in June 2017, the government denied him his wish to be treated abroad. He died a few weeks later.

Liu Xiaobo leaves a lasting legacy for China and the world, and he continues to inspire millions of people to fight for the right to speak freely and hold the powerful to account.



104-YEAR-OLD AMNESTY DONOR'S INSPIRING MESSAGE

"Together we can achieve extraordinary things!"
says Mrs. Georgina Brunette of British Columbia, a dedicated Amnesty International supporter for over 50 years.

104-year-old Mrs. Brunette has been an avid letter writer since Amnesty's earliest days. As well as writing letters, Mrs. Brunette has donated to Amnesty generously over the years through Amnesty's mail appeals and as a monthly donor.

Today, Mrs. Brunette continues to support Amnesty's work. She is especially passionate about Amnesty's work to protect people with albinism in Malawi



from violence and murder. The issue is close to her heart as Mrs. Brunette's late husband, Malcolm, was born with albinism.

Mrs. Brunette attributes her longstanding support of Amnesty's human rights work to the feeling of being a part of a global community. She says, "We have no right to turn our backs. We are so fortunate, so unbelievably fortunate."

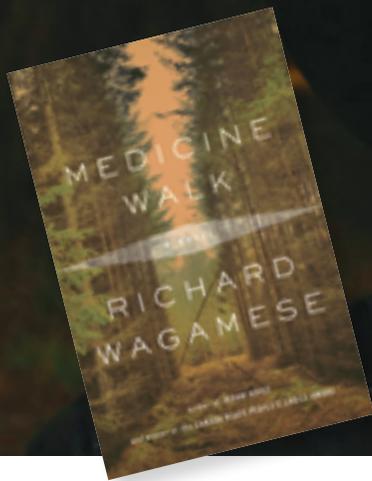
Amnesty's ongoing work to protect people with albinism in Malawi



Thanks to your support, Amnesty International is continuing to press Malawi's government to address failures in Malawi's criminal justice system

which is leaving people with albinism at the mercy of criminal gangs. Ritual killings of people with albinism are influenced by superstitions and myths that their bones or body parts can bring riches. Two Amnesty missions have been to Malawi this year. The Amnesty researchers were overjoyed for the opportunity to be reunited with Annie Alfred (pictured), who was an Amnesty Write for Rights case in 2016.

Medicine Walk is the 2017 Readers' Choice winner!



Richard Wagamese's novel sets an unforgettable journey of a father and son in the dramatic landscape of the BC Interior.

The Amnesty International Book Club is pleased to announce that the Readers' Choice winner for 2017 is Richard Wagamese for his novel *Medicine Walk*.

In *Medicine Walk*, Wagamese (who died in March 2017) tells the story of sixteen-year-old Franklin Starlight, who is called to visit his father, Eldon. Eldon asks his son to take him into the mountains, so he may be buried in the traditional Ojibway manner. What ensues is a journey through the rugged and beautiful backcountry of British Columbia, and a journey into the past.

Along the way, Eldon reflects on his life and offers Frank a history he has never known, the father he has never had, and a connection to himself he never expected. *Medicine Walk* also addresses efforts to preserve culture and heal a divided family.

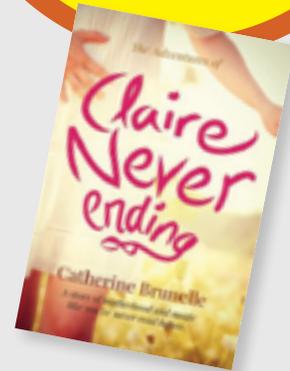
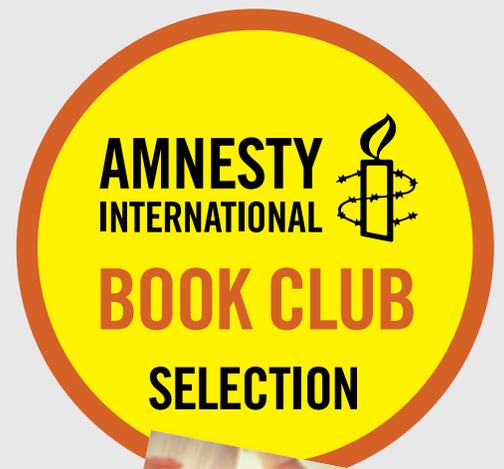
This Book Club guide will examine current initiatives to help address rights violations experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada, and how the novel illustrates these themes. You can download the guide at amnesty.ca/medicine-walk.

IN MEMORY OF CATHERINE BRUNELLE



Catherine Brunelle, the coordinator of Amnesty's Book Club, died on July 29, at the age of 35. Catherine was a writer and blogger, and the author of the novel *The Adventures of Claire Never-Ending*. Catherine's limitless love of life, her positive outlook, her kindness, her creativity and intelligence will long be remembered by those whose lives she touched. Catherine had a vision for what the Book Club could be, and despite serious

health challenges, she set about realising that vision by bringing her boundless passion and imagination to supporting the Book Club community. Our love for Catherine will endure along with the memories we cherish of her.



BOOK CLUB TEAM CHOICE: *The Adventures of Claire Never-Ending*

The Book Club Team has chosen Catherine Brunelle's novel, *The Adventures of Claire Never-Ending*, as an additional Book Club selection for November/December. Claire ripples between generations of women, carried as a middle name within one family, in this special story of magic, motherhood, adventure and love never ending.

The Adventures of Claire Never-Ending is available at CatherineBrunelle.com

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Have a question? Email us at BookClub@amnesty.ca



REDISCOVERING MY AUNT IRENE AS AN ENDURING VOICE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

BY MARY ANN KELLY

Through her incredibly generous legacy gift to Amnesty International, Irene made it known that she wished to continue to be part of the global chorus defending human rights well beyond her lifetime.

After leading a quiet, modest life for decades, we discovered that my Aunt Irene had always been an advocate for justice and dignity by leaving a gift in her will to Amnesty International.

Born in Boissevain, Manitoba, Irene was the youngest child of a family of eight siblings, seven of whom survived into adulthood. Her family had come to Canada in the 1920s to escape dire poverty in the slums of Glasgow, Scotland.

Irene worked as a secretary throughout her working life. She loved to read, and go to the theatre and the ballet. But in her older years, she and her sister, Eleanor, moved to Mimico, Ontario, to live in a humble house left to them by one of their older brothers. Once in Mimico, their cultural excursions into the city dwindled, and they lived quietly in their home until they developed serious cognitive impairment and moved into long term care.

Irene had lived modestly all of her life, and we were pleasantly surprised when we learned she had made bequests to organizations working on hunger, homelessness, health, human rights, and issues affecting women. Interestingly, she was not someone who talked about social justice issues with the rest of the family. And I was truly intrigued to find this out as I have always had an interest in the same issues, and would have loved to have talked to her about them.

I am grateful to have had this small window into the vision she had for the world beyond her doorstep. Through her incredibly generous legacy gift to Amnesty International, Irene made it known that she wished to continue to be part of the global chorus defending human rights well beyond her lifetime.

BECOMING A HUMAN RIGHTS GUARDIAN

If you are thinking about leaving a gift in your will, Amnesty's legacy gift planner Hala Al-Madi would be happy to talk to you to answer any questions you may have. You may use the coupon attached to this newsletter to let us know whether you are already a Human Rights Guardian, or if you would like to receive a free information brochure on how to become one. You may contact Hala at 613-744-7667, ext. 223 or halmadi@amnesty.ca



Hala Al-Madi, Amnesty's legacy gift planner

CONSIDER A GIFT OF STOCK

There is more than one way to help human rights work...

Your loyalty as a donor is truly appreciated and we wanted to let you know about another exciting way you could support human rights.

Did you know that you can make a gift of stocks or mutual fund units to Amnesty International? There are significant tax advantages in donating your shares in stocks, including eliminating capital gains

tax while also receiving a full market value tax receipt for your gift! This type of donation allows you to maximize your charitable giving.

For more information on giving a gift of stocks or mutual fund units, please visit amnesty.ca/stocks

Thank you for your generous support!

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 



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THIS DECEMBER JOIN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST HUMAN RIGHTS EVENT

Hundreds of thousands of Amnesty International supporters will be writing letters, signing petitions, lighting candles and wearing Amnesty's signature yellow on (or around) December 10th to mark International Human Rights Day. Sign up today and see how you can get involved, either on your own or at one of the hundreds of events being planned across Canada.

Writeathon.ca
1-800-AMNESTY



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If there are any changes to your financial information, please let us know by using the enclosed coupon or calling **1-800-266-3789**. If you donate by credit card and you receive a new card, please remember to let us know the new number and/or expiry date so that your support of Amnesty's human rights work will continue.

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If you have moved, or if you will be moving in the near future, please let us know by using the enclosed coupon or by calling **1-800-266-3789** or by using our secure on-line update form at amnesty.ca/myinformation. Thank you!

Free holiday cards for Amnesty monthly donors

As a way of thanking you for so generously supporting our human rights work, we'd like to offer you some free Amnesty International greeting cards. To order your cards, please fill out the enclosed coupon, phone us at **1-800-AMNESTY** (1-800-266-3789) or email members@amnesty.ca.

Thank you for your loyal support which makes all of Amnesty's work possible!



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