

# ACTIVISM GUIDE

Fall 2018



Welcome to your Fall 2018 Activism Guide!

This guide contains everything you need to take action with Amnesty International this fall. Please share this guide with your networks and any potential Amnesty activists!

We've made some changes, so be sure to check out all the sections to your new guide.

**Activism Planner:** *NEW! A calendar to help you map out the season*

**Take Action:** *Key campaign activities for the fall*

**Activist Opportunities:** *Upcoming opportunities to deepen your engagement*

**Activism Resources:** *New resources and tools to support your activism*

**Meet the Team:** *We've restructured! Meet our new team and learn about our roles*

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## ACTIVISM PLANNER

**NEW!** We've launched an **Activism Planner** to help you plan your activities for the season, featuring key dates along with resources and upcoming training opportunities.

[>>> Check out the Activism Planner](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS

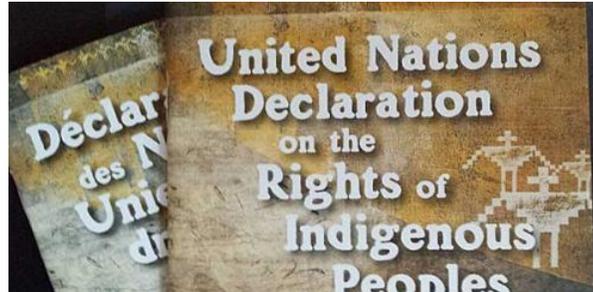
In **September**, take part in Days of Action for women human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia and for the disappeared students of Ayotzinapa.

In **October**, honour our Stolen Sisters and help build momentum for a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

In **November** and **December**, get ready to Write for Rights!

## TAKE ACTION

# Understanding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/understanding-un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples>

In recent months, the federal government and a number of provinces and territories have made significant, welcome commitments to uphold the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The House of Commons has now passed Bill C-262, which would establish a legislative framework requiring the federal government to work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to fully implement the *Declaration*. Bill C-262 will be debated in the Senate this Fall.

With these important developments, the *UN Declaration* has become the subject of a welcome focus of public policy discussion. Unfortunately, opposition by the previous governing party left a legacy of confusion and misinformation about the *Declaration* and these misrepresentations continue to be repeated.

The Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples -- made up of Indigenous Nations, Indigenous peoples' organizations, human rights groups and individual experts who have been deeply involved with the development of the *Declaration* or the subsequent ongoing work of its interpretation and application -- has prepared three new factsheets to help promote a more accurate and constructive dialogue around the *Declaration*.

[How to read the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)  
[Myths and misrepresentations](#)  
[Understanding Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#)

Help us raise awareness about the *UN Declaration* by sharing these resources with your networks and encouraging others to do the same.

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## Crucial Moment to Support Human Rights Defenders and Justice for Berta in Honduras



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/crucial-moment-support-human-rights-defenders-and-justice-berta-honduras>

More than 60,000 supporters of Amnesty Canada have raised their voices to demand justice in Honduras since beloved Indigenous rights defender Berta Caceres was gunned down in her home on March 2, 2016. The assassination was perpetrated less than a year after Berta was awarded the prestigious 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize for her courageous work challenging the Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam and its impact on the land and water so vital to the rights and survival of Lenca Indigenous communities. The killing of such an internationally-renowned figure drew the eyes of the world to widespread deadly violence against defenders of indigenous territory, human rights and the environment in Honduras.

The accumulation of calls for action from Canada and many other countries, together with the tireless efforts of Berta's family and colleagues in Honduras, have been impossible to ignore. At long last, eight men accused of involvement in the murder of Berta are set to go on trial beginning on September 17.

**This is an important step forward.**

**Yet there is ongoing cause for concern.**

The lawyers for Berta's family and the organization she led, the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (known by its acronym COPINH), have reported numerous troubling violations of due process during the past two years. On dozens of occasions, prosecutors have defied court orders to hand over evidence from searches and other information about the investigation. This raises fears of a cover up in which those who ordered, planned and financed the murder of Berta will be allowed to escape prosecution. Impunity for the masterminds (autores intelectuales, in Spanish) would be a green light for more attacks on human rights defenders and denial of the rights of marginalized communities.

It is equally concerning that during the past two years of investigation, members of COPINH and Berta's family have continued to suffer false accusations, surveillance, threats and attacks that put their safety and their ability to defend human rights at risk.

**At the request of COPINH, Amnesty International Canada's Secretary General Alex Neve and Honduras campaigner Kathy Price will be travelling to Tegucigalpa to help observe the trial between September 17 and October 19.**

They will speak out with other observers to signal that the eyes of the world are watching and that the supporters of Amnesty Canada expect justice for EVERYONE responsible for the killing of Berta.

Your action is vitally important at this crucial moment! COPINH and Berta's family are counting on our support.

# TAKE ACTION!

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

Please write to the Ambassador of Honduras in Canada to signal that Canadians are watching what happens in Honduras and remain concerned. Please make your letter as personal by introducing who you are and where you are writing from. Then make the following points in your own words:

- Tell her that you will be watching what happens at the trial of 8 men accused of involvement in the murder of Berta and hope that international standards regarding the right of Berta's family to truth and justice will be upheld.

- Signal concern over reports by lawyers representing Berta's family regarding dozens of violations of due process to date, including a failure to share with them evidence from searches that might link the assassins with those who gave the orders, and other information about the investigation.
- Call for guarantees of further investigation to ensure that everyone who conspired in the murder of Berta, including those who ordered and planned it, are prosecuted.
- Express concern about surveillance, unfounded and stigmatizing accusations, threats and attacks against members of COPINH which continue to take place. Call on the Honduran government to publicly recognize their legitimate work in defense of human rights, and guarantees of protective action to ensure that they are able to carry out that work without fear of harm.
- Ask the Ambassador to share your concerns with her government in Honduras.

**Send your letter to:**

*Her Excellency Sofía Lastenia Cerrato Rodríguez*  
*Ambassador for Honduras*  
*151 Slater Street, Suite 805A*  
*Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3*  
*Fax: 1 (613) 232-0193*  
*E-mail: [ambassador@embassyhonduras.hn](mailto:ambassador@embassyhonduras.hn)*

**Be sure to send a copy of your letter to:**

*Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs*  
*111 Wellington Street*  
*Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6*  
*Postage: None required*  
*Fax: 1 (613) 996-9607*  
*E-mail: [chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca)*

**2. MAKE VISIBLE YOUR CONCERN ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

COPINH has asked supporters to make visible your support at this vital moment. Create a handwritten sign and post a photo of yourself holding the sign on social media. Include a message that identifies that you are in Canada (since Honduran authorities care about their reputation abroad) and calls for justice for all those behind the killing of Berta Caceres; both the assassins and the masterminds. Please do NOT make accusations about who is guilty but call for full, impartial investigation and due process.

Be sure to use the hashtags #JusticiaParaBerta (Justice for Berta) and #CapturaALosAutoresIntelectuales (Arrest the Intellectual Authors/Masterminds).

Include the following handles for authorities in Honduras:

- @rarguetaCSJ (President of the Honduran Supreme Court of Justice)
- @HondurasMp (Public Prosecutor of Honduras)
- @Presidencia\_HN (Office of the President of Honduras)
- @cafreeland (Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland)
- @JKHilCDA (Canada's Ambassador to Honduras)
- @COPINHHONDURAS (so can COPINH see your message and can share it)
- @AmnestyNow (so we can retweet your tweets)

### 3. SIGN OUR PETITIONS

If you have not already, please sign our [Justice for Berta online action here](#) - and encourage others in your networks to do so too.

You can collect signatures on our [print petition found here](#). Please send them in asap to the address on the right side.

### 4. LEARN MORE

>>> COPINH will be transmitting the trial live from [this website](#), where you can also find other information about the legal process

>>> Follow [@AmnestyNow](#), [@KPriceAmnesty](#) and [@AlexNeveAmnesty](#) for updates about the trial. Check back here for posted updates.

>>> Read our press release [Honduras: Failure to identify those behind Berta Cáceres' murder puts other activists at risk](#)

>>> Read our news flash [Arrest of DESA executive must be followed by further action against those behind the killing of Berta Cáceres](#)

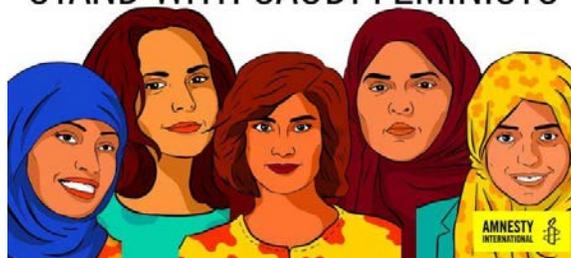
>>> Read our research report ["We are defending the land with our blood"](#)

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING ACTION FOR JUSTICE THAT WILL PROTECT OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN HONDURAS!**

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## Take Action Online for Saudi Women Human Rights Defenders

STAND WITH SAUDI FEMINISTS



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/take-action-online-saudi-women-human-rights-defenders>

*Since May 2018, authorities in Saudi Arabia have arrested some of the country's most prominent women human rights defenders. These courageous activists have peacefully advocated for the right of women to drive, an end to the male guardianship system, and for justice and equality. They have done nothing wrong, have not been charged with any crime, and should be released immediately and unconditionally.*

***We need you to take action online to support women human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia.***

Saudi officials monitor social media and are sensitive to international pressure. This is why Amnesty International's actions directly target the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Ottawa and official Saudi government social media feeds to:

1. Let Saudi authorities know that the world is watching;
2. Keep the issue in the public eye; and
3. Continue calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the women human rights defenders.

## Take Action Online Now!

### Step 1: Sign and share our online action.

We need to let Saudi authorities know that the world is watching by generating a lot of signatures on our online action. Sign our action and share it widely with your networks.

[>>> Sign now](#)

### Step 2: Regularly Tweet at Saudi Authorities

Saudi officials monitor social media closely. Targeting official Saudi government social media feeds can make a difference.

### Step 3: Show Your Solidarity on Facebook

Use our Facebook profile frame to show your solidarity with Saudi feminists.

[>>> Use our frame now](#)

### Step 4: Join our Campaign Briefing

Learn more about the current situation and how you can take action by joining our campaign briefing on September 23rd at 8:00 pm EST.

[>>> Register now](#)

*Stay tuned—Amnesty is mobilizing for a day of action on September 24<sup>th</sup>, the three month anniversary of women being allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia, and one day after Saudi National Day. More information about how to get involved will be available shortly.*

*Learn more about women human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia by visiting our [main campaign page >>>](#)*

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## Take part in September Days of Action for Disappeared Students of Ayotzinapa, Mexico



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/take-part-september-days-action-disappeared-students-ayotzinapa-mexico>

September is a month of excitement in Canada as students begin a new school year.

In Mexico, September 26 marks four years since police attacked a bus carrying 43 students from a rural college in Ayotzinapa who were studying to become teachers. Police took the students away. They were never seen again.

Their forced disappearance remains the most notorious example of a massive, ongoing epidemic of disappearances in Mexico - more than 35,000 people who were taken away and "vanished" - amidst state corruption and collusion with organized crime. The official investigation has been so deeply flawed as to be accused of covering up the involvement of the military and powerful authorities.

But now there is potential for truth, justice and finding the whereabouts of the students.

In June, a Mexican federal court ordered the government to create a special Truth and Justice investigative commission, involving the students' parents who have worked for four years to challenge false accusations and try to find their kids. Sadly, government bodies have filed over a hundred legal motions against the court order, showing again a political decision to hide the truth about the fate of the 43 students.

It is vital that the new investigative commission is created and successfully completes its mandate. As long as there is neither truth, nor justice, the families will continue to suffer the torture of not knowing if their children are alive or dead AND perpetrators will be given a green light for more disappearances.

Now is a crucial moment. Why? The government of President Enrique Peña Nieto has months left to determine its legacy. The new government of President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador will take office in December. During this time of transition it is important to press the outgoing government to stop opposing the special investigative commission and dedicate its resources and efforts instead to commit to complying with the court ruling. It is also important to make visible to the incoming government that the eyes of the world are watching.

Mexico is mindful of its international image. This means action from Canada has the potential for impact and is particularly important to the families of the 43. Hilda Legideño (below), whose son Jorge Antonio is one of the 43 disappeared students, told us that solidarity action from Canada has helped give the families hope and strength. She asked us to continue to support them.

## TAKE ACTION!

Please take the following actions on or around September 26.

### 1. LETTER WRITING

Write a short, personal letter to Mexico's Ambassador in Canada, Dionisio Pérez Jácome, introducing yourself and calling on him to convey to his government in Mexico:

- your feelings (describe them in your own words) about the unacceptable reality that 4 years since the disappearance of 43 students of Ayotzinapa, their whereabouts have still not been determined, and that the truth and justice are also missing
- your feelings (describe them in your own words) about news that government bodies have taken action to block implementation of a special truth and justice investigative commission ordered by a federal court in June 2018
- your call on the government to comply with the court ruling without delay and work with the families to ensure truth, justice and the return of the 43 disappeared students
- your hope as a friend of Mexico for commitments to confront the crisis of disappearances and state collusion with organized crime, rather than denials and cover up.

Your letters can be individual or joint ones. **Think of ways to make them eye-catching for maximum impact!** For example, incorporate the turtle image that is the symbol of the college in Ayotzinapa. Different versions are found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Joint letters will draw greater attention if they are hand written on a huge piece of paper and have lots of signatures below in different colours. Roll up your letter and tie it with red, white and green gift ribbons - the colours of the Mexican flag - and tuck pencils under the ribbons, a symbol of students everywhere.

Please send all your letters - and video messages, if you would prefer to deliver your call on Mexican authorities that way - to the attention of Campaigner Kathy Price, Amnesty International, 1992 Yonge Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON M4S 1Z7. She will organize a delegation to deliver them all in person to Mexico's Ambassador at the Embassy in Ottawa at the end of October. We will also share copies of your letters with Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland to urge Canada to firmly support calls for the Truth and Justice Commission.

**PLEASE NOTE:** While we are encouraging action around the Ayotzinapa anniversary in September, you can take action in support of the disappeared students and their families through October in order to accomplish our goals.

## 2. SOCIAL MEDIA

Use social media to make visible your concern, your solidarity with the families of the 43 disappeared students, and your call for creation of the court-ordered Truth and Justice Investigative Commission

Use the hashtags [#CanadaMexicoSolidarity](#) [#VerdadParaAyotzi](#) (truth for Ayotzi) and [#VivosLosQueremos](#) (we want them back alive). Include the handles of President Peña Nieto ([@EPN](#)) and the Attorney General ([@PGR\\_mx](#)). If you can, please also include the handles of Canada's Foreign Minister ([@cafreeland](#)) and our Ambassador in Mexico ([@AmbPierreAlarie](#)).

## 3. GET CREATIVE!

Paint the number 43 on a t-shirt, your face, or your hands in order to deliver an instantly recognizable message of concern for the 43 disappeared students of Ayotzinapa.

## 4. INVOLVE OTHERS

Consider organizing a public event in your community, even a small one, to gather solidarity photo messages and signatures on a joint letter. You can draw attention with signs or placing 43 empty seats with photos of the disappeared students on them (contact Kathy Price if you want the photos). Reach out to teachers, schools, student associations, universities or colleges in your community - and especially to teacher training programs. Think who else is likely to be sympathetic. Invite them to sign a large letter you have created, to write their own letters and social media messages, or to sign this [print petition](#).

## 5. TWITTER PARTY ON AND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 26

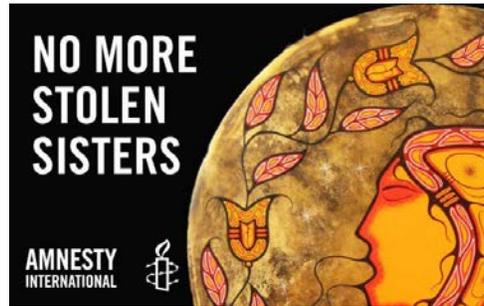
From September 22 through September 26, create a multiplier effect. Search with the hashtag [#CanadaMexicoSolidarity](#) and [#VerdadParaAyotzi](#) and retweet messages. Also retweet [@AmnestyNow](#) [@AmnestyToronto](#) [@AmnestyOntario](#) [@AmnestyBC](#) [@KPriceAmnesty](#) [@AIMexico](#)

**Got other ideas? We're anxious to hear them!** Please contact Amnesty's Action Coordinator [Ailish Morgan-Welden](#)

**Thank you for taking action in solidarity with the 43 and their families on this important anniversary! It matters!**

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# Honour our Stolen Sisters at a vigil on October 4



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/honour-our-stolen-sisters-at-a-vigil-on-october-4>

October 2018 marks 14 years since Amnesty International released our “Stolen Sisters” report. In 2004, our report was ground breaking and helped to shine a light on a little known Canadian human rights crisis, and it promoted solutions identified by the [Native Women’s Association of Canada](#) and other partners in the Indigenous community.

Much has changed in the past decade. October 4 has become a national day to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people; 212 vigils were held across Canada in 2017. Cross-country walks have been held to raise awareness. Tens of thousands of petition signatures have been handed over to the federal government. Two federal Parliamentary Committees have studied the scope of the violence. The issue has been repeatedly raised at the United Nations. Three international missions came to Canada in 2013 to investigate the issue, and another came in 2018. In 2014 the RCMP, for the first time ever, reported figures on the scope of the violence. And in 2016, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was launched.

There is action, but it is too little, and too piecemeal. What's needed is a comprehensive national response in keeping with the scale and seriousness of the violence, including a coordinated national action plan to prevent and address gender-based violence.

October 4 is a time to reflect on what we have achieved in the past 14 years, and to advocate alongside our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners to honour our Stolen Sisters, and to take action to end this human rights crisis.

## Participate in a vigil on October 4

- Find out if a [vigil is taking place in your community](#).
- Contact the [Native Women's Association of Canada](#) (NWAC), your local band office, friendship centre, or Indigenous community or service organization to see if a local vigil is planned.
- Amnesty participates in vigils to demonstrate our solidarity, and to honour the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people. To make sure the event is centred on the voices of rights holders, we do not have large Amnesty backdrops behind speakers, we do not bring Amnesty actions, and we do not have a very branded Amnesty presence. It is okay to hold a small banner in the audience, or wear an Amnesty t-shirt, so that participants know that Amnesty is there as an ally expressing our solidarity.
- Amnesty generally does not speak at vigils unless it is very briefly, after rights holders have spoken, to express our solidarity.
- Vigils are a solemn occasion to remember our Sisters in Spirit. In keeping with this tone, Amnesty refrains from bringing actions like petitions, unless they are joint actions created with Indigenous partners organizations (as has happened a few times in the past).

## Organize a vigil

- If nothing is planned for your community, with with local Indigenous partners to organize a vigil and [register it with NWAC](#).
- A [resource kit](#) is available to help you organize your vigil.

### Demonstrate your solidarity

- [Download this heart graphic](#). Inside the heart, write what you commit to do in the next year to honour the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people. Take a photo of you holding your heart message, and upload the image to social media with a message like this (hint: use the hashtag #SISVigils): *I commit to sharing respectful commentary on the National Inquiry on my social media feeds #SISVigils #MMIWG #cndpoli*
- Check out Amnesty's social media feeds on October 4th. We always have a post about honouring the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit who have gone missing or been murdered. Share these posts on your social media feeds.

### Write a letter

- [Write a letter](#) to the government of Canada calling for them to close the gap in funding for services for Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people escaping violence.

For more information contact [stolensisters@amnesty.ca](mailto:stolensisters@amnesty.ca) or visit our [Stolen Sisters campaign webpage](#).

## #ActNow to help put pressure on Canada during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/actnow-help-put-pressure-canada-during-16-days-activism-against-gender-based-violence-campaign>

Take **ACTION** in **September-October** to help us make an **IMPACT** during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign in **November-December!**

Amnesty International Canada has long been campaigning alongside organizations like Women's Shelters Canada to **National Action Plan to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence**. [Read this](#) to learn more about why Canada so badly needs a national action plan.

We are trying to collect as many petition signatures as possible in September and October, to let the federal government know that people across Canada are outraged about the inconsistency in the supports and services

available to survivors of gender-based violence! These inconsistencies can be addressed if municipal, provincial, territorial, First Nations, and federal leaders come together with people with lived experience and other relevant expertise to develop a national action plan. Signatures will be handed over to the federal government during the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, which runs from November 25-December 10.

## TAKE ACTION!

[1. Sign our e-action](#)

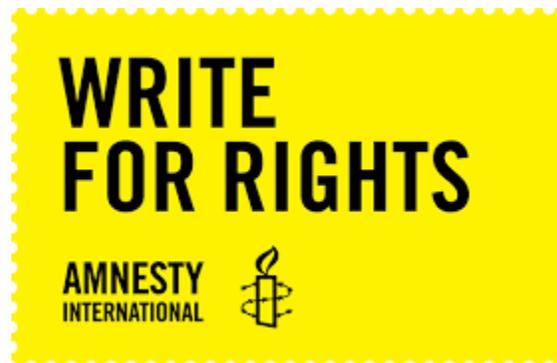
[2. Collect petition signatures at events \(and send them to the National Office by November 1\)](#)

**3. Stay tuned for a series of interviews with women's shelter staff, talking about why a National Action Plan would make a huge difference in the lives of their clients, and sample Tweets to send to the government of Canada calling for a national action plan.**

*More information about how you can take action during the 16 Days campaign will be posted here as soon as it's available. In the meantime, please take above actions in September and October!*

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## Get Ready to Write for Rights!



Every year on December 10th, Amnesty celebrates International Human Rights Day with Write for Rights, the world's largest letter-writing marathon.

This year, join us in writing letters in support of 10 important cases worldwide, with a focus on women human rights defenders.

Our new website will be launched on October 1st. Stay tuned!

[>>> NEW! Register for our Training for Groups](#)

[>>> NEW! Register for our Training for Individuals](#)

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# Corporate Accountability and Action Kits



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/corporate-accountability-and-action-kits>

Have you always wondered what Amnesty's Business and Human Rights work is all about? Or, have you wondered why, for example, Amnesty campaigned for almost a decade for an Ombudsperson for Responsible Canadian Enterprise? In fact, what exactly is the Ombudsperson's job and how does it relate to Amnesty's human rights work? And really, what is supply chain management and what does it have to do with child labour in the Democratic Republic of Congo and that cell phone in your pocket? Is the Mount Polley mine disaster in BC something all mining-affected communities in Canada should be concerned about?

If you are new to Amnesty International Canada's Business and Human Rights campaign, or want to brush up on key issues related to corporate accountability and human rights in Canada, we've created a new, downloadable information kit for you. The fact sheets in the **Corporate Accountability Information Kit** can be used to:

- prepare a talk on Amnesty's work on business and human rights
- write a letter to the editor
- prepare for a meeting with an MP or MLA
- build knowledge within your community or grassroots group on business and human rights issues so you can take action

*You can order a kit sent through Canada Post by emailing us at [bhr@amnesty.ca](mailto:bhr@amnesty.ca). In the coming week we'll upload the kits (see below) in PDF form to this page.*

## **Take action: download our Corporate Action kit**

Our new action kit will help you hold companies and governments accountable for human rights. The kits will be updated every three months, so be sure to check back here for the latest Corporate Accountability Actions.

## **More Questions?**

Please contact Amnesty's Business and Human Rights campaigners, Fiona & Tara, directly with any questions you have about the issues we work on or to share information about exciting actions and events you have organised.

If you would like to join Amnesty's Corporate Action Network, which connects you to other Amnesty members working on Corporate Accountability issues, please contact Business and Human Rights Co-ordinator, Ian Heide: [bhr@amnesty.ca](mailto:bhr@amnesty.ca)

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# Be a Witness For The Peace



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/be-witness-peace-0>

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

The West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations have been forced to launch a court challenge to ensure that their Treaty Rights are upheld in the face of plans to flood a unique and vitally cultural landscape in northeast BC. **Amnesty International members and supporters have been calling on the BC government to suspend construction of the Site C dam while these still unresolved Treaty rights issues are before the courts.** Unfortunately, despite its public commitments to uphold Indigenous rights and pursue reconciliation, the BC government is not listening.

In May, the federal government told a BC court it would not oppose a temporary injunction on Site C construction. In contrast, the BC government and its Crown corporation BC Hydro have been arguing aggressively and without principle that construction on this megaproject cannot be halted, even temporarily.

In court hearings that got underway this summer and which resumed September 4, the provincial government and BC Hydro have [taken such a narrow, restrictive view of Indigenous rights](#) that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs has [called for a retraction and a public apology](#).

Meanwhile, both the federal and the provincial government have ignored a one-year deadline to respond to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which has [called for an immediate halt to construction of the Site C dam](#).

This is all the more reason we must keep up the pressure in the defense of the rights of First Nations in Treaty 8 territory.

By pledging to be a **“Witness for the Peace”**, you are letting the government know that you want them to uphold their Treaty obligations and that you care about what they argue in court on behalf of the "public interest".

## Tabling Instructions:

Ask people walking by to “Be A Witness For The Peace”!



Directly through the website:

If you have access to an iPad, tablet, large smart phone or laptop you can ask people to sign up directly to the website

1. Download and/or print these [Site C Tabling Resources](#)
2. Connect to the internet. This will be simple if you are tabling indoors in a community space, school or private venue etc. However, if you are tabling outside you may have to use data.
3. Open your web browser and type <https://witnessforthepeace.ca/speak-out/> in the address bar.
4. Once the page is open you can walk around with your ipad or tablet and talk to people about Site C. Once someone seems interested, hand them your device and ask them to read the pledge and fill out the information requested on the page.



#### **Paper and Pen:**

Don't have easy access to a device or the internet? Don't worry, you can use good old paper and pen.

1. Print the [Site C Tabling Resources](#) and a few extra copies of the [Witness For The Peace -Paper Form](#)
2. Once your tabling session is completed, either take the information filled out in the form and input it yourself directly to the [witnessforthepeace.ca](https://witnessforthepeace.ca) website OR
3. Mail it to Amnesty International Canada 312 Laurier Avenue East Ottawa, ON K1N 1H9 for this to be done.

#### **Learn More:**

Background on the court case: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Opinion piece by two Canadian legal experts: [Upcoming court case a critical test of federal and provincial commitments to reconciliation](#)

Amnesty's 2016 report on the Site C dam: [The Point Of No Return](#)

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## **Defend Human Rights Defenders Under Deadly Attack in Colombia**



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/defend-human-rights-defenders-under-deadly-attack-colombia>

Erlendy Cuero, pictured above testifying to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, knows only too well how dangerous it is to speak up for human rights in Colombia. Her brother Bernardo (left), equally vocal in defending the rights of much-targeted Afro-Colombians, was gunned down last June. As Erlendy pressed for the perpetrators to be brought to justice, she received death threats. Deadly violence is ever present. In April, gunmen shot and killed two of Bernardo's sons.

Such atrocities were supposed to end with the signing of a peace agreement between the Colombian government and insurgents of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). **Yet since then, assassinations of community leaders have increased, not decreased.** Every 11 days, someone in Colombia is killed for defending human rights. A frequent target are leaders of Indigenous, Afro-descendant and campesino communities seeking to defend their land rights in areas of economic interest. Colombian authorities are failing to protect them and allowing the perpetrators to get away with murder.

**Now is a crucial moment to press for action.**

On August 7, conservative Ivan Duque took office as Colombia's new president. There are deeply troubling concerns about his opposition to the peace agreement and close links with ex-president Alvaro Uribe, whose term in office was characterized by shocking human rights violations. It is vital that President Duque feels compelled by international pressure to address the ever more dangerous situation for human rights defenders and community leaders, particularly since the toll of killings increased alarmingly over the summer, with no end in sight. As Amnesty stated in a recent report, what lies behind the killings is the desire to silence anyone who speaks out against injustice or challenges powerful interests. This has a ripple effect in the wider community, creating fear and undermining everyone's rights.

**The opinions of Canadians carry weight since Canada is an important commercial partner via the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and has pledged millions of dollars to peace-building programs in Colombia.**

## TAKE ACTION!

**1. Use community events and fall tabling opportunities to gather signatures on our print petition** calling on Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland to leverage Canada's special status to press Colombia for effective protection to leaders acting on behalf of campesinos, Indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians and other communities defending territory and natural resources, as well as those championing implementation of peace accords and land restitution processes. Send your petitions in to the address on the right hand side.

[>>Download the petition here](#)

**2. Command the attention of Colombia's newly-elected president by collecting messages from Canada written on paper peace doves.** Remind people to make clear they are writing from Canada and appeal for decisive action. Send all the dove messages to Campaigner Kathy Price, Amnesty International, 1992 Yonge St., 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON M4S 1Z7 She will ensure they are delivered to the new president.

[>>Download a dove template here](#)

[>>Download and print a colourful table display with action instructions here](#)

**3. Use twitter to make visible concern in Canada to Colombia's new president.** Send tweets using the handle of Ivan Duque and the hashtag #UnprotectedPeace. You can also include the handle of Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland. Be sure to signal that you are in Canada. See a sample tweet below.

**4. Not on Twitter? Send an email.** Use the following address for president-elect Ivan Duque: [prensa@ivandunque.com](mailto:prensa@ivandunque.com)

**5. Learn more**

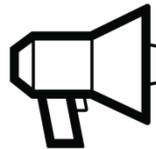
Read some of our recent expressions of concern about the situation in Colombia:

- [Colombia: Seven people killed in Cauca](#) (Urgent Action, July 6)

- **Colombia:** Killings of human rights defenders continue under a cloak of impunity and the silent complicity of the state (News release , July 10)
- **Colombia:** Government must implement immediate action plans in the face of mass forced displacement in Nariño (News statement, July 13)
- **Colombia:** Killing of nine people in Catatumbo reflects wave of violence (News statement, July 31)

**THANK YOU FOR RAISING YOUR VOICE TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS UNDER ATTACK IN COLOMBIA!!**

## **ACTIVIST OPPORTUNITIES**



### **Organizer Program**

Organizers are activist leaders with Amnesty who are excited to take action on human rights issues in creative and critical ways in their community, with a particular focus on National Days of Action.

The local and youth organizer programs are being revamped as one program to better support activists and drive creative action.

Know someone who might be interested? [Learn more! >>>](#)

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### **NEW! Campaign Briefings**

Campaign Briefings are monthly webinars for activists to learn more about a key campaign and share their ideas for actions. Join an upcoming webinar!

**September 23rd:** Campaign Briefing - Stand with Saudi Feminists. [Register now >>>](#)

**October 24th:** Campaign Briefing - Is Child Labour Powering Your Electronics? [Register now >>>](#)

**November 1st:** Get Ready to Write for Rights! Campaign Briefing for Event Planners. [Register now >>>](#)

**November 27th:** Get Ready to Write for Rights! Campaign Briefing for Individuals. [Register now >>>](#)

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## NEW! Amnesty 101 Online Orientations

Are you new to Amnesty International, or just need to update your knowledge of our priority campaigns and actions? Then register now for one of our free Amnesty Activism 101 webinars. You'll learn about the beginnings of Amnesty International, hear what we've been working on, and discover what's coming up. We have two upcoming orientations and more to come, so be sure to check the [Activism Planner](#) for updates.

September 27th [Register now >>>](#)

October 4th [Register now >>>](#)

## ACTIVISM RESOURCES

### Funding Your Activism

From organizing a Regional Meeting to tabling at your local community fair, Amnesty International can help you with expenses related to your activism work.

There are three sources of funding available to support your activism projects: the Tabling and Small Events Fund, the Regional Meeting Fund, and the Activism Fund.

[>>> Learn More](#)

### NEW! Activism Website

The Amnesty International website has a brand new Activism section to better serve the needs of all our activists and volunteers.

Visit our new website at [www.amnesty.ca/activism](http://www.amnesty.ca/activism) and be sure to check out our new features:

**[Events Calendar](#):** *View all our upcoming events and submit your own!*

**[Volunteer Form](#):** *Know someone new to Amnesty? Encourage them to fill out our new volunteer form.*

**[Map](#):** *Find a group near you using our new map.*

## MEET THE TEAM

The Activism Team is going through an exciting restructuring process to better reflect our changing roles and support activists across the country.



Don Wright is the **Outreach and Training Coordinator**, responsible for new activists, training needs, and outreach to new audiences.



Daniella Barreto is the **Digital Activism Coordinator**, responsible for online activists, digital tools, and the Amnesty SOS app.



Ailish Morgan-Welden is the **Action Coordinator**, responsible for coordinating how activists take action, including through Write for Rights.



Marilyn McKim is the **Urgent Action Network Coordinator**, responsible for urgent actions and lifesavers.



Elena Dumitru is the **Leadership Development Coordinator**, responsible for organizers and other activist leaders, as well film screenings and speaking tours.



Shauna MacLean is the **Activism Network Coordinator**, responsible for community groups, youth and student groups, and for supporting Fieldworkers.

## CONNECT WITH US

### Activism Team

- **Action Coordinator:** [Ailish Morgan-Welden](#)
- **Leadership Development Coordinator:** [Elena Dumitru](#)
- **Outreach & Training Coordinator:** [Don Wright](#)
- **Activism Network Coordinator:** [Shauna MacLean](#)
- **Digital Activism Coordinator:** [Daniella Barreto](#)
- **Urgent Action Network:** [Marilyn McKim](#)

### Campaigns Team

- **Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** [Craig Benjamin](#)
- **Major Campaigns and Women's Human Rights:** [Jackie Hansen](#)
- **Corporate Accountability:** [Fiona Koza](#) and [Tara Scurr](#)
- **Human Rights Law and Policy:** [Justin Mohammed](#)
- **Mexico, Central, and South America:** [Kathy Price](#)

We are transitioning to an online guide. Contact [amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca](mailto:amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca) to order a printed copy or to send feedback and suggestions.