

## Your guide to fall activism:

Participate in an  
Activism Roundtable

Help protect  
defenders of the land

Get ready for the  
launch of our global  
refugee campaign

Ask your MP: is Canada  
open for justice?

And more!

# ACTIVISM GUIDE

## Fall 2016



AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



**THIS IS WHAT  
ACTIVISM LOOKS LIKE!**



## Join the conversation!

# Activism roundtables across Canada

This Activism Guide is your quarterly guide to current and upcoming Amnesty campaigns and the actions you can take to promote and protect human rights. Interestingly, as campaigns get underway, we often hear many exciting and innovative ideas and plans for action from activists and groups that we'd love to share with everyone or even "scale up" as a national project or day of action.

With this in mind, the Activism Team has been working with volunteer leadership across Canada to plan a series of **Activism Roundtables** across the country, and we're looking for your support and involvement!

The purpose of each Roundtable is to bring together a diverse group of local Amnesty activists, volunteer leaders, Writeathon organizers, cyber-activists and more, including youth activists and other supporters, to talk about human rights activism.

Prior to each Roundtable we'll provide a brief description of campaign objectives and targets, and suggest an agenda designed to open up discussion and encourage you to bring forward your ideas for activism, creative actions, and public engagement.

There won't be a Roundtable in every city but we do want to hold as many as possible beginning in late-September and throughout the month of October. The chart on this page shows the cities that are confirmed so far, with details available soon. Each Roundtable will be 2 to 4 hours long, depending on local interests and availability, and be co-facilitated by staff and local volunteer leaders.

The Activism Team has been thinking about this approach for some time, but our idea was wonderfully tested when youth from Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto met in Toronto earlier this year and came up with the idea to wrap-up the Stop Torture campaign with a Stop Torture Bus Tour. The "Tour" featured a final campus and school push for petition signing, local events, a youth conference, and



a protest on Parliament Hill – an incredibly successful series of events based entirely on youth member ideas and energy.

What ideas for activism and public engagement do you have? Plan now to participate in an Activism Roundtable near you, or let us know if you're interested in hosting a Roundtable in your community.

Don't see a Roundtable in your city? Join our Digital Roundtable! Contact [amorgan-welden@gmail.com](mailto:amorgan-welden@gmail.com) for details.

Date	City	Contact
October 16	Hampton	evanderkloet@amnesty.ca
TBA	St. John's	
TBA	Halifax	
TBA	Antigonish	
September 24	Toronto	edumitru@amnesty.ca
October 15	Kitchener-Waterloo	
October 1	Victoria	dwright@amnesty.ca
October 14	Saskatoon	
October 17	Regina	
October 29	Vancouver	
TBA	Calgary	amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca
October 15	Ottawa	
October 29	Belleville	
October 30	Barie	
October 29	Montreal	smaclean@amnesty.ca



## “We defend the land with our blood”

Everyday across the globe, men, women and youth speak out in defence of the land and environment. They defend our planet and thanks to their work, we have clean air to breathe and water to drink. But in countries such as Guatemala and Honduras, **territory, land and environmental rights defenders** (TLERDs) are killed and imprisoned because their activism challenges the politicians and companies that want to control the use of their lands and resources.

This September, Amnesty will launch “*We defend the land with our blood; Territory, Land and Environmental Rights Defenders Under Attack in Honduras and Guatemala*”. This report is in advance of a new global campaign on Human Rights Defenders launching in March 2017. We will call on the governments of Guatemala and Honduras to provide protection for defenders so they can carry out their important work, investigate crimes against them and prosecute those responsible, and publicly state their support for the work of TLERDs.



This work is incredibly dangerous. In March, 2016 beloved and courageous Honduran Indigenous activist Berta Caceres was killed in cold blood in her home because she led a strong campaign to stop a hydroelectric dam from being built without consent on her community’s traditional territory. People she worked with continue to be killed, attacked and threatened.

In July, 2016, seven ancestral Indigenous authorities in north-west Guatemala were released after one and a half years in prison for peacefully protesting a hydroelectric dam project in their own territory; most shockingly, almost all of the community

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Refugee children take part in a protest in March 2015 in Nauru. © 2016 Private

## I Welcome: Global Refugee Campaign

We share our world, and we share responsibility for making it the kind of place we want to live in. This includes responsibility for protecting each other’s human rights and freedom. Right now, record numbers of people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes. But instead of protecting refugees, many countries are slamming their doors shut. The solution to the global refugee crisis starts with each and every one of us making one simple, personal commitment to help – simply by saying: “I welcome refugees”.

This September Amnesty will launch “I Welcome”, a two year **refugee campaign** which will demand that States strengthen their commitment to protect refugees. This includes that countries cooperate with one another and commit to resettle more refugees; asylum systems be strengthened in key countries; refugees and migrants are protected as they move between countries; and that we always communicate that refugees are welcome.

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## We defend the land with our blood

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leaders and ancestral authorities in their community who protested peacefully against the project have warrants for their arrests.

The governments of Honduras and Guatemala don't recognize or protect the rights of territory, land or environmental defenders, nor do they ensure justice when they are attacked. Instead, they allow meritless charges to be brought against defenders and turn a blind eye to public smear campaign against them. These terrible acts of violence and criminalization must be investigated and the guilty prosecuted. Earth defenders' work is essential, necessary and legitimate and we must raise our voices to support them!

### What can I do?

#### READ THE REPORT

English: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr01/4562/2016/en/>

Spanish: <https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr01/4562/2016/es/>

#### SIGN OUR ONLINE ACTION

*Link to all online actions on page 4 (below).*

### Take Action Online

All online actions mentioned in this guide, and many others, may be found here:

[www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/online-actions](http://www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/online-actions)

### Order Supplies

All the activism materials described in this guide, including postcards and the Cobalt Action Kit, may be ordered through our online store:

[amnestyinternationalcanada.myshopify.com/](http://amnestyinternationalcanada.myshopify.com/)

## Child Labour? Not in my phone!

It is anticipated that electronics company Apple will launch a new product, the iPhone 7, this September. Thousands of people will scramble to buy this new gadget. Others will wait until the winter holiday shopping season to purchase it for loved ones. But how many consumers think about the working conditions of those who mined the minerals that go into our phones, tablets and laptops?

Child miners work long hours in hazardous conditions in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The cobalt is used to make batteries for electronics devices.

Amnesty International is urging Apple to investigate its supply chain to ensure that it does not use child labour.



### What can I do?

**SIGN OUR ONLINE ACTION** to Apple.

*Link to all online actions on page 4.*

**GATHER SIGNATURES** on print petitions available for download (see page 7). Order "Warning: May Contain Child Labour" stickers to hand out.

**TAKE A PHOTO** of yourself or a friend holding a sign with a message to Apple saying "Is my phone powered by child labour?" and upload it to social media using the hashtag #notinmyphone.

For more information, and to download or order materials, visit <http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/business-and-human-rights/my-phone-powered-child-labour>



# Stand in solidarity with Indigenous women and families on October 4

Indigenous women and girls in Canada experience higher rates of violence than other women and girls in Canada. Our activism and solidarity with Indigenous activists over many years has helped to raise the profile of this issue, and we hope this raised profile will lead to concrete and lasting change. One way we hope change will be created is through the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which commenced its work on September 1. Throughout the two-year National Inquiry, our solidarity with Indigenous women, families and communities is needed more than ever.

One way you can show your solidarity it by taking action on October 4th, when vigils will be held across Canada honouring the lives of Indigenous women and girls whose lives have been lost to violence.

## What can I do?

**LEARN MORE** at [www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters](http://www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters).

**ATTEND A VIGIL** in your community. Visit the Native Women's Association of Canada website for details, <https://nwac.ca/policy-areas/violence-prevention-and-safety/sisters-in-spirit/october-4th-vigils> If a vigil in your community isn't on this list, contact your local band office, friendship centre, or Indigenous community organization to see if a local vigil is planned.

**SIGN OUR [ONLINE PLEDGE](#)** to stand with Indigenous women and families throughout the National Inquiry process.

*Link to all online actions on page 4.*

Start planning now for  
**Write for Rights**  
 Register your community event  
 online after October 1!

**SHARE THE PLEDGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA** using hashtag #NoMoreStolenSisters

**GATHER PLEDGE SIGNATURES** on print petitions available for download (see page 7).

**INVOLVE YOUR COMMUNITY** by encouraging your municipal council to proclaim October 4 "No More Stolen Sisters Day."

For more info contact [stolensisters@amnesty.ca](mailto:stolensisters@amnesty.ca).

## Protect Indigenous Rights in the Peace River Valley in BC

Amnesty is undertaking an extensive project focused on the human rights of Indigenous peoples in northeast British Columbia's Peace River Valley. In August, we released "The Point of No Return," a report outlining how the human rights of Indigenous peoples are threatened by the **Site C** hydroelectric dam. We are calling on you once again to support our action calling for a halt to the Site C dam. Please use the report and Site C action in your campaigning this fall. The Site C action will be featured in December's Write for Rights events. The report, action, and much more is available at [www.amnesty.ca/SiteC](http://www.amnesty.ca/SiteC)

The next phase of the project is the release on November 3 of "Out of Sight, Out of Mind," a full report on the Peace River Valley project, which provides an overview of how the economic development model being employed in northeast BC violates Indigenous land rights, threatens Indigenous cultures, and heightens the risk that Indigenous women and girls will experience violence. Information about the report release and accompanying actions will be circulated in advance of November 3.

For more information, contact [stolensisters@amnesty.ca](mailto:stolensisters@amnesty.ca).

# Help make Canada open for justice

A number of Canadian mining, oil and gas companies that operate overseas have been accused of having a role in the killing of protesters, forced eviction of communities, rape of local women, contamination of water, and failure to respect Indigenous land rights.

International law requires that victims of human rights abuses have a “right to remedy”. It is ex-

tremely difficult, however, for victims to obtain remedy if the perpetrator is a very powerful company headquartered in another country.

Amnesty International is working hard to ensure that people who have been harmed by Canadian companies in other countries have “**access to remedy**” in Canada. Together with a coalition of 30 Canadian civil society organizations we are urging the Government of Canada to create an Extractive Sector Ombudsperson who would be empowered to receive complaints about human rights abuses involving Canadian mining, oil and gas companies, launch an investigation, report on its findings and make recommendations.

The Government of Canada’s “corporate social responsibility strategy” focuses on voluntary commitments by industry to respect human rights. There is no enforcement mechanism and it fails to ensure remedy for victims of corporate human rights abuses. Prior to Canada’s 2015 Federal election, the Liberal Party declared its support for the creation of an Extractive Sector Ombudsperson; however, we are concerned that we have not seen any progress to achieve this.

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## Rights compromised by tailings pond disaster

August 2, 2016 marked the two year anniversary of the Mount Polley tailings pond disaster. On that night, the walls holding 25 million cubic meters of mine effluent in a tailings pond at the Mount Polley mine in Likely, British Columbia collapsed, sending a wave of waste into nearby waterways. The long-term damage from the collapse is yet to be fully tallied. A criminal investigation into the disaster continues.

In June 2016, despite objections raised by people affected by the spill, the Province of British Columbia allowed Mount Polley Mining Corporation to resume full operations.

There are currently over 160 resource development projects underway or under development in BC. The Mount Polley failure exposed serious flaws in the Province’s regulation and enforcement mechanisms and revealed a government unable to effectively enforce compliance mechanisms or ensure that polluters fully pay their share of clean up and remediation costs.

People affected by the spill deserve answers and to be sure that their rights to safe water, a healthy environment and their livelihoods are protected.

**LEARN MORE** about the Mount Polley disaster: [www.amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/business-and-human-rights/human-rights-at-mt-polley-mine](http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/business-and-human-rights/human-rights-at-mt-polley-mine)

## What can I do?

**Personalized letters sent to a Member of Parliament (MP) are worth their weight in gold.** Bring together a group of friends, colleagues or family members to write letters to your MP about this important issue. Urge your MP to speak with his or her colleagues about the creation of an Extractive Sector Ombudsperson to protect human rights. Ask him or her to report back to you about what they are going to do to make the Ombudsperson a reality in 2016.

You can find your MP’s name and address here by entering your postal code. <http://bit.ly/29wdSQ7>. Postage is free to MPs in Canada.

Please forward to [bhr@amnesty.ca](mailto:bhr@amnesty.ca) any responses that you receive.



## The government wants to hear from us!



Your activism works! In May 2016, Minister of Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion announced that Canada was finally committed to joining the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

The Canadian government will be all ears this fall with dozens of consultations already launched or scheduled to start over the coming months. Among those are election promises and issues with significant human rights dimensions.

Beyond the widely-publicized *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, Amnesty will pay particular attention to the much anticipated **review of national security legislation**. During and after last year's election, the government promised "to repeal problematic elements of Bill C-51" and undertake consultations before proposing amendments. This consultation will include both MP-hosted meetings and an online component. Amnesty members interested in participating should contact Hilary Homes (hhomes@amnesty.ca) for a copy of our brief outlining concerns with the current legislation. You can also sign and share our current [online action](#).

In mid-August, Minister Goodale also announced consultations "to expand the range of available alternatives to detention and reduce the number of minors in detention", something that Amnesty has called for numerous times in the past. The details

of this consultation aren't available yet, but you can sign and share our existing [online action](#) on the detention of children.

The federal environmental assessment processes – a subject of criticism by Indigenous and environmental groups – will also be reviewed in the coming months. This review could have significant impact on decisions about pipelines, resource extraction projects and the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will update you when more information is available.

Amnesty will submit a short brief on the **Trans-Pacific Partnership** (TPP) agreement asking for independent and comprehensive human rights impact assessment and for detrimental impacts that are identified to be addressed before proceeding with a decision to ratify. Check our website for updates.

Much anticipated legislation to enable Canada to finally join the **Arms Trade Treaty** is expected this fall. While we await the details, you are encouraged to sign and share our [online action](#) on the Canada-Saudi LAV deal.

Finally, we are planning to again issue our annual [Human Rights Agenda for Canada](http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/priority-countries/canada/human-rights-agenda-canada-2016) (<http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/priority-countries/canada/human-rights-agenda-canada-2016>) at the end of December. We will be in touch later to encourage you to set up meetings with your member of Parliament. Stay tuned!

### Download Petitions

All our active petitions can be downloaded from our online petition library at:



[www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/petition-library](http://www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/petition-library).

Not sure if a petition is still active? Feel free to contact the campaigner named on the petition.



## I Welcome refugee campaign

*Continued from page 3*

Our first action in support of this campaign demands that Australia end the abuse of people on the small island nation of Nauru. More actions and activism possibilities focused on Central America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific will arrive as the campaign gets under way. In Canada we will demand that our government stop detaining children and put an end to indefinite detention for immigration purposes.

### What can I do?

**LEARN MORE** at [www.amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/i-welcome-refugees](http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/i-welcome-refugees)

**WRITE A LETTER** to the Australian government:  
See a sample letter here: <http://bit.ly/2cu2k22>

**GATHER SIGNATURES** on our print petition to Australia. [www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/Australia%20Nauru%20petition%202016.pdf](http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/Australia%20Nauru%20petition%202016.pdf)

### SIGN OUR ONLINE ACTIONS

Demand that Australia end the abuse on Nauru:  
<http://bit.ly/2bQQm6A>

Stop the detention of children in immigration holding centres: <http://bit.ly/2c7Klao>

**USE THE HASHTAGS** #IWelcome #refugees

Solving the refugee crisis starts with one clear statement: #IWelcome #refugees.

#IWelcome #refugees and I urge my government to do the same

### Read about abuse on Nauru

Australia: Appalling abuse, neglect of refugees on Nauru (2 August 2016)  
<http://www.amnesty.ca/news/australia-appalling-abuse-neglect-refugees-nauru>

Nauru: Australia's shame and a warning for Europe (25 August 2016)  
<http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/nauru-australia%E2%80%99s-shame-and-warning-europe>

Contact [gnafziger@amnesty.ca](mailto:gnafziger@amnesty.ca) for updates.

## Organizing for activism

Questions? Need advice or resources? Contact the Activism Coordinator near you!

- ◆ **Western Canada and the Territories**  
Don Wright (Activism Manager), [dwright@amnesty.ca](mailto:dwright@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Ontario**  
Ailish Morgan-Welden, [amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca](mailto:amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Greater Toronto Area and Kitchener/Waterloo**  
Elena Dumitru, [edumitru@amnesty.ca](mailto:edumitru@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Youth and Student, and English Quebec**  
Shauna MacLean, [smaclean@amnesty.ca](mailto:smaclean@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Atlantic Canada**  
Evelien Vanderkloet, [evanderkloet@amnesty.ca](mailto:evanderkloet@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Urgent Actions / Lifesavers for ages 9 and up**  
Marilyn McKim & Jesse Mintz, [urgentaction@amnesty.ca](mailto:urgentaction@amnesty.ca)

## Campaign Team

For the latest on the campaigns described in this guide:

- ◆ **Security and Crisis Work**  
Hilary Homes (Campaigns Manager), [hhomes@amnesty.ca](mailto:hhomes@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples**  
Craig Benjamin, [cbenjamin@amnesty.ca](mailto:cbenjamin@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Major Campaigns and Women's Human Rights**  
Jackie Hansen, [jhansen@amnesty.ca](mailto:jhansen@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Corporate Accountability**  
Fiona Koza, [fkoza@amnesty.ca](mailto:fkoza@amnesty.ca)  
Tara Scurr, [tscurr@amnesty.ca](mailto:tscurr@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Refugees and Migrants**  
Gloria Nafziger, [gnafziger@amnesty.ca](mailto:gnafziger@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Central and South America**  
Kathy Price, [kprice@amnesty.ca](mailto:kprice@amnesty.ca)

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Twitter: [@Amnesty Now](https://twitter.com/AmnestyNow)

LinkedIn: [Amnesty International Canada](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AmnestyInternationalCanada)