

## Your guide to winter activism:

Defend women's rights on March 8

Show solidarity with water defenders

The great palm oil scandal revealed

Mega-projects and human rights

Priority campaign actions and updates

# ACTIVISM GUIDE

## Winter 2017

I AM ON  
**#TRUMPWATCH**  
TO PROTECT  
HUMAN RIGHTS

AMNESTY

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



**THIS IS WHAT  
ACTIVISM LOOKS LIKE!**

## Will Canada be *open for justice* at last?

The Canadian Government is expected to announce the creation of an Ombudsperson for the Extractive Sector soon. This is exciting news as Amnesty has long been advocating for an Ombudsperson to help people harmed by Canadian companies overseas. However we have serious concerns the Government's plan might be inadequate in crucial respects. In order to be effective, it is vital the ombudsperson be:

- Empowered to conduct independent investigations and make findings and recommendations
- Independent (from government and industry)
- Transparent (it should report publicly on its findings)
- Adequately resourced (it needs enough money to do its job properly)
- Oriented to protect human rights

An Ombudsperson can make a difference to the lives of people who have been harmed by Canadian companies overseas - but it *must* meet these key criteria.

### What can I do?

**Send a letter or email** to the new International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne outlining the five essential criteria (listed above) for an ombudsperson.

Minister François-Philippe Champagne  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Email: [Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca)

**Send this "Tweet" to Minister Champagne:** *Yes we need an extractives ombudsperson! But it must be independent, transparent & protect #humanrights @fpcchampagne @open4justice*

**Contact your MP** by email, telephone, social media, or snail mail or visit her/him in person. Urge your MP to speak publicly in support of an ombudsperson. Ask your MP to urge Minister Champagne to ensure the ombudsperson meets the five essential criteria listed above. (MP list: [bit.ly/29wdSQ7](http://bit.ly/29wdSQ7))

Email us at [bhr@amnesty.ca](mailto:bhr@amnesty.ca) if you receive a response from Minister Champagne or your MP.

For more information: [amnesty.ca/openforjustice](http://amnesty.ca/openforjustice)

## Last call to create butterflies for Mexico

Last May, we launched a creative campaign to focus attention on a terrifying epidemic of disappearances in Mexico. We asked you to create eye-catching messages of concern by writing them on coloured paper cut out in the shape of a Monarch butterfly, a powerful symbol of connection between Canada and Mexico.

The response has been inspiring (see [bit.ly/2knCsUI](http://bit.ly/2knCsUI))! Activists and students from across the country have sent in masses of beautiful butterfly messages. So beautiful in fact that we are planning to organize a public showing of the butterflies in Mexico before handing them over to families of the disappeared.

Give one last push to this important solidarity initiative! [amnesty.ca/butterflies](http://amnesty.ca/butterflies)





# Defend women's rights on March 8

— and every day of the year!

Did you know that a human rights defender is anyone who takes action in support of human rights? So a women human rights defender is... you guessed it... someone who defends the rights of women and girls. A women human rights defender is you (if you take the actions suggested below)!

Women who stand up and defend human rights are targeted by the authorities in some countries because their advocacy isn't considered acceptable behaviour for women. Some women human rights defenders are targeted because of their multiple and intersecting identities as women living in poverty, women of colour, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual or transgender women.

On March 8, International Women's Day, take a moment to reflect on and acknowledge everything you do to stand up for the rights of women and girls. Recognize the barriers that many women, including women in your community, face when standing up for their rights. Celebrate our strength, our collective power to resist, and celebrate our achievements. Take a stand for the women human rights defenders who so badly need us to come to their defense right now, like Narges Mohammadi in Iran (pictured above), in jail simply because she is a woman in Iran peacefully standing up for justice and equality.



## What can I do?

- **Attend an International Women's Day event** in your community to celebrate and take action with others.
- **Take action to #FreeNarges Mohammadi** from prison in Iran. Watch the documentary *Women on the Front Line*.
- **Stand with First Nations, Metis and Inuit women and organizations** calling for substantive equality in services for Indigenous women fleeing violence.
- **Stand with Indigenous women** throughout the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- **Call on Canada** to make sure that the rights of Indigenous women and girls are taken into consideration when government takes decisions that impact their lives.
- And **stand with our sisters in the US** who badly need our solidarity right now.

For these actions and more visit [amnesty.ca/women](https://www.amnesty.ca/women)

**Download all active petitions here:**

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



# New solidarity action for water defenders in Central America

March 22 is World Water Day. The UN recognizes water as a human right. It designated an annual day to inspire awareness and action. This March 22, we're launching a solidarity action for water defenders under dangerous attack in Central America.



Indigenous leader Berta Caceres won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for her efforts to protect the rights of Indigenous river communities in **Honduras** threatened by a dam project. Last March, Berta was assassinated. Since then, other leaders of Berta's organization, COPINH, have been attacked and killed. They are not the only ones to pay with their blood for defending land and water in Honduras.

*Photo courtesy of goldmanprize.org*



In **Guatemala**, Lolita Chávez led a community referendum on mining and dams in which residents overwhelmingly rejected those activities on Indigenous K'iche territory out of fear they would negatively impact access to clean water and other rights. Lolita continues to suffer harassment and death threats. Other defenders of Indigenous rights to land and water have been killed. Women defenders have been sexually assaulted.

*Photo courtesy Anais Taracena.*

## What can I do?

**If there is a World Water Day event in your community, consider participating with an action table. The following action can also be done any time before September 15.**

- Cut strips of blue cloth (approx. 24 x 6 inches) to symbolize water. You may want to cut wavy edges. With a permanent marker create two separate blue cloth messages for threatened defenders in Honduras and Guatemala – e.g. “From [your community], CANADA, I stand with defenders of water and human rights under attack in [write “Honduras” on one cloth and “Guatemala” on the other]. [Add name].” Decorate the cloth to make it stand out.
- Take photos of people with their blue cloth messages. Consider using a backdrop of water that is important to your community, or creating an eye-catching presentation of your blue messages in a public space. We will use the photos to show authorities that Canadians are concerned.
- Send us your messages and photos before September 15. We will deliver them to water defenders in Central America.
- For details, downloadable display materials and petitions, see [amnesty.ca/waterdefenders](http://amnesty.ca/waterdefenders) (will be ready in late February). Direct questions to campaigners Kathy Price or Tara Scurr.

**Be sure to sign the online actions! Honduras:** <http://bit.ly/2fY43gT> **Guatemala:** <http://bit.ly/2kY5Epd>



## The great palm oil scandal revealed!

Popular companies such as Nestlé, Colgate and Kellogg's are selling food and cosmetics containing palm oil tainted by shocking human rights abuses. These companies reassure their consumers that their products use 'sustainable palm oil' – but Amnesty's research reveals that palm oil is anything but. There is nothing sustainable about palm oil that is produced using child labour and forced labour!



### What can I do?

**In your home:** Go on a scavenger hunt in your own home. Read the labels on your food and cosmetic products and discover which products contain palm oil. If you find palm oil-containing products made by Nestlé, Colgate, Kellogg's, Unilever or Proctor & Gamble, take a photo of the products (perhaps with a sticky note on the product saying "Child labour?" or a selfie of yourself holding the product and a home-made sign). Send the photo to the company and include a letter urging the companies to address human rights abuses in their palm oil supply chain and to publicly disclose where the palm oil in their products comes from. Or post the photo on social media using the hashtags #palmoil and #humanrights and the company twitter handle.

Note: Palm oil has many different names and therefore may be a hidden ingredient. For a list of alternate palm oil names visit [palmoilinvestigations.org/names-for-palm-oil](http://palmoilinvestigations.org/names-for-palm-oil)

**In your community:** Order Amnesty's palm oil action kit containing a campaign backgrounder and a stack of Amnesty's palm oil postcards and ask your friends, neighbours and colleagues to sign them. Or download our petition.

**Learn more:** For the list of company addresses and social media handles, our palm oil report and video, downloadable petition, and more, go to: [amnesty.ca/palmoil](http://amnesty.ca/palmoil)

Some products that Amnesty International is concerned about include: *Gerber Baby Cereal, Irish Spring, Lady Speed Stick, Speed Stick, Softsoap, Colgate toothpaste, Palmolive dish soap, Good Start baby formula, Becel, Knorr bouillon cubes, Dove soap, Ben and Jerry's ice cream, Coffee Mate, Koko Crunch, Carnation Milk, Milo, Aero, Kitkat, Quality Street, Rolo, Turtles, Stouffers Bistro Crustinis, Maggi noodles, Drumstick, Coffee Crisp ice cream, Parlour cookie sandwiches and dipped bars, and more...*



## Order your *Extraction!* Comic Kit to show that you want Canada to be Open for Justice!

Amnesty Canada has developed a new way for young activists to discuss the links between overseas mining, human rights, and corporate accountability in Canada, in the form of *Extraction!* Developed by Ad Astra Comix, the *Extraction!* graphic novel project is a fresh way to look at how the Canadian government has supported problematic Canadian mines overseas.

While many Canadians believe that their government respects and upholds the rights of local and foreign communities regarding development, this is not always the case. In particular, the stories in *Extraction!* put a spotlight on how the resources gold, oil, uranium and bauxite are mined in small communities where people seldom agree to such projects or have raised concerns about the impacts.

Contact [youth@amnesty.ca](mailto:youth@amnesty.ca) for more information or to order your kit — including a copy of the novel, discussion and activity guide, and actions you can take.

## Take this solidarity action in opposition to Site C

British Columbia is rushing ahead with construction of the massive Site C dam – despite the objections of Indigenous peoples. The federal government has acknowledged that approval for the project was granted without ever considering whether or not it would violate the Treaty rights of the First Nations who continue to rely on the historic Peace River Valley to hunt, gather medicines and hold ceremonies. Even worse, the federal government is steadfastly refusing to correct this injustice, despite the Trudeau's government's repeated promises.



### What can I do?

Dramatize the impact of the Site C dam, and build empathy for the Indigenous peoples of the Peace Valley, by asking the question, what would it be like if our own homes, historic sites, and cultural icons were threatened with destruction. Local residents have posted signs up and down the valley to show how much land will be lost if the dam is completed.

Create your “flood level sign” and take photos in front of appropriate landmarks such as museums, cultural centers, farm fields – anything that can be used to symbolize history, culture, identity or the food we rely on. Then share your pictures on **Twitter** or **Instagram** with the hashtags **#WithThePeaceRiver** and **#NoSiteC** and text such as:

*Imagine your history and culture washed away. #NoSiteC #WithThePeaceRiver*

*Imagine your home threatened with destruction. #NoSiteC #WithThePeaceRiver*

*What if everything you loved and valued was about to be washed away. #NoSiteC #WithThePeaceRiver*

Download a flood level sign and learn more at [bit.ly/2kpWTBc](http://bit.ly/2kpWTBc)



## The lives of Indigenous women and girls matter

Join with Amnesty International in demanding that the safety and wellness of Indigenous women and girls is not #OutOfSightOutOfMind when governments make crucial decisions about resource development on their lands and territories.

In November, we launched *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, a report about the role of large-scale resource development in northeast British Columbia in increasing the risks of violence to Indigenous women and girls in the region. Indigenous women and girls already face a greatly increased risk of violence in Canadian society. Our report concludes that resource development projects can inadvertently add to that risk by putting additional strains on police and community services, especially as large numbers of outside workers are brought in for short term jobs and contracts.

One of the report's recommendations calls on the federal and provincial governments to examine and address the specific impacts on women and girls as part of the review and approval of large-scale resource development projects.

**The federal government is in the process of reviewing its environmental assessment process, and we have an important opportunity right now to signal loudly and clearly to the federal government that the rights of Indigenous women and girls must be front and centre in the environmental assessment process!**

Sign our e-action: [tinyurl.com/jlpfylvh](https://tinyurl.com/jlpfylvh)

### What can I do?

Collect petition signatures: [tinyurl.com/jz5w5pf](https://tinyurl.com/jz5w5pf)

Read the report, watch videos, and learn more at [amnesty.ca/outofsight](https://amnesty.ca/outofsight)



### OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

GENDER, INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT  
IN NORTHEAST BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



## Organizing for activism

Questions? Need advice or resources? Contact a member of the Activism Team!

- ◆ **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)
- ◆ **Urgent Actions / Lifesavers for ages 9 and up**  
Marilyn McKim & Stephanie Tran,  
[urgentaction@amnesty.ca](mailto:urgentaction@amnesty.ca)
- ◆ **Western Canada and all other areas**  
Don Wright (Activism Manager), [dwright@amnesty.ca](mailto:dwright@amnesty.ca)

## Campaigns 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)
- ◆ **Mexico, Central and South America**  
Kathy Price, [kprice@amnesty.ca](mailto:kprice@amnesty.ca)



## April 4: Refugee Rights Day in Canada



This is the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1985 [Singh decision](#). The decision marks an important moment for refugee protection in Canada and provides for the right of refugee claimants to have an oral hearing, in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice and international law.

### What can I do?

Organize an event in your community to mark Refugee Rights Day. Refugee Rights are under attack around the world. While Canada is a leader in protecting the rights of refugees, we cannot take our support for refugees for granted. Racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic messages and actions surround us daily. A simple gesture of support, to make refugees know that they are welcome is vital in keeping Canada safe for refugees; now and into the future.

- Reach out to other Refugee organizations in your community and partner with them to celebrate refugee rights
- Look for recent actions to include in your event: [amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/i-welcome-refugees](http://amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/i-welcome-refugees)
- Contribute to a PHOTO OP of refugee champions. We would love to add more photos and stories to: [amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/refugees-and-migrants/canadian-refugee-champions](http://amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/refugees-and-migrants/canadian-refugee-champions)
- Learn about Refugee Rights, register for Amnesty's free online course on refugee rights: [amnesty.org/en/latest/education/2016/09/register-now-for-amnestys-free-online-course-on-refugee-rights/](http://amnesty.org/en/latest/education/2016/09/register-now-for-amnestys-free-online-course-on-refugee-rights/)
- Follow: [I Welcome Refugees Facebook Page](#)

## Act now to protect transgender rights in Canada

In May 2016, Amnesty International was in the House of Commons when a government bill protecting the rights of transgender individuals in Canada was tabled in Parliament. The bill was broadly supported and quickly moved to the Senate. And there it has stayed. Some Senators oppose the protection of transgender people in Canadian human rights law and could stall the passage of Bill C-16 on gender identity and expression into law. Senators are being flooded with messaging opposing the protection of transgender people in Canadian human rights law.

Your urgent action is needed to let Senators know that transgender rights are human rights, and that the health, safety, and wellbeing of transgender individuals in Canada is linked to the passage of Bill C-16 on gender identity into law.

Visit our website for more information on Bill C-16 on gender identity and expression, why Amnesty International supports this legislation, a script to use when phoning your Senator, and a link to contact details for Senators we most want to reach out to. Not comfortable picking up the phone? Send an email to Senators—contact information is also provided.

Have questions? Contact [lgbtcoordinator@amnesty.ca](mailto:lgbtcoordinator@amnesty.ca)

Action and full details available at [ow.ly/3tOm308AdLk](http://ow.ly/3tOm308AdLk)

## Nowruz with a human rights twist

The Persian holiday *Nowruz* ( نوروز new day ) is an ancient holiday celebrated on the first day of spring to welcome in the new year. (March 20)

This holiday presents an opportunity to remember courageous prisoners of conscience in Iran, write letters on their behalf, and send Nowruz greetings to them or to their families. You are invited to host a Nowruz event and send cards with simple Nowruz greetings such as “Nowruz mobarak” نوروز مبارک

The Nowruz Action File 2017 will be posted here:

[amnesty.ca/our-work/priority-countries/iran](http://amnesty.ca/our-work/priority-countries/iran)

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

## #TrumpWatch Stand up for human rights

Amnesty International has long advocated for human rights to be respected, protected and fulfilled in the United States. Since President Trump took office last month, the US government has rapidly taken actions that weaken human rights protections.

Canadians have joined record numbers of people around the world in marching in the streets demanding justice and equality. We are committed to standing in solidarity with our colleagues at Amnesty USA and taking action to ensure that human rights are upheld in the US.

Visit our new US country page at [tinyurl.com/hbgfc2e](http://tinyurl.com/hbgfc2e) for all the latest #TrumpWatch news and action.