

**Your guide to
summer activism:**

**Don's Top Ten Tips
for Tabling**

**New global campaign
on Human Rights
Defenders**

**Get creative with
solidarity messages**

**The great palm oil
scandal: ramping up
the pressure**

**I Welcome Refugees,
Pride Season, UNDRIP
and more!**

ACTIVISM GUIDE

Summer 2017

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Amnesty International Canada

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www.amnesty.ca



Don't be an armchair tabler!

Summers are for public engagement

Are you inviting people over with intriguing visuals, offering a welcoming and focused display or activity, and ready with an elevator pitch to seal the deal? If not, you're probably not collecting as many petition signatures, gathering as many new group members, or even having as many interesting conversations as you could.

Amnesty's Don Wright has been tabling for, oh, let's say many years!



Don's Top Ten Tips for Tabling

1. Call or e-mail early to get a table or booth at the summer street festivals, arts festivals, markets, and community fairs near you.
2. Review this Activism Guide for links to online resources and materials you can order from the National office.
3. Decide which campaign or action might attract the most attention in your community — we created and used the banner (shown above) last summer in Vancouver and it generated a tremendous amount of interest — people *wanted* to know what this was all about and what they could do.
4. Get out from behind the table — venture into the crowd, slow people down and point out the Amnesty table or booth. People *want* to be invited over.
5. Prepare a personal elevator pitch — you know what I'm talking about, be able to quickly explain the issue and why it is important to you, why it should matter to a passerby, and the first step they can take to respond — sign a petition, create a water defenders solidarity banner, take and post a selfie with the right hashtag. Practice your pitch!
6. Have two or three other petitions for people to sign “while they've stopped by” and a sign up sheet to be added to the group e-mail list (many groups also hand out a business card with meeting dates and social media options).
7. Please encourage people to fill out the petition as completely (and legibly) as possible — it is really important to collect as much contact information as possible!
8. Thank people profusely for taking action and helping to make a difference. Reward them with a sticker or button. Say, “enjoy the rest of your day!”
9. Oh yes, group leaders, please recycle everything you have that is not “Amnesty yellow-branded” — it is definitely out of date!
10. Have fun (maybe this is tip #1).



#WeDefend

Human rights defenders are people who stand up for justice and equality in sometimes extraordinary circumstances.

But they are under attack.



Around the world, brave people who take a stand are being undermined by smear campaigns, government surveillance, unjust imprisonment and forced disappearance. Thousands have been killed.

We all want to live in a world where justice is possible and human rights are protected. But that is only possible if human rights defenders are protected. We must defend the defenders. They defend the rights of others. #WeDefend theirs.

What can I do? In response to the disturbing trend of diminished space and security for those who defend human rights, **on May 16**, Amnesty is launching a **new global campaign** to empower Canadian activists, and youth in particular, to take actions in defense of human rights defenders. The campaign runs until the end of 2019.

This campaign is about us, the defenders. Together, #WeDefend. Together, we can protect the rights of human rights defenders like **Narges Mohammadi** in Iran (shown above), and land and water defenders in Central America (see next page).

Beginning May 16, for more information about the campaign and actions you can take and share with others:

www.amnesty.ca/wedefend



Action update: solidarity action for
water defenders in Central America

Off to a good start but we're not finished yet!



Our campaign for threatened land and water defenders in Central America got a great boost from activism around World Water Day and Earth Day.

Thousands signed our petitions calling for action. And we received some beautiful blue solidarity messages to help make visible concern and support for organizations in Guatemala and Honduras whose members are literally being gunned down to silence their voices.

“It’s difficult to reconcile yourself to the fact it may be your last day... But we keep on going. Despite everything, we keep on going.” — *Tomás Gómez, Honduras*

“The cowardly attacks continue. They want to terrorize us... But Mother Earth and my ancestors inspire me. I cannot remain silent.” — *Lolita Chávez, Guatemala*

What can I do?

We invite you to use summer festivals, community events and other tabling opportunities to increase our impact with more signatures on our petitions for Guatemala and Honduras, as well as creative solidarity messages in support of defenders like Tomás and Lolita.

- Prepare long pieces of blue cloth, cut with wavy edges to symbolize water, with two separate messages: “I stand with water defenders under attack in Honduras” and “I stand with water defenders under attack in Guatemala”. Ask people to add their name and country; e.g. Beth Simpson, CANADA.
- Ask if you can take photos of people with their messages for use in our advocacy to protect water defenders. Send the photos to waterdefenders@amnesty.ca
- Think about how you can display all the water defender messages you collect in order to attract attention in your community. Take photos. Submit to your local newspaper with a request for coverage. Be sure to share your photos and coverage with us!
- Post photos of your action on social media with an invitation to sign our online petitions for Honduras and Guatemala at <http://bit.ly/2keDUZF>, <http://bit.ly/2fY43gT> and <http://bit.ly/2kY5Epd>

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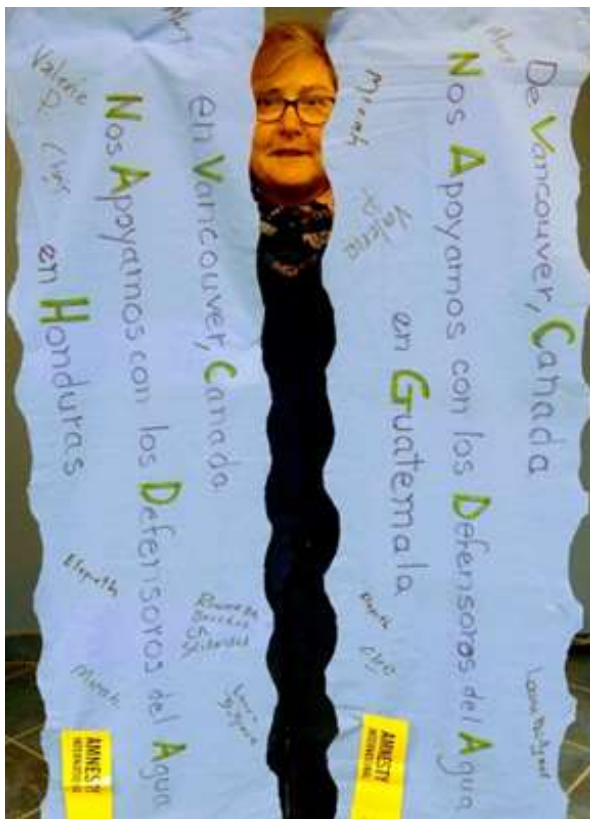


Water defenders (continued)

- Tweet out your photos – e.g.
 “From Calgary Canada, we stand with water
 #DefendersUnderAttack in Guatemala
 @MPGuatemala@CanEmbGuatemala
 @AIBHRGuatemala” *AND*
 “From Cobourg, CANADA, we stand with water
 #DefendersUnderAttack in Honduras
 @COPINHONDURAS @JuanOrlandoH
 @CanAmbCRHDNC @KPriceAmnesty”
- Send blue solidarity messages by September 15 to:
 Amnesty International
 1992 Yonge St. 3rd Floor, Toronto ON
 M4S 1Z7 Attn: Water Defenders

For information, downloadable display materials and petitions: visit
www.amnesty.ca/waterdefenders

Questions? waterdefenders@amnesty.ca



Is child labour in your chocolate?



Many of our favorite treats and most common household products, including snacks, sweets, cosmetics and other products that we use each and every day contain palm oil as one of their prime ingredients. Much of this palm oil is sourced from Indonesia from plantations owned by the company Wilmar International. Controlling over 43% of the global palm oil trade, Wilmar sells its palm oil to many popular consumer brands such as Kellogg's, Nestlé, Unilever, Proctor & Gamble, and Colgate-Palmolive.

Amnesty International researchers discovered shocking human rights abuses at Wilmar's palm oil plantations, including child labour and forced labour. We are pressuring Wilmar, Kellogg's, Nestlé, Unilever, Proctor & Gamble, and Colgate-Palmolive to take immediate steps to prevent human rights abuses in the palm oil industry.

What can I do?

Help spread the word. Order a Palm Oil Action Kit, containing postcards and an information sheet. Ask your friends and people in your community to sign the postcards.

Everything you need is posted here:

www.amnesty.ca/palmoil



Children in immigration detention

Free #theBerksKids

Four of the 35 children currently detained in the United States at the Berks County Residential Centre have been detained for over 500 days. They are held as a result of immigration policies which use detention as a tool to deter refugees from entering the United States.

The families are seeking asylum in the United States after escaping horrific violence in their home countries. They come from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; countries which are widely recognized for extreme levels of violence and insecurity.

The children and their families have all made applications for permanent residency. These families must be granted parole and released from detention.

What can I do?

- Print and gather signatures on this downloadable petition:
<https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/%23theberkskids.doc>
- Downloadable posters:
<https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/welcome%20here%20-%20Poster.pdf>
<https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/I%20Welcome%20-%2040x40.jpg>
- Downloadable doorhangers:
https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/Amnesty_refugee_DIYdoorhanger_art_Final.pdf
https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/Amnesty_refugee_DIYdoorhanger_Pride_Final.pdf
- Order supplies including the button (shown above):
<https://amnestyinternationalcanada.myshopify.com/collections/activism-materials>



You can stand up for human rights - even while on vacation.

With the Amnesty SOS app, you can send Urgent Action appeals to authorities *in an instant*.



Currently only available for iOS devices.

Organizing for activism

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

- ◆ **East and North Ontario and Atlantic Canada**
Ailish Morgan-Welden, amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Greater Toronto Area and Southwest Ontario**
Elena Dumitru, edumitru@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Youth and Student, and English Quebec**
Shauna MacLean, smaclean@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Urgent Actions / Lifesavers for ages 9 and up**
Marilyn McKim & Emma Jayne Geraghty
urgentaction@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Western Canada and the Territories**
Don Wright (until June 30, new person to be announced)
vancouver@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
- ◆ **Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
Craig Benjamin, cbenjamin@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Major Campaigns and Women's Human Rights**
Jackie Hansen, jhansen@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Corporate Accountability**
Fiona Koza, fkoza@amnesty.ca
Tara Scurr, tscurr@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Refugees and Migrants**
Gloria Nafziger, gnafziger@amnesty.ca
- ◆ **Mexico, Central and South America**
Kathy Price, kprice@amnesty.ca



10th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted 10 years ago on September 13, 2007. This was a momentous moment for global rights. The Declaration responds to the centuries of racism and oppression that have fueled violence against Indigenous peoples, uprooted their families and communities, and pushed them to the margins of society. Equally importantly, the Declaration was the first international human rights instrument developed with the direct participation of the very people whose survival and well-being are at stake.

A decade later, the challenge before us is to turn universal state endorsement of the Declaration into meaningful action. The current federal government has been outspoken in its support for the Declaration and its vision of reconciliation. However, the actions of government have not lived up to this rhetoric. Furthermore the federal government has failed to work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to develop concrete strategies for implementation.

What can I do?

A new global action appeal urges Canada to fulfil its promises and set a positive example for the rest of the world. Please sign the action and help promote it to others.

<http://bit.ly/2phJa24>

Show your Pride this summer

Take part in Pride activities this summer to show your support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) rights in Canada and around the world. From the abduction and killing of men believed to be gay in Chechnya, to the targeting of LGBTI activists in Venezuela, to the push for marriage equality in Japan, we have many issues to highlight and actions to take at Pride events.

Find out when Pride activities are being held in your community. Organize an Amnesty marching contingent, table at a community festival, participate in a human rights vigil, or promote actions at film screenings. There's so many ways to show your Pride this summer!

News and actions are posted on the LGBTI webpage. A Pride organizing toolkit will be available on the webpage by the end of May.

Looking for resources, support, or inspiration?

Visit www.amnesty.ca/lgbt or contact lgbtcoordinator@amnesty.ca.

Share this guide with others!

Let everyone know they can read (and download) this Activism Guide.

www.amnesty.ca/activism-guide

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

Instagram: [AmnestyCanada](https://www.instagram.com/AmnestyCanada)

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

YouTube: [Amnesty International. Canada](https://www.youtube.com/AmnestyInternationalCanada)