



BRAZIL:

JOIN ANIELLE FRANCO IN DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR HER SISTER MARIELLE

Anielle Franco is a women human rights defender advocating for the rights of black women in Brazil. She is leading a campaign for justice for her sister Marielle, who was murdered in March.



© AF Rodrigues/Amnesty International

Anielle Franco is an English teacher, former competitive volleyball player, parent of an energetic toddler, and a powerful grassroots advocate for the rights of black women in Brazil. She also happens to be the sister of renowned Brazilian women human rights defender and politician Marielle Franco, who was murdered in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year. Jackie Hansen, Amnesty's Gender Rights Campaigner, reports on Anielle's human rights work including her ongoing campaign for justice for Marielle.

In September 2018, Anielle Franco travelled to Montreal, Quebec, to participate in a historic summit of women foreign ministers from around the world. She met with politicians, who, like her sister, are part of a minority: women in politics.

Anielle spoke to the ministers with love and passion about her sister. They were raised in a favela in Rio de Janeiro, and experienced discrimination because of the colour of their skin and their social class. In a country where the opportunities for black women are often limited, both went on to attend university and work in their chosen fields. They shared a passion for advocating for the rights of black women in Brazil. Marielle was also an outspoken advocate for young people, LGBTI people, poor people, and against police violence.

Anielle talked about her sister's murder in March 2018 as she handed the foreign ministers flowers dedicated to her sister's memory, and a photo of her sister. Marielle and her driver were shot to death in Marielle's vehicle after leaving an event she had organized about black women's empowerment. No one has been arrested for their murders.

(continued on page 3)

REMEMBERING JOHN JONES



Many members will remember John Jones who died on April 23. For more than 40 years, John volunteered with Amnesty International, serving in many roles, including director and vice-president of Amnesty's Board. His wife, Marta, was his inspiration and support until her death in 2010.

I served with John when he was a Board member. I witnessed his principled approach to policy issues and the strength of his interventions in debates. Members who attended AGMs during the 1980s and 1990s will remember John's unique way of speaking—articulate and passionate, often poking and whacking the air in front of him as he spoke.

John was a quiet man who thought deeply about human rights issues. He was a loving and devoted father and grandfather. And he was also a well-respected academic and lecturer in physics. John and Marta were Amnesty country coordinators for many years. John was responsible for work on Colombia. Both worked tirelessly for refugees in their community of Montreal. Together John and Marta received the Caring Canadian Award from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. And none could be more deserving.

John's passion and dedication to human rights never faltered even through coping with mental health issues in his later years. It was an immense privilege to have worked with him—and with Marta. And I will never forget them.

— Bob Goodfellow, former Executive Director of Amnesty International Canada

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S VISION AND MISSION

Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights.

RECEIVING ACTIVIST MAGAZINE

To receive Activist magazine, phone **1-800-AMNESTY (1-800-266-3789)** and confirm you are a supporter. Published in print three times a year, Activist is free to all Amnesty supporters who request it. Change of address or problems receiving Activist? Contact Sue McNamara at our National Office by email at smcnamara@amnesty.ca

BRANCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Fundraised revenue for the first nine months of 2018 amounted to \$9.354 million, an amount which is less than the budgeted amount of \$9.458 million, resulting in a negative variance with respect to fundraised revenue of \$104 thousand. Income from other sources amounted to \$38 thousand, resulting in total revenue for the nine-month period amounting to \$9.392 million.

Expenditures for the period amounted to \$9.446 million, an amount which is significantly less than the budgeted amount of \$11.122 million. Due to timing differences (including payments to the international secretariat for international projects), and certain savings with respect to salaries and benefits, positive variances have been recorded with respect to a number of expenditure categories. The Branch is in a healthy cash flow position going into the final quarter of the fiscal year.

Table of Revenue & Expenditure (in 000s of dollars)

	Actual to September 30	Budget to September 30
Revenues		
Fundraised	9,354	9,458
Other	38	48
Subtotal	9,392	9,506
Expenditures	9,446	11,122
Net Deficit	(54)	(1,616)

As the table depicts, there has been a net deficit from operations for the nine-month period of \$54 thousand as compared to the budgeted deficit of \$1.616 million. Due to the nature of the Branch's annual cash flow forecast, it was anticipated that the Branch would have a substantial deficit by this time of the year. However, given that the most productive months of the year from a fundraising standpoint are from October to December, it is expected that the Branch will be in good financial position as of the end of the year.

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NEXT PRINT ISSUE

The next issue will be mailed by March 15, 2019. The deadline to submit content for that issue is January 11, 2019.

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National Office
312 Laurier Avenue East,
Ottawa, ON K1N 1H9
PHONE 613-744-7667 or
1-800-AMNESTY
(1-800-266-3789)
FAX 613-746-2411
E-MAIL members@amnesty.ca
WEB www.amnesty.ca

Toronto Office
1992 Yonge Street, 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON M4S 1Z7
PHONE 416-363-9933
FAX 416-363-3103
E-MAIL toronto@amnesty.ca

Vancouver Office
Suite 430, 319 West Pender
Vancouver, BC V6B 1T3
PHONE 604-294-5160
E-MAIL vancouver@amnesty.ca

BRAZIL: JOIN ANIELLE FRANCO IN DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR HER SISTER MARIELLE

(cover story continued)

Anielle Franco is leading a global campaign calling for #JusticaParaMarielle (justice for Marielle). She spoke of the trauma her mother experienced when she saw her daughter's lifeless body. The threats to her family as they advocate for justice because "They believe black women can't speak. They believe women can't speak." She called on foreign ministers to support and implement actions in their own countries and around the world that will ensure women like her can advocate for justice and equality without having to worry about online harassment, assaults, or worse.



Marielle Franco

BRAZIL: DEMAND JUSTICE FOR MARIELLE FRANCO

On March 14, 2018, as she was leaving an event she had organized on black women's empowerment, human rights defender and politician Marielle Franco and her driver, Anderson Pedro Gomes, were shot dead in Rio de Janeiro. Their murders are part of a pattern in Brazil, where at least 70 human rights defenders were killed in 2017.

Evidence suggests the murder was carried out by skilled professionals, and experts said the bullets had belonged to the Federal Police. Brazil is one of the world's deadliest countries for human rights defenders. Women human rights defenders from marginalized communities like Marielle often face a heightened risk of violence.

Marielle was a young, black, bisexual women human rights defender. Despite the limited opportunities for women in Brazil, Marielle obtained a masters degree in public administration, spent a decade advocating for some of the most marginalized people in her community, and was elected to Rio de Janeiro city council in 2016. "Marielle embodied the rights she stood up for," says her partner, Monica.

While in Montreal, Anielle held meetings with women human rights defenders from around the world including two Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, many of whom have experienced violence and discrimination because they are women who dare to speak out publicly in support of human rights. At a public event in Montreal where Anielle spoke alongside some of these advocates, she said, "Women need security. Safety. What my sister didn't have. What so many women human rights defenders don't have."

Before she left Montreal, we asked Anielle how hopeful she is about seeing justice for her sister's murder. With great certainty and conviction, Anielle said, "I am hopeful."

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the President of Brazil:

- › Describe who you are and what concerns you about the murder of Marielle Franco;
- › Urge the President to bring Marielle Franco's killers to justice, including those who ordered the crime;
- › Call on his government to protect human rights defenders in Brazil from further threats and attacks.

WRITE TO:

Michel Temer
Praça dos Três Poderes, Palácio do Planalto
Brasília (DF), CEP 70150-900
Brazil

EMAIL: gabinetepeessoal@presidencia.gov.br

TWITTER: @planalto

SALUTATION: Your Excellency

SEND A COPY TO:

His Excellency Denis Fontes de Souza Pinto
Ambassador for Brazil
450 Wilbrod St
Ottawa, ON K1N 6M8



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KENYA:

**INDIGENOUS RIGHTS
DEFENDERS FACE VIOLENCE
AND EVICTION**

The Sengwer Indigenous people are defending their right to continue to live in their ancestral home, the Embobut forest in Kenya.

The Sengwer Indigenous people make their homes in the Embobut forest in Kenya. They are bee-keepers and cattle-herders. Their livelihoods, cultural identity and spirituality are all profoundly linked to the forest. They say that they have protected the forest for more than a century and want to continue to do so.

However, the Kenyan government is intent on “protecting the forest” by indiscriminately forcing out the Sengwer. The Sengwer have fought for their rights in court in a case that remains undecided.

The UN Special rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples has expressed grave concern over a “drastic” escalation in violence against Indigenous rights defenders around the world. While such attacks often take place in the context of large-scale resource development, the rapporteur also expressed concern over the displacement of the Sengwer and other projects that are being carried out in the name of conservation, but which ignore the rights of Indigenous peoples.

““**“Could you please let us live in peace?
We will conserve the forest.”**

– Sengwer man, estimated to be 110 years old

One year ago, on Christmas Day 2017, the Kenyan Forest Service began its latest campaign of forced evictions. In four months, the Forest Service burnt down 341 houses. The violent campaign led to the killing of one Sengwer man and the hospitalization with gunshot wounds of another.

Sengwer families forcibly separated from their traditions and livelihoods face extreme poverty and hardship. Much of this burden falls on women as the traumatic uprooting of their homes also tears apart families.

At various times, the Kenyan Forest Service conservation projects in the Embobut Forest have received the backing of international donors, including the World Bank and a number of European governments. This support has only been suspended when accounts of human rights abuses are made public.

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the President of Kenya:

- › Describe who you are and what concerns you about the attacks on the Sengwer;
- › Ask the President to stop the forced evictions of the Sengwer community, and remove all restrictions to Sengwer’s access to, and occupation of, their ancestral land in the Embobut forest;
- › Urge the President to take immediate steps to ensure that Sengwer leaders and human rights defenders are not harassed, threatened and intimidated for exercising their human rights.

WRITE TO:

Uhuru Kenyatta
Harambee House PO Box 62345 - 00200
Nairobi, Kenya

TWITTER: @UKenyatta

SALUTATION: Your Excellency

SEND A COPY TO:

His Excellency John Lepi Lanyasunya
High Commissioner for Kenya
415 Laurier Ave East
Ottawa, ON K1N 6R4



INDIA:

HARASSED FOR PROTECTING ANCESTRAL LAND

Pavitri Manjhi is defending the rights of her Indigenous Adivasi community to remain in their ancestral home and keep their farms and livelihoods. Two companies want to drive the community off the land to make way for power plants. As head of the village council, Pavitri has filed nearly 100 formal complaints against the companies, whose agents have allegedly defrauded villagers of their land.

Local ‘strongmen’ have repeatedly pressured Pavitri to withdraw the complaints. They visited her home and told her: “Everyone who helped you file the complaints are outsiders. They will not be able to save you and we will silence them.” They returned the next day to make more threats. Pavitri reported the harassment to the police but little has been done.

For decades, Adivasi people have been forced from their land and had their rights trampled on to make room for business developments.



MOROCCO:

HOUNDED FOR DEMANDING CHANGE

Nawal Benaissa campaigns for social justice and better health services in Rif, a region where many people feel forgotten by the government. A leading voice in the popular HIRAK movement, she went on peaceful protests and spoke out on social media.

But the authorities have harassed Nawal every step of the way. In the space of four months, she was arrested and held in custody four times and ordered to close her Facebook account, which had 80,000 followers. Eventually, in February 2018, she was fined and given a 10-month suspended sentence for ‘inciting to commit an offence’. Nawal is appealing against the ruling, but the intimidation continues.

The authorities have launched a major crackdown on the HIRAK movement. Security forces have arrested hundreds of peaceful protesters, some for merely expressing their support on Facebook.

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the Director General of Police:

- › Describe who you are and what concerns you about the constant harassment of Pavitri Manjhi;
- › Ask him for effective and prompt steps to protect her from further threats, harassment and intimidation, so that she can continue to fight for the rights of Adivasis.

WRITE TO:

Director General of Police
Police Headquarters, Naya Raipur
Chhattisgarh
India 492001

SALUTATION: Dear Director General of Police

SEND A COPY TO:

His Excellency Vikas Swarup
High Commissioner for the Republic of India
10 Springfield Rd
Ottawa, ON K1M 1C9

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the Prime Minister:

- › Describe who you are and what concerns you about continual harassment of Nawal Benaissa;
- › Ask him for effective and prompt steps to halt the harassment of Nawal, as she is a peaceful protestor and human rights defender who just wants a better life for people in her region.

WRITE TO:

Prime Minister Saad Dine Al Othmani
Department of the Head of Government
Palais Royal Touarga
Rabat, Morocco

SALUTATION: Your Excellency

SEND A COPY TO:

Her Excellency Souriya Otmani
Ambassador for the Kingdom of Morocco
38 Range Rd
Ottawa, ON K1N 8J4



In Sooke, British Columbia, activists protest against the destructive Site C dam project. Their signs are to remind BC Premier John Horgan that while in opposition he himself had protested with a sign declaring that “Site C Sucks” only to turn around and give the dam the green light once he was in office. The activists’ message to Premier Horgan? For violating the rights of Indigenous peoples, Site C still sucks.

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In Saskatchewan, the Regina Amnesty Group’s dragon boat team—Amnesty Rocks the Boat—entered the Regina Dragon Boat Festival at the end of August to raise awareness of human rights and create visibility for Amnesty International.



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In September, at Amnesty Toronto’s regional meeting, activists marked the fourth anniversary of police in Mexico attacking a bus carrying 43 students from a college in Ayotzinapa who were studying to become teachers. Police took the students away. They were never seen again.

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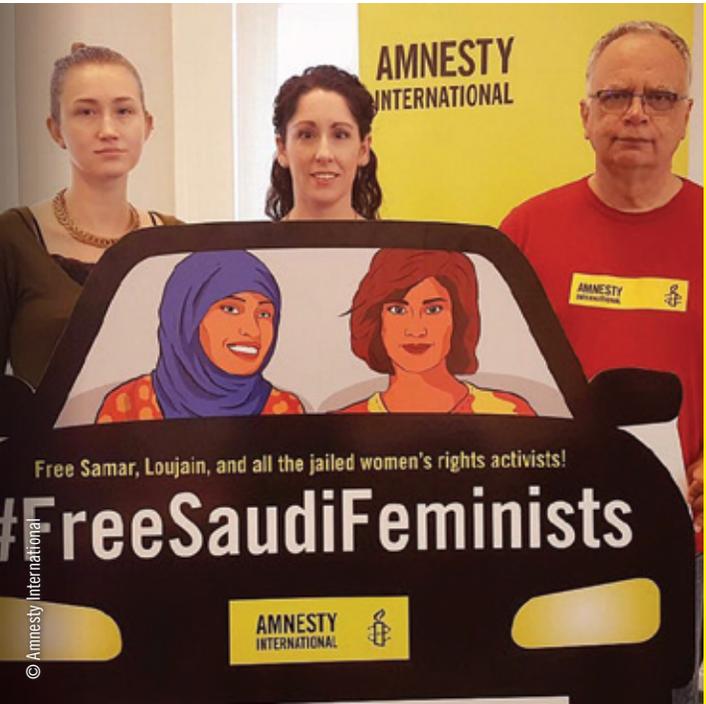


September 30 was Pedestrian Sunday in Toronto's Kensington Market. Amnesty volunteers were out to raise awareness of Amnesty International and women's human rights.

Amnesty was on the road in October, hosting receptions for supporters in Halifax, Nova Scotia, St John's, Newfoundland, and Kingston, Ontario. This photo is from the Halifax reception. Thank you to everyone who attended—and especially the volunteers!



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Taylor Madarash, Crystal Joy Giesbrecht and Gord Barnes were among the activists in Saskatchewan demanding the release of Saudi feminists who have been detained during a crackdown on prominent women human rights activists in Saudi Arabia.

DON'T SEE YOURSELF ON THESE PAGES?

If you attend or organize an Amnesty International event in your community, please share your photographs with other Amnesty members across Canada. Email high-resolution images with captions to members@amnesty.ca

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McGill University, Montreal. Demanding justice for the 43 missing students of Ayotzinapa, Mexico.

CAMPUS GROUPS START OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR STRONG

From British Columbia to Nova Scotia, Amnesty International Campus clubs were out in full force for the start of the school year.

The group at the University of British Columbia kicked-off their school year with “Amnestart”, an event that included free food, games, guest speakers, giveaways and more. The group is also making big plans for the year with a Lower Mainland Regional Youth Conference in the works for January.

Amnesty groups at St. Mary’s University, York University, Carleton University, McGill University and elsewhere all had big events on campus to get their clubs up and running, and to recruit new members and supporters.

Would you like to start a club on your campus? Drop us an email to youth@amnesty.ca and we will get a Campus Start-up kit off to you!

NEW AMNESTY YOUTH WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

We have a brand-new youth website!
Check it out at youth.amnesty.ca



SOME GREAT NEW FEATURES OF THE SITE ARE:

- **YOUTH ACTIVISM BLOG!** Check out what youth activists and youth clubs are up to! Want to see your group featured on the blog? Want to blog about a cool event you just organized or share why you got involved in human rights? This space is for you! Drop us a line at youth@amnesty.ca if you would like to add your voice to our blog.
- **GET ON THE MAP!** We now have a map locator for campus groups. If you would like your group on the map send us an email with your group contact, location and meeting details. Wondering if there is a group in your area? Make sure to check the map at youth.amnesty.ca!
- **RESOURCES!** Check out the new section for classroom and group resources.
- **JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION:** #YouthPowerAction See what young activists from across Canada and around the globe are up to by following our hashtag. Add the tag to your own posts to get your happenings in the feed.

CONNECT WITH US AT:

f /AMNESTYCANADA

🐦 /AMNESTYNOW

📷 /AMNESTYCANADA



There are so many different ways to get involved in Amnesty's work. Amnesty's Activism Team is keen to support you—please contact them at [amnesty.ca/activism-team](https://www.amnesty.ca/activism-team)

WRITE FOR RIGHTS: SUPPORT WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

On December 10, Amnesty supporters across the country will celebrate International Human Rights Day by joining the world's largest grassroots human rights event. Along with activists in more than 140 countries around the world, Amnesty Canada supporters like you will come together to write letters calling for the protection and promotion of human rights.

This year, we will write for women human rights defenders who are under threat for peacefully advocating for human rights—so under threat that Amnesty is focusing all of this year's cases on courageous women peacefully advocating for human rights. Despite the risk of harassment and violence, women human rights defenders are at the forefront of social movements across the world. Go to pages 3 and 5 to take action on three of this year's cases.

There is still time for you to join us! Register now at [writeathon.ca](https://www.writeathon.ca) to write a letter and change a life.

HELP ENSURE CANADA HAS A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

Every January, Amnesty International releases our Human Rights Agenda for Canada, laying out important recommendations for domestic and international human rights action over the coming year and evaluating the progress of the previous year.

The Human Rights Agenda is an essential document for lobbying Members of Parliament and Senators on pressing human rights issues. We need your help to ensure that elected officials across the country hear our concerns and become determined leaders for human rights.

Visit [amnesty.ca/lobby-your-mp](https://www.amnesty.ca/lobby-your-mp) to learn more about our past efforts and stay tuned in January for your chance to help make 2019 a year for human rights.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GET MORE INVOLVED

From financial donations to letter-writing to planning events, every contribution to Amnesty International is invaluable to the work of human rights.

Whatever way you choose to be involved, we have resources to support you in making a human rights impact.

Visit our new activism website at [amnesty.ca/activism](https://www.amnesty.ca/activism) to access all the resources you need, including:

- › A new **Events Calendar** where you will find upcoming Amnesty events, including online orientations and campaign briefings to learn more about our work. Submit your own Amnesty event to connect with others in your community.
- › Updated information on **Activism Funding** to power your work. Whether you are planning a regional meeting or a table at a community fair or an innovative project, Amnesty can support you with funding.
- › A newly launched **Activism Planner** to help you map out your year and connect with upcoming opportunities.

Have a question? You can contact a member of our Activism Team at any time to learn more. Visit us at [amnesty.ca/activism-team](https://www.amnesty.ca/activism-team)

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY: NEVSUN 'MODERN SLAVERY' CASE BEFORE SUPREME COURT IN 2019



Bisha copper mine in Eritrea. Three Eritrean nationals have alleged in a Canadian court that they were forced into enslavement during construction of the Canadian-owned mine.

On January 23, 2019, Canadian mining company Nevsun Resources will go before the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) seeking to avoid trial over claims that it was complicit in the use of forced labour, torture, and unlawful confinement during the construction of the Bisha copper mine in Eritrea. In 2014, three Eritrean nationals filed a suit in the BC Supreme Court (BCSC) alleging that they were conscripted into the Eritrean National Service Program (NSP), which forced them into enslavement at the mine. Nevsun unsuccessfully argued before both the BCSC and the BC Court of Appeal that the case should be thrown out. The SCC will decide whether to allow the lawsuit to proceed. Amnesty continues to campaign for access to justice in Canadian courts for overseas victims of human rights abuses by Canadian corporations. Learn more about the corporate accountability case against Nevsun Resources at amnesty.ca/nevsun

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Amnesty's 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Toronto, Ontario, May 31 to June 2, 2019. The AGM will be inspirational, fun, productive and re-invigorating. Expect a weekend of workshops, distinguished speakers, discussion, debate, and policy making. AGMs are a time to use our voices and join with fellow Amnesty activists to shape the movement and human rights work all over the world. To learn more about next year's AGM, go to amnesty.ca/agm2019

VOTE ONLINE IN THE 2019 ELECTIONS

Members will elect Amnesty Board Members using an online voting system. Only members can participate in voting, nominate candidates, stand for election, and move or second resolutions. Membership is established 30 days before the AGM. To learn more about Amnesty membership and ensure you're eligible to vote, go to amnesty.ca/members

IMPORTANT 2019 DEADLINES

- › **MARCH 2:** Resolutions deadline. Members have the right to bring forward and vote on resolutions that give direction to the Branch's work. All resolutions must be submitted 90 days prior to the AGM—by March 2, 2019.
- › **MAY 1:** Deadline for confirming your membership in order to vote at the AGM or in online elections

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 

HOW TO FIND YOUR NEAREST EVENT

Go to writeathon.ca/events for a full list of Write for Rights letter-writing events across Canada.





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A letter-writer at a 2017 University of Toronto Amnesty event calls on the government to appoint an ombudsperson for Canadian businesses. In January 2018, the government announced it was creating the position, but still has not appointed anyone 10 months later.

TIME TO TURN PROMISES INTO ACTION

APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY WATCHDOG IS LONG OVERDUE

In January 2018, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise, the first of its kind in the world. Once the commitments in that announcement are meaningfully implemented, Canada will be poised to become a leader in responsible business practices and human rights protection.

Amnesty International was greatly encouraged by the January announcement and the May 2018 notice of recruitment of the ombudsperson. We are deeply concerned however that 10 months after the announcement, the ombudsperson has still not been named and that key details around the very foundation of an effective office have not yet been released. Communities around the world who have been looking to Canada for a credible process to protect their rights continue to wait.

There is an urgent need for Canada to turn promises into action!

TAKE ACTION

Contact your Member of Parliament (MP) and ask them to urge Jim Carr, Minister of International Trade, to appoint an independent ombudsperson with robust investigatory powers without further delay. Here are some additional points that you can raise in your letter:

- › You are pleased that the government announced the creation of a Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise in Jan 2018;
- › You are concerned that the Ombudsperson has not yet been appointed;
- › To be effective, it is essential that the ombudsperson have strong investigatory powers, operate independently, and report publicly on its findings and recommendations;
- › Canadian companies operate with impunity in many regions of the world. Human rights are being ignored, human rights defenders are being attacked and the environment is being damaged;
- › Resource extraction is often associated with increases in violence against women and negative social, ecological, and economic impacts that women often feel first and most acutely;
- › Those who are harmed often have nowhere to turn to seek redress;
- › Canada is a major player in the global mining, oil and gas sectors—any action that Canada takes to ensure corporate accountability will have an enormous effect around the world;
- › People around the world have big expectations for Canada and are watching to see what happens;
- › Canada is poised to become a leader in responsible business practices;
- › Over 100,000 Canadians have supported the “Open for Justice” Campaign calling for an independent ombudsperson.

Contact your MP by email, phone or mail:

- › Find your MP’s name, email address or phone number at ourcommons.ca/en/contact-us

OR SEND YOUR LETTER POSTAGE-FREE TO:

[Name of your MP]
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Canada

- › You can also email a message directly to Minister Carr at Jim.Carr@parl.gc.ca or send him a tweet at [@jimcarr_wpg](https://twitter.com/@jimcarr_wpg)
- › For more information, visit amnesty.ca/business or contact bhr@amnesty.ca

HONDURAS: AMNESTY CANADA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT JUSTICE FOR BERTA



The daughters of murdered Indigenous environmentalist Berta Cáceres demonstrate against violations of their rights to truth and justice in Honduras.

It was a long-awaited day in Honduras, one of the most dangerous countries to defend Indigenous rights and the environment. More than 33 months after renowned Lenca leader Berta Cáceres was assassinated, the trial of nine men accused of involvement was finally set to begin.

Police in riot gear were present as Amnesty Canada's Kathy Price entered the court house in a bright yellow Amnesty vest, making visible that our organization of seven million supporters is concerned and watching.

Berta had been awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for challenging a dam on the Gualcarque River and its impacts on the rights of Indigenous communities. She was gunned down after denouncing threats she said came from people linked to the company building the dam.

The investigation into the assassination has been deeply flawed. Lawyers for Berta's family and her organization, the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations (known as COPINH) have reported numerous irregularities, including failure to share vital information that might shed light on who ordered and planned the killing.

Outside the courthouse, Berta's daughter Bertha Isabel announced to media that the family's lawyers had appealed for disqualification of the judges hearing the case due to lack of impartiality, abuses of authority, and suppression of important evidence.

The trial was temporarily suspended, but then restarted even though there was no decision on the appeal. The judges subsequently barred lawyers for Berta's family and ruled they must be represented by prosecutors they have repeatedly accused of covering up the truth.

Meanwhile, lawyers for the company building the dam have spread dangerous lies about the family and COPINH, putting them at serious risk.

"Solidarity action from Canada is needed now more than ever," Berta's daughter Bertha Isabel told us. "We want justice but the State has failed to ensure due process."

TAKE ACTION

Please write a letter to the Ambassador of Honduras in Canada:

- › Express concern about a flawed investigation into the murder of Berta Cáceres and violations of due process that have blocked access to vital evidence;
- › Call for guarantees that everyone who conspired in the murder of Berta are investigated and prosecuted in fair trials that meet international standards;
- › Express concern about unfounded public accusations against COPINH by lawyers working for the company building the Agua Zarca dam, as well as other threats and security incidents;
- › Call for protection and public recognition of COPINH's legitimate work to defend human rights.

WRITE POSTAGE-FREE TO:

Ambassador Sofía Lastenia Cerrato Rodríguez
Embassy of Honduras
130 Albert St, Suite 805
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4

EMAIL: ambassador@embassyhonduras.hn



© Holly Pattison/eltc@uvic.ca

UNITED FOR HEALTHIER LANDS, WATERS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Delegates at the Western Mining Action Network conference in Kamloops, BC, demanded that governments no longer pander to industry at the expense of the public good.

Amnesty Canada campaigner Tara Scurr reports from the Western Mining Action Network conference, a September 2018 gathering of communities and people facing the risks associated with mining.

What happens when people who live and breathe mining struggles every day get together to share stories?

As Amnesty Canada’s campaigner on the Mount Polley mine disaster, this September I joined 180 people concerned about the effects of mining on human rights for the Western Mining Action Network conference in Kamloops, BC, in southern Secwepemc territory.

“Our bodies are built from our lands,” said presenter Nuskamata Mack, a Secwepemc and Nuxalk woman and spokesperson for First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining. “I am made of salmon, moose, berries, and deer from my territory.”

Mack’s community of Xat’sull in the Cariboo region of central British Columbia suffered the 2014 Mount Polley copper mine tailings disaster. She told delegates that the disaster, which destroyed salmon rearing waters, was like a death in the community, leaving Indigenous residents reeling.

Bruno Milanez, an engineer at Brazil’s University of Juiz de Fora, spoke about Samarco’s 2015 Mariana mine disaster which resulted in the deaths of 19 people who were swept away in an avalanche of mud, tailings and debris when the tailings dam collapsed. Hundreds were left homeless by the destructive flood of toxic sludge. The tailings sediment can never be cleaned up.

Johns Hopkins School of Engineering scholar Erica Shoenberger wrote that the causes of tailings dam failures are political, not technical. Milanez was clear that, like Mount Polley, the Mariana disaster was preventable, but politics prevailed.

This view was echoed by Judith Marshall of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives who spoke about the ways in which corporate capture, the “intimate relationship” between business and government, undermines public safety. Governments, Marshall stressed, see their role as servicing the mining sector, not regulating it.

BC’s Auditor General also found this troubling in her 2016 audit of BC’s mining sector. She found that a decade of Ministry underfunding coupled with the government’s dual mandate of regulatory compliance and mining promotion led to a dangerous complacency which ultimately ended in disaster.

The final message of the conference was clear: governments can no longer service to industry at the expense of the public good. Strong regulation that upholds human rights and a healthy environment will make Canada a real world leader.

TAKE ACTION

Learn more about the Mount Polley mine disaster and take action at [amnesty.ca/mount-polley](https://www.amnesty.ca/mount-polley)



SAUDI ARABIA: SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN TO #FREELOUJAIN

Friends of jailed Saudi Arabian human rights defender Loujain al-Hathloul call on Saudi authorities to release Loujain and other women human rights defenders.

Urooba, Atiya, and Rauza are members of the grassroots, Vancouver-based group Friends of Loujain, which brings together friends, former professors, and other supporters of Loujain al-Hathloul. Their goal? Securing freedom for Loujain and the other women human rights defenders detained without charge in Saudi Arabia.

“On July 31, our friend Loujain al-Hathloul spent her 29th birthday behind bars. Her crime? Fighting for what the world is now celebrating: the end to the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia.”

– Urooba Jamal, Atiya Jaffar, and Rauza Khan

“We met Loujain when we were students at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada,” Urooba, Atiya, and Rauza wrote in a recent issue of Teen Vogue. “We have been proud to call her our friend as she has taken the world by storm, making international headlines for her bold, outspoken actions in defiance of the ban, as early as 2014. That year, Loujain was detained for the first time, for 73 days. Two years later, after speaking out against the country’s male guardianship system, Loujain landed in a Saudi jail again.”

Loujain was again arrested in May 2018. At first, she was held incommunicado. After a global outcry by Friends of Loujain, Amnesty International, and others, her whereabouts were disclosed, and she now has

some access to communicate with her family. But she has not been charged with any offence and remains in prison. Amnesty International fears she may be charged with a national security-related offence, which could carry a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

Loujain al-Hathloul is one of more than a dozen women human rights defenders detained this year in Saudi Arabia in a broad crackdown on civil society and women’s rights activism.

Friends of Loujain have organized demonstrations in Vancouver and garnered worldwide media attention. After the cover of the June issue of Vogue Arabia featured Princess Hayfa bint Abdullah al-Saud (the daughter of the late king), Friends of Loujain organized an innovative photo stunt, a reenactment of the original cover photo. The princess had been shown in a red sports car in the desert; Friends of Loujain posed in their friend’s Nissan in an empty parking lot. They wore T-Shirts emblazoned with the names of the women detained in Saudi Arabia, who they are demanding be released.

Amnesty International is proud to advocate alongside Friends of Loujain and call on Saudi authorities to release Loujain and the other women human rights defenders now.

TAKE ACTION

- › Act now to #FreeSaudiFeminists at [amnesty.ca/freesaudifeminists](https://www.amnesty.ca/freesaudifeminists)
- › Read the Teen Vogue article by Urooba Jamal, Atiya Jaffar, and Rauza Khan at bit.ly/2NuwRxU

POLITICAL CRISIS IN GUATEMALA DEEPENS

GOVERNMENT REVOKES MANDATE OF UN COMMISSION AGAINST IMPUNITY

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about Guatemala’s political crisis. The crisis exploded on August 18 when the government announced it would revoke the mandate of the United Nations Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). Canada is a major donor and supporter of CICIG’s mandate, which is to fight against impunity and bring the perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice.

“Amnesty International has expressed its deep concern to the Guatemalan government about the impact on human rights.”

CICIG, established at the end of the 36-year internal armed conflict, has a strong track record of supporting the public prosecutor’s investigations into corruption and misuse of the justice system. CICIG has proved it is possible to investigate and prosecute complex corruption, fraud and murder cases. In some instances, high-ranking military and political figures have faced justice for their crimes.

However, the government’s decision to revoke the mandate of CICIG puts fundamental human rights—the rights to life, freedom of expression, a healthy environment, and an independent judiciary—in jeopardy.

The government’s actions come after a year of attempts to weaken CICIG’s work. Tensions escalated when the Public Prosecutor’s office and CICIG launched a criminal case against President Jimmy Morales for alleged illegal financing of his 2015 electoral campaign.



Protestors march in Guatemala City to demand the resignation of Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales and the renewal of the mandate of the UN Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala.

On September 4, President Morales banned respected Colombian judge Iván Velásquez, head of CICIG, from entering Guatemala. However, Guatemala’s Constitutional Court ordered President Morales allow Commissioner Velásquez to return and find a solution to the crisis through dialogue with the United Nations. In a defiant speech to the UN General Assembly in mid-September, President Morales made accusations against CICIG and refuses to allow Commissioner Velásquez or many of his staff to return to Guatemala to continue this work.

Amnesty International has expressed its deep concern to the government of Guatemala about the potential impact of this conflict with CICIG on human rights.

In the background to this disturbing conflict over corruption and impunity, people living near Tahoe Resource’s Escobal silver mine won an important victory in the fight for the recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples. The Constitutional Court ruled that the Xinka were not consulted during the mine permitting process. It suspended the mine and ordered the Ministry of Energy and Mines to initiate a consultation process over the next year. This is an important step forward but comes at a time of deep uncertainty for human rights in Guatemala.

TAKE ACTION

Go to [amnesty.ca/guatemala-ambassador](https://www.amnesty.ca/guatemala-ambassador) to send an email to Canada’s new Ambassador to Guatemala expressing your concern and asking that Canada continue to publicly support the fight against impunity in Guatemala.

THE KIND OF LEGACY I WANT TO LEAVE

“I like charities that are noisy, that strive to be heard. I’ve developed faith in Amnesty to do just that.

My first donation to Amnesty International was in response to a letter in 1987. It was about torture—“We are God in here”, the torturers said. The inhumanity of humanity can be enormous, and I was glad to be able to do something about it. I continued to give regular donations to Amnesty for years.

When I was asked if I wanted protecting human rights to be a part of my legacy to the world, it was an easy decision for me. My involvement now would last way beyond me, helping ensure the human rights of future generations.

A legacy lives on. It will help create a fair world in which all human beings can earn a decent living, enjoy basic education and healthcare, have the freedom to speak out for their rights, and be treated as equals.

It’s the kind of legacy that I, personally, want to leave.”

— ANN ATKINSON



Ann Atkinson is a Human Rights Guardian, having left a lasting legacy to human rights and justice through a gift in her will to Amnesty International.

YOUR BELIEF IN HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL, FOREVER, CAN LIVE ON

For more information, or to let us know that you have remembered Amnesty International in your Will, please contact Amnesty’s legacy gift planner Hala Al-Madi directly at halmadi@amnesty.ca or **613-744-7667 ext 223**.

Or visit [amnesty.ca/legacy](https://www.amnesty.ca/legacy) for more information.

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