

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 forced eviction of communities, killing of protesters, sexual violence against 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 extremely difficult, however, for victims to obtain remedy if the perpetrator is a very powerful company headquartered in another country.

Amnesty International is lobbying the Canadian Government to ensure that people who have been harmed by Canadian

companies in other countries have “access to remedy” in Canada.

We are calling for the creation of an independent Ombudsperson for the extractive (mining, oil and gas) sector. The Ombudsperson must be empowered to investigate complaints about human rights abuses involving Canadian mining, oil and gas companies, report publicly on its findings and make recommendations.

Together with 30 civil society organizations comprising the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability we are striving to make Canada “Open for Justice” and not just Open for Business..



Amnesty International Canada's Secretary General, Alex Neve, speaks at a demonstration on Parliament Hill calling for the creation of an extractive sector Ombudsperson. © MiningWatch

WHAT CAN I DO?

Send a personalized letter to your MP.



In your letter, urge your MP to support the creation of an Extractive Sector Ombudsperson to protect human rights. Emphasize that the ombudsperson office must be independent, have the ability to conduct investigations, and report publicly on its findings and recommendations. Ask your MP to report back to you about how they will make the Ombudsperson a reality in 2017.

WHERE DO I SEND MY MESSAGE?

Find your MP's name and address by entering your postal code on this website:

<http://bit.ly/29wdSQ7>

Postage is free to MPs in Canada.

Please forward to bhr@amnesty.ca any responses that you receive.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

To increase your impact, bring together a group of friends, neighbours, colleagues or family members to write more letters. When an MP receives numerous personalized letters from his or her constituents about the same issue it can have a tremendous impact.

Another great idea is to phone or visit your MP. For more information about how to do this, please go to www.amnesty.ca/openforjustice or email us at bhr@amnesty.ca

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

To find out more about Amnesty International Canada's Open for Justice campaign, visit our webpage: www.amnesty.ca/openforjustice. Questions? Email us at bhr@amnesty.ca

You can also follow Amnesty's Business and Human Rights program on social media at:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AICanadaBHR
Twitter: www.twitter.com/AICanadaBHR



On September 27th, 2009, Adolfo Ich Chamán (pictured in the photograph), a respected indigenous Q'eqchi' Mayan community leader in Guatemala and an outspoken critic of mining activities in his community, was hacked and shot to death witnesses say, by private security guards contracted to a subsidiary of the Canadian company HudBay Minerals. Angelica Choc (left), Ich Chaman's widow, is seeking remedy in Canada. © James Rodríguez / MiMundo.org