



Take Action: Will Canada be Open for Justice at last?

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 when 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 good news is that the Canadian government is expected to announce the

creation of an Ombudsperson for the Extractive Sector very soon. This is promising; however, we are concerned that the Government’s plan might be inadequate in crucial respects. In order to be effective, it is vital the ombudsperson be:

1. empowered to investigate complaints about human rights abuses involving Canadian mining, oil and gas companies;
2. independent (from government and industry influence);
3. transparent (it should report publicly);
4. oriented to protect human rights;
5. adequately resourced (it needs enough money to do the job effectively).

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.

(Please turn page to find out how you can help).



Amnesty International Canada speaks at a demonstration on Parliament Hill calling for the creation of an extractive sector Ombudsperson.

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WHAT CAN I DO?

Send a personalized letter (or email) to your MP.



In your letter, urge your MP to publicly support the creation of an Extractive Sector Ombudsperson. Emphasize that in order to be effective, the ombudsperson office must be: independent (from government and business influence); transparent; oriented to protect human rights; adequately resourced; and empowered to conduct independent investigations and make 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 lots of letters to your MP, or meet your MP in person. When an MP hears from several constituents about the same issue it can have a tremendous impact.
- Send a letter, email or tweet to Canada's new Minister of International Trade, Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne.

Post: 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2

Email: Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca

Twitter: *Yes we need an extractives ombudsperson @fpcchampagne! But it must be independent, transparent & protect #humanrights #open4justice*

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

To find out more about Amnesty International Canada's Open for Justice campaign, visit:

www.amnesty.ca/openforjustice.

Questions? Email us at bhr@amnesty.ca

You can also join 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 mining company HudBay Minerals. Angelica Choc (left), Ich Chaman's widow, is seeking remedy in Canada.

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