



MMIWG2S and Sisters in Spirit vigils

Since the release of the [2021 National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#), Indigenous partners and partners from all jurisdictions at the provincial, territorial, and federal levels have been working on the implementation plans for the different chapters of the NAP. In June 2022, together they produced a NAP Progress Report that monitored the implementation, challenges in the process and recommendations for the ongoing work.

While this process continues, incidents of MMIWG2S keep happening, and investigations are fraught with discrimination and negligence. The disappearances and deaths of [Tatyanna Harrison](#), [Chelsea Poorman](#), and [Noelle 'Ellie' O'Soup](#) are evidence of this, and greater accountability from police forces are an ongoing demand. Survivors and their families need to be supported.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Attend a **Sisters in Spirit vigil on October 4** (search online for vigils organized in your community).
- Support advocacy initiatives led by Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit activists. This could be an honouring or commemoration project, a fundraiser, a call for policy or legal reform, an October 4th Sisters in Spirit vigil, or whatever actions and campaigns grassroots activists have prioritized. Support family members and loved ones of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit in meeting their evolving and self-identified needs, whether that is helping to distribute missing person signs or supporting logistical preparations for a vigil.
- Review our [No More Stolen Sisters Campaign Guide](#) for more ways to support Indigenous-led local activism.

AMNESTY
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FOCUS on LATIN AMERICA



Show your solidarity with threatened land and water defenders

The defenders of land, water, forests, Indigenous rights and a healthy environment are a beacon of hope in the ever more worrying climate crisis. Yet across our hemisphere, these defenders are under attack, especially when their efforts challenge the profits of powerful companies and their backers.

Our solidarity is urgently needed!

Amnesty Canada is mobilizing action via messages to the authorities, calling for guarantees that defenders can raise their voices in defence of the rights of their communities without fear of harm.

We are also making visible our solidarity with land and water defenders in order to draw attention to the need for action to guarantee their safety. You can help! [Here's how!](#)

Speak up to *protect the protest* in Chile

Many of you helped the Amnesty movement send thousands of messages from Canada and around the world to authorities in Chile as part of our 2020 Write for Rights campaign in support of Gustavo Gatica. Police blinded the psychology student when they shot at people participating in massive, inspiring demonstrations that continued for months, demanding an end to increasing inequality in the South American country.

Our messages ensured that this crime could not be swept under the carpet. Chilean authorities were put on notice that the eyes of the world were watching and that everyone has the right to protest injustice without fear of harm from state security forces.

Keep up the pressure with [new letters and solidarity actions!](#)

All actions and other weblinks in this Activism Guide may be found here:

<https://www.amnesty.ca/activism-guide/get-involved-your-guide-to-taking-action-with-amnesty-international/>

CRISIS AND TACTICAL ROUND UP

Palestinian Civil Society under attack

Palestinian human rights group advocating for the rights of Palestinians and against Israel's system of apartheid are under attack.

In October 2021, without evidence, Israeli Defense Ministry issued a military order declaring six groups as “terrorist” organizations: Addameer, al-Haq, Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP), the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, Bisan Center for Research and Development, and the Union of Palestinian Women Committees. A few months earlier, a seventh organization — the Health Work Committees – was targeted separately as an “illegitimate” entity.

The designation effectively outlawed the organizations from operating and allowed Israeli authorities to close their offices, seize their assets and arrest or jail their staff members. It also prohibited publicly expressing support for their activities or funding the organizations. This designation was widely condemned, including by Amnesty and other international NGOs, European and other third-party governmental offices and representatives, and UN experts.

Ongoing attacks on the organizations culminated in mid-August 2022 when Israeli armed forces raided their offices in Ramallah, and confiscated files and equipment. They also issued military orders to close them down and welded shut their office doors.

One of the seven organizations, the Health Work Committees, has decided lowered its public profile, while the other six have chosen to raise their profile and appeal for international solidarity and protection. Amnesty International is responding to this appeal.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Express your solidarity on social media

Send public messages of solidarity to the six organizations that are appealing for protection (not

the Health Work Committees which is keeping a lower profile). Take a picture of yourself holding a sign saying “I Stand with the Six” and/or gather a group of people to hold up signs with the names of the organizations (see list below). Share using the hashtags #StandWithThe6 #EndIsraeliApartheid

Addameer @Addameer

Al-Haq @alhaq_org

Defense for Children International – Palestine @DCIPalestine

Union of Agricultural Work Committees @UAWC1986

Bisan Center for Research and Development @BisanResearch

Union of Palestinian Women Committees @of_committees

Write to Israeli authorities calling on them to:

- Revoke the “terrorism” and “illegitimate” designation for the seven organizations.
- Cancel the military orders closing the organizations’ offices. The organizations’ staff and directors should be allowed to do their human rights and social welfare work free from harassment.
- Conduct an immediate, independent, transparent, and impartial investigation into cases of surveillance targeted at civil society organizations.

Send your letters to:

Benny Gantz, Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
37 Kaplan Street
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv
61909 Israel

Fax: +972-3-6916940

Email: bgantz@knesset.gov.il

Twitter: @gantzbe

Prime Minister Yair Lapid
Prime Minister’s Office
3 Kaplan St., P.O.B. 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem
91919, Israel

Fax: +972-2-5664838

E-mail: pm_eng@pmo.gov.il

Email: ylapid@knesset.gov.il

Twitter: @Israelgov or @yairlapid



Individuals at Risk: HRD Salah Hammouri

French-Palestinian human rights defender Salah Hammouri, who works with the prisoner support and human rights organization Addameer, has been repeatedly harassed and detained for his human rights work.

Salah Hammouri has been held since March on a series of three-month administrative detention orders, the latest of which was renewed in early September. Under administrative detention in Israel, individuals are detained by state authorities without the intent to prosecute them in a criminal trial. Orders can be renewed indefinitely, and evidence is kept secret, meaning that detainees are not able to effectively challenge their detention and do not know when they will be released.

Salah Hammouri should be immediately released, or promptly charged with an internationally recognizable offence. He should be allowed to keep his residency

status in Jerusalem and continue his human rights work without fear of reprisals.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Sign and share the [online action](#) using the hashtags #FreeSalah and #EndIsraeliApartheid.

Graphics can be found in [this folder](#).

Ongoing Campaign to End Israeli Apartheid

After four years of research in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and building on decades of human rights advocacy in the region, Amnesty International launched a new report, *Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians*, on February 1st, 2022. The report sets out how massive seizures of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible transfer, drastic movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians are all components of a system which amounts to apartheid under international law.

The government of Israel has an obligation under international law to dismantle this system of apartheid, and to repeal or amend all laws, regulations, policies, and practices that discriminate on racial, ethnic, or religious grounds to bring them into line with international human rights law and standards.

Amnesty's human rights concerns have always been directed at the policies, laws, and actions of the government of Israel, not the Jewish people. It is crucial not to conflate legitimate criticism of crimes under international law committed by the government of Israel with antisemitism. To do so is inaccurate and dangerous. We stand against antisemitism in the strongest possible terms.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Read the campaign [blog](#) and [FAQ](#), check out the free 90-minute course *Deconstructing Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians*. and continue to sign and share the online action [Demolish Apartheid, not Palestinian Homes](#).



Demand an end to the targeted surveillance of Human Rights Defenders

Governments around the world are buying and allowing the sale of sophisticated and intrusive surveillance technology that can compromise anybody's digital devices and monitor their activity. They claim these surveillance tools are only used to target "criminals and terrorists", but human rights defenders, journalists and many others have been unlawfully targeted with spyware.

Before the Palestinian organizations described above were designated either "terrorist" or "Illegitimate", six Palestinian human rights defenders in these organizations – including Salah Hammouri — had their phones monitored using Pegasus, a form of spyware developed by Israeli cyber-surveillance company NSO Group.

The ground-breaking Pegasus Project investigation, supported by Amnesty, revealed the extensive use of this spyware against activists, lawyers, journalists and even world leaders.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Sign and share the [online action](#) calling for a global moratorium – a halt on the sale, transfer, and use of surveillance technology – until there is a proper human rights regulatory framework in place that protects human rights defenders and civil society from the misuse of these tools.

Spread the word on social media. Graphics including individual stories and an explanation of the Pegasus spyware can be found in [this folder](#).

Watch and share this video explaining how Amnesty International helped to uncover the Pegasus Project spyware scandal.

For more information on any of these actions, please contact Hilary Homes, Crisis and Tactical campaigner, at the national office: hhomes@amnesty.ca.

MEMBER BLOG



Act for Climate Justice

Learn how Canada continues to prioritize profits over human rights here in Canada and in other countries through the Export Development Canada. Guest blogger Anneka Spice, a member of the Climate Justice and Corporate Accountability Specialized Team, describes the issues and the actions you can take in response to the climate crisis.

[READ MORE.](#)

FOCUS on WOMEN AND GIRLS

Moving onwards in the fight to protect women and girls

The urgency of upholding the rights of women and girls has never waned, and this continues to be the reality for women and girls around the world. Gender-based violence is one of the worst societal ills, and prevalent instances of sexual violence, repression, torture and rampant rates of violence all point to gender-based violence being an endemic.

This kind of violence takes more forms than only physical, and its effects can be cerebral and have both immediate and long-term detrimental impacts on social, political, and economic rights, all which contribute to the failure of fully upholding the lives of women and girls. We've seen this take the worst forms of domestic violence against women like [Sania Khan](#) and [Mandeep Kaur](#), the recent doxxing, swatting, and unjust arrest at gunpoint of [Clara Sorrenti](#), and horrifying incidents of sexual violence against women and girls during conflict in [Ethiopia](#).

In the global context, this is true for Afghan women and girls who, for over one year have *collectively* experienced some greatest degrees of violence. The detrimental ban on schools for girls will have long-term consequences but is not the only pressing issue for Afghans, who are suffering from both a political **and** humanitarian crisis under the rule of the Taliban. Mass hunger, economic precarity, brain drain, reprisals for protests, and the removal of legal protections for women are only some of the many issues making up the reality of living conditions for millions in the country. Since August 2021, the Taliban have issued 28 verdicts and decrees that abuse the livelihoods of women and girls, and these are each verdicts and decrees that must be undone for the full restoration of their rights.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Support the Aid for Afghanistan campaign: Canadian aid organizations have jointly launched this national campaign calling on the Government of Canada to immediately act to remove barriers that have blocked and deterred the provision of lifesaving humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan for the past year. [Add your name to this petition](#) and **ask those in your communities to support this urgent campaign.**
2. [Write to Hon. Harjit Sajjan](#), Minister of International Development to urgently act on providing greater transparency and accountability on how Canada's humanitarian aid will directly benefit women and girls and to call for all diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan's de facto leaders to include demands for restoring the rights and freedoms for women, including re-opening schools for girls.
 - o Share the [Death in Slow Motion](#) report and the briefing [The Rule of Taliban: A Year of Violence, Impunity and False Promises](#), stressing the need to press the Taliban at every opportunity, and to respect and restore the fundamental rights of women and girls.
 - o Push the Government of Canada to push to end the travel ban exemptions for members of the Taliban who continue to fail to uphold their promises to the international community and ultimately fail to uphold the rights of Afghan women and girls. Use **#BanTalibanTravel** in any online posts.

3. **Social media solidarity action:** Show your solidarity with Afghan Women and Girls who are still fighting to restore their rights. Twitter is one of the most frequently used social media platforms in Afghanistan. It is widely accessed by women and girls in the country, although many do not post messages on it that could be perceived as being critical of the Taliban, for fear of retaliation. Send them message of support on social media using the hashtag **#YourRightsAreOurRights**.



Abortion rights: Continue the resistance

This summer, the overturning of Roe V. Wade ended federal protections for abortion rights in the United States, reversing nearly 50 years of essential protections of the rights of women, girls, and those who can become pregnant.

Many US states moved swiftly to implement standing or new laws to ban or severely curtail abortion. As of August 2022, abortion is totally or near-totally banned in 17 states with more coming; in total, abortion is under serious threat in 26 of 50 states. States are also moving rapidly to impose travel bans and to criminalize “aiding” abortion. Some have already started the prosecution of those who have sought abortion.

The political and grassroots resistance to this overturning, both in the US and globally, has been significant, with massive protests taking place and with activists mobilizing both online and offline. The implications of the ruling in the US could affect countries in the region and the world, with other countries taking being influenced by the US to regress on abortion rights, or to justify their already-repressive policies.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Mark **International Safe Abortion Day** on September 28 by posting on Twitter and tag **@GovernorVA** for an international display of solidarity and [retweet a global solidarity video](#) that Amnesty will be posting on the day. (This link will be updated with the video).
2. Online Actions:
 - o [Write a message](#) to state governors to stop the abortion bans and protect the right to abortion care.
 - o Send activist letters to President Biden ([template here](#)) and mail your letters to:
Amnesty International USA,
ATTN: Tarah Demant, 600
Pennsylvania Ave, SE, 5th Floor,
Washington DC, 20003.
 - o [Sign this petition](#) calling for the end of censorship of abortion-related content on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.



Support women's rights activist Salma Al-Shebab

Protests have always been a powerful tool for change. But governments around the world are cracking down on all forms of protests and those who engage in them. On 9 August, **the Specialized Criminal Court in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, sentenced Salma al-Shehab**, a Saudi activist and student to 34 years in prison with a consecutive 34-year travel ban. She was accused, among other things, to “disturbing public order” simply for using Twitter and retweeting activists who support women’s rights. In addition to a grossly unfair trial, she was detained in solitary confinement for 285 days before she was brought to court. She was also denied access to legal representation throughout her pre-trial detention, including during interrogations. The Saudi authorities must immediately and unconditionally release Salma al-Shehab and quash her conviction. Digital spaces like social media are increasingly becoming more accessible and necessary platforms for protestors to engage in their

activism and for civil society to further their messages and to engage in political discourse. The crackdown on those with visible profiles and notable activity are targeted, and this has become a newer form of violence and suppression of rights. A prevailing fear of reprisals deters people from speaking out about these cases on social media or with the media.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

Write to the King urging him to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Salma al-Shehab and quash her conviction as she is being held solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression
- Stop equating free speech with “terrorism”, and repeal or substantially amend the counterterrorism and anti-cybercrime laws that criminalize dissent and enact new laws that are fully compatible with international human rights law and standards

Write to:

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Phone: 011 966 111 488 2222
Fax: 011 961 11 403 3125
(please keep trying)
Twitter: @KingSalman

Salutation: Your Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud:

And Copy:

Mr. Abdulaziz Mohammed H. Albadi
Chargé d'affaires
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
201 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1N 1K6
Fax: 613 237 0567
Email: caemb@mofa.gov.sa

FOCUS on PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Continuing the fight against immigration detention after victory in BC

On July 21, 2022, British Columbia announced it will terminate its immigration detention contract with the Canada Border Services Agency. Once the decision takes effect, people seeking safety or a better life in Canada will no longer be incarcerated in British Columbian jails based solely on immigration grounds. Such truly unqualified victories are rare and will have a profound impact on the rights of refugees and migrants.

British Columbia's [landmark announcement](#) is the result of the tireless advocacy of many, including people who have experienced immigration detention, activists, social justice and grassroots organizations, healthcare providers, lawyers, scholars, religious leaders – and YOU. Thank you for supporting the [#WelcomeToCanada](#) campaign by reaching out to the government to make your voice heard.

According to the Government of BC, the decision to end the agreement with CBSA was driven by its dedication to pursuing social justice and equity for everyone, as the agreement did not align with its commitment to upholding human rights standards. This decision should sound the alarm bells for other provinces; by allowing their jails to be used for immigration detention, the remaining provinces are complicit in the rights abuses that take place within the system.

BC's decision proves that change is possible and shows just how powerful we are when we work together. We will continue to fight this harmful practice across Canada. **If you haven't done so already, please join us by adding your voice to our [Nova Scotia and Quebec actions](#).**



Fighting for refugee rights at the Supreme Court of Canada

Amnesty International, The Canadian Council of Churches and The Canadian Council for Refugees will be before the Supreme Court of Canada on **October 6** to challenge the constitutionality of the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA). Under the STCA, most refugee claimants who arrive at an official land port of entry seeking protection in Canada are denied entry and turned back to the US, where many suffer serious rights violations in detention. Because the agreement only applies at official border crossings, many refugees have been forced to cross the border in between ports of entry, sometimes in perilous conditions. Withdrawing from STCA would ensure that Canada meets its legal obligations under the *Charter* and international law and would end the need for irregular crossings.

The legal challenge has a long history; twice the Federal Court has found the STCA violated refugee claimants' *Charter* rights and twice the Federal Court of Appeal has overturned the decision on technical grounds. Canada's highest court will be reviewing the rights-violating Agreement for the first time.

[Stay tuned](#) for details on how you can get involved and show your support for refugee rights during the hearing on October 6!

ACTIVISM RESOURCES and OPPORTUNITIES



Every year on December 10th, International Human Rights Day, hundreds of thousands of people around the world write letters on behalf of people they've never met. [Write for Rights 2022](#) will launch on October 1st, but now is the time to start thinking about hosting a virtual or in-person (as allowed!) Write for Rights event.

Also launching in October is our groundbreaking [Rights Back at You](#) podcast. The struggle for human rights shapes news around the globe. Want to hear compelling stories from people who fight back? Learn more about the systems that define our world? Or hang out with people who believe a better world is possible for everyone? *Rights Back at You* features stories from frontline activists that cut right to the heart of human rights—being human. Sign up [HERE](#) to be among the first to experience the first season!

Calling all teachers, homeschool parents, community facilitators, and anyone else interested in Human Rights Education resources developed especially for educators! Check out our [Resources for Educators](#) and sign up for ENGAGE!

Our [Activism Planner](#) can help you organize your activities for the season, featuring key dates along with resources and upcoming training opportunities.

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This print edition of the Fall 2022
Activism Guide produced by Don Wright.

September 2022