



GRASSY NARROWS:

WE MUST MOBILIZE TO END THE TOXIC DIVIDE



On June 20, 2019, members of the Grassy Narrows First Nation travelled 1,700 km from their homes in northwest Ontario to Toronto to protest against the devastating mercury crisis that has persisted for decades in their lands.

The people of Grassy Narrows First Nation in northwest Ontario have been hard-hit by mercury poisoning, after the government allowed a pulp mill to dump 10 tons of waste into a river in the 1960s. The damaging effects are still seen today.

Next year marks 50 years since the public first became aware of mercury poisoning at Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows). In all this time, the people of the Grassy Narrows First Nation have never received the help they need to deal with the devastating, and still ongoing, consequences of the poisoning of their river system and the fish on which they depend.

While the campaign for mercury justice led by the youth of Grassy Narrows is gaining momentum, it's clear that a lot more pressure is needed to break through the now deeply

entrenched patterns of delay and deceit that have denied the people of Grassy Narrows their basic human rights for the last five decades.

Beginning in the 1960s, an upstream pulp mill dumped an estimated 10 tons of mercury waste into the English and Wabigoon river system. The company is long gone, but deadly mercury remains in the river sediment and continues to accumulate in fish.

Symptoms of mercury poisoning, including seizures and loss of motor control, are widespread at Grassy Narrows, including among young people born long after the community was assured that the mercury contamination would all be washed away. Despite ample evidence of the severe harms experienced by the people of Grassy Narrows, they have never received specialized health care and other supports needed to deal with the impacts. Community-led health studies have confirmed that the community's overall health is now worse than other First Nations' and much, much worse than the general public's.

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BRANCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Fundraised revenue for the first nine months of 2019 amounted to \$9.474 million, an amount which is less than the budgeted amount of \$10.154 million, resulting in a negative variance with respect to fundraised revenue of \$681 thousand. Income from other sources amounted to \$105 thousand, resulting in total revenue for the nine-month period amounting to \$9.579 million.

Expenditures for the period amounted to \$10.564 million, an amount which is significantly less than the budgeted amount of \$11.137 million. In spite of the negative variance with respect to fundraised revenue, the Branch is in a reasonably healthy financial position at this point of the year.

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

	Actual to September 30	Budget to September 30
Revenues		
Fundraised	9,474	10,154
Other	105	87
Subtotal	9,579	10,241
Expenditures	10,564	11,137
Net Deficit	(985)	(896)

As the table depicts, there has been a net deficit from operations for the nine-month period of \$985 thousand as compared to the budgeted deficit of \$896 thousand. 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, the most productive months of the year from a fundraising standpoint are from October to December, and it is expected that the Branch will be in a good financial position to start the new year.



In September, Amnesty's national office in Ottawa hosted an installation remembering 43 missing teacher-training students from Ayotzinapa in Mexico who were taken away by police on September 26, 2014 and never seen again. The 43 chairs held the photos of the disappeared students. Behind the chairs was a banner that read: "Today, just like 5 years ago, we raise our voices for the 43 missing students. We demand truth, justice and reparation." Full story is on page 14.

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.

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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

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NEXT PRINT ISSUE

The next issue will be mailed by March 12, 2020. The deadline to submit content for that issue is January 10, 2020.

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GRASSY NARROWS: WE MUST MOBILIZE TO END THE TOXIC DIVIDE

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Mercury has polluted the waters of Grassy Narrows since the 1960s.

(cover story continued)

In 2017, the Trudeau government promised that it would deal with the crisis of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows “once and for all”. The federal minister responsible for health care and other basic services in First Nations communities promised to fund a specialized care facility for community members suffering from the debilitating effects of mercury poisoning. And last May, the Minister announced that he was travelling to Grassy Narrows to sign an agreement to allow construction of the care facility to finally begin.

However, that’s not how things worked out.

Although then Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O’Regan told reporters that the federal government was prepared to enter a long-term, legally binding commitment to fully fund the mercury home, the Toronto Star later reported that the proposed agreement was rejected by Grassy Narrows because it contained none of those commitments. Instead, what was actually offered by the federal government was partial funding that could be withdrawn at any time.

Federal officials have said that their proposal simply reflected the standard terms for government agreements. However, business as usual is the opposite of what this unique and tragic situation requires.

In the coming weeks and months, Amnesty will be doing everything we can to support the people of Grassy Narrows to finally achieve the justice they deserve. The youth-led campaign for mercury justice is one of the focal cases of this year’s global Write for Rights campaign. We’re hopeful that an outpouring of support from around the world will help put pressure on the federal government to finally turn promises into concrete actions consistent with the urgency of the situation.

But we’re not stopping there. Write for Rights will mark the beginning of a year-long campaign mobilizing

Amnesty members and supporters in Canada and around the world. At stake is the right of every young person at Grassy Narrows to grow up in a healthy environment and a thriving community. Also at issue is the deeper concern about the racism and indifference that has denied the people of Grassy Narrows their basic human rights for so long.

Days before Minister O’Regan was in Grassy Narrows, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on toxic wastes, Baskut Tuncak, also visited Grassy Narrows. The UN expert’s conclusion: “There exists a pattern in Canada where marginalized groups, Indigenous peoples in particular, find themselves on the wrong side of a toxic divide, subject to conditions that would not be acceptable elsewhere in Canada.”

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the prime minister of Canada:

- Ask the prime minister to restore what mercury has taken from the people of Grassy Narrows. The community and their future generations must be allowed to live in a thriving community and healthy environment.

WRITE TO:

Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington St
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

SALUTATION: Dear Prime Minister

Please note that letters to the prime minister can be sent postage-free from within Canada.

IRAN:

JAILED FOR SPEAKING UP FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



On March 8, 2019—International Women's Day—Yasaman Aryani peacefully protested an Iranian law that forces women to wear a headscarf (hijab).

With her mother, Yasaman walked through a women-only train carriage, hair visible as she handed out white flowers. She spoke of her hopes for a future when all women would have the freedom to choose what to wear. These moments, captured on video, quickly went viral.

On April 10, Iran's authorities arrested Yasaman. They held her alone in a cell for days while interrogators questioned her. They told her to "confess" that foreign elements were behind her activism and to "repent" her actions. If she didn't, they said they would arrest her friends and family. On July 31, Yasaman learned to her shock that she had been sentenced to 16 years in prison.

Yasaman's punishment is part of a wider crackdown on women campaigning against forced veiling. Since 2018, dozens of women, including Yasaman's mother, Monireh Arabshahi, have been arrested.

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the Head of the Judiciary:

- › Describe who you are and your concern that Yasaman is being persecuted for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression in order to promote women's rights;
- › Ask him to release Yasaman Aryani immediately and unconditionally.

WRITE TO:

Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva, Switzerland

SALUTATION: Dear Mr Raisi

**Go to writeathon.ca for more information
on Write for Rights including your nearest
letter-writing event.**



EGYPT: DISAPPEARED FROM THE STREETS OF CAIRO

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din loved his job. The 26-year-old human rights researcher reported on people's access to safe and affordable housing in Egypt. Recently, he was documenting forced evictions.

On the evening of June 11, 2019, Ibrahim was walking home. Suddenly four security officers dressed in plain clothes surrounded him and arrested him. When his mother found out, she went straight to the local police station, but the police told her Ibrahim was not there and denied that he was detained at all. Ever since, Ibrahim's family have been trying to find out what happened to him. They've had no answers at all.

Ibrahim is the fifth person linked with his organization, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, to have been arrested in just three years. Hundreds like Ibrahim have been forcibly disappeared in Egypt and held in prison for months, without ever being brought to trial.

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the Public Prosecutor:

- › Tell him who you are and bring to his attention Ibrahim Ezz El-Din's disappearance (mention Ibrahim's job and date of disappearance);
- › Ask him to reveal where Ibrahim is, give Ibrahim access to his family and lawyers, and protect him from torture;
- › Urge him to release Ibrahim unless he is charged with an internationally recognized crime.

WRITE TO:

Public Prosecutor Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor Madinat al-Rehab
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

SALUTATION: Dear Sir

SEND A COPY TO:

His Excellency Ahmed Mahmoud A. Abu Zeid
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
150 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, ON K2P 1P1

PHILIPPINES: CAMPAIGNING AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



In November 2013, Marinel Sumook Ubaldo was 16 when one of the worst typhoons in history washed away her home in Matarinao, Eastern Samar province. Typhoon Yolanda destroyed her village. Over 6,000 people died and millions lost their homes.

Determined to help her community, Marinel decided to go to university so that she could understand what her country and people need. In August 2019, Marinel graduated with a degree in social work. The young activist now spends her spare time campaigning for her people's basic rights. Thousands of people who lost their homes in the typhoon still need food, water, housing, electricity and toilets to live with dignity. The government provided help at first, but it didn't last.

Marinel is dedicated to making sure that governments around the world realize that "climate change is an issue of human rights."

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the President:

- Tell him who you are and ask him to do all he can to make sure that the residents of Matarinao are provided with adequate conditions in which to live in dignity;
- Encourage him to urge those countries most responsible for causing climate change to provide financial and technical support to developing countries to help protect their people from climate harms.

WRITE TO:

President Rodrigo Duterte
Malacañang Complex
J.P. Laurel Street
San Miguel
Manila, 1005 Philippines

SALUTATION: Dear President

SEND A COPY TO:

Her Excellency Petronila Garcia
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
30 Murray St
Ottawa, ON K1N 5M4



NIGERIA:

SHOT WHILE DEFENDING HIS HOME

Nasu Abdulaziz is fighting for his right to a home. When he was 23 and should have been enjoying life, men with guns and in bulldozers descended without warning on his community of Otodo Gbame in Nigeria's capital, Lagos.

Acting on the orders of the government, these men attacked the homes of the century-old community for five months. They crushed and burned down houses, shot families, destroyed livelihoods, and evicted thousands of people. The night before the final eviction, Nasu was shot in the arm.

By the end, 30,000 people were homeless. They were forced to live in canoes, under bridges or with friends and family. Nasu lost his home too, but he still has hope. He has joined the Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation, a mass movement of people like him who won't rest until they secure their right to a home.

TAKE ACTION

Please write to the Governor of Lagos State:

- Tell him who you are and ask him to investigate the forced evictions in Otodo Gbame and make sure that everyone who was evicted is resettled and given full compensation;
- Remind him that housing is a human right and urge him to end forced evictions in Lagos State.

WRITE TO:

H.E. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu
Governor of Lagos State
Governor's Office, Ikeja
Lagos State, Nigeria

SALUTATION: Dear Sir

SEND A COPY TO:

His Excellency Adebayo Adede
High Commission for the Federal Republic of Nigeria
295 Metcalfe St
Ottawa, ON K2P 1R9

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



ACTIVISTS IN CANADA



In Montreal, Amnesty supporters held a vigil in June to mark the seventh year of writer and activist Raif Badawi's imprisonment in Saudi Arabia. In the middle of the photograph is human rights activist Ensaf Haidar, Raif's wife, who leads the campaign for her husband's freedom.

In Saskatchewan, the Regina Amnesty Group's dragon boat team—Amnesty Rocks the Boat—entered the 2019 Canadian Dragon Boat Championships, which was held July 19–21 at Wascana Lake. The team raised awareness of human rights and created visibility for Amnesty.



On the fifth anniversary of the Mount Polley Mine disaster in British Columbia, Amnesty supporters were part of a delegation travelling to Mitchell Bay on Quesnel Lake to deliver hundreds of messages of solidarity from all over Canada to people affected by the 2014 mining disaster.





Members of the Amnesty International group at York University were tabling in September to raise awareness of pressing human rights issues.

Amnesty activists across Canada took part in Climate Strike protests in September. Pictured here are Amnesty supporters who gathered on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on September 27 to show their solidarity with the movement and highlight that the climate crisis is a human rights crisis.



Climate justice protestors were speaking out in Regina, Saskatchewan, on September 27.

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

Greta Thunberg and Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty's global secretary general.

GRETA THUNBERG AND FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE RECEIVE AMNESTY'S TOP HONOUR

Climate change activist Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future movement of students were honoured in September with Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2019.

"This award is for all of those millions of people, young people, around the world who together make up the movement called Fridays for Future," Greta said. "All these fearless youth, fighting for their future. A future they should be able to take for granted. But as it looks now, they cannot."

The Ambassador of Conscience Award is Amnesty's highest honour, celebrating people who have shown courage in standing up for human rights and using their talents to inspire others. The honour has previously been awarded to Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, the Indigenous rights movement in Canada, and Colin Kaepernick.

Greta was chosen to receive this award because of her efforts to raise awareness of the climate crisis. Her decision to miss school every Friday starting in August 2018 and instead protest outside the Swedish parliament until it took more serious action to tackle the climate emergency kicked off the Fridays for Future movement.

Greta said, "Activism works. So, what I'm telling you to do now, is to act. Because no one is too small to make a difference."



AMNESTY YOUTH ACTIVIST ADÉLAÏDE CHARLIER ON THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Adélaïde Charlier is a member of Amnesty International in Belgium. Recently Adélaïde was one of an inspiring group of global young leaders who came together as part of Amnesty's Global Assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa, to share how they're fighting for human rights in their countries. Adélaïde is at the forefront of the fight for climate justice and helped create the Youth for Climate movement in Belgium.

"I've always had a connection with nature, but in Belgium, climate change was just something we talked about. As a young person, I knew I had the opportunity to make an impact. Inspired by Greta Thunberg, my friend and I joined forces and started striking for our future," said Adélaïde. "The first time we staged a strike, there were 350 of us. At the second march there were 15,000 people and by the third 35,000 young people were striking."

"Climate change is real, and adults need to start taking responsibility. We took a risk by skipping school, but it's what we have to do if we want to make change happen!"

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URGENT ACTION LETTER WRITER'S 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION

EVERY DAY, around the world, people from all walks of life are being imprisoned, tortured or killed for peacefully exercising their human rights. When an individual is in immediate danger of a human rights violation, Amnesty International mobilizes a dedicated group of letter writers—the Urgent Action Network (UAN)—to take action quickly to protect the individual at risk. UAN participants send letters and emails to authorities around the world demanding that human rights violations stop, and that justice prevails.

One of the most committed UAN participants is Glenys Babcock, a long-time member of Amnesty Group 65 in north Toronto, who for more than 25 years has been writing letters to government officials, pressing them to uphold human rights.

“I feel each one of us plays a role in the work of Amnesty International,” Glenys says. “Each individual’s contribution is what makes Amnesty succeed.”

In the early days, most of the UAs concerned prisoners of conscience who had been jailed for their political or religious beliefs. Today, Glenys finds she writes more UA letters on behalf of human rights defenders because governments are increasingly targeting them.

Glenys encourages others to become active in the UAN. She says that writing UA letters doesn’t take much time. “You develop a formula. The facts change, but the substance of the letter must always be short and to the point and crystal clear about what you are requesting.”



Glenys Babcock has been writing Urgent Action letters for over a quarter of a century.

She especially likes the fact that, unlike some volunteer work, UA letters can be written whenever you have free time, whether that’s in the morning, afternoon, or evening.

This text was edited from an article by Stan Jolly. To read Stan’s complete article celebrating Glenys Babcock’s activism, please go to amnesty.ca/glenys-babcock

TAKE ACTION

- To join the Urgent Action Network and receive regular Urgent Actions, send an e-mail to urgentaction@amnesty.ca with “I want to join” in the subject line.

“COMICS without BORDERS”

Saturday Dec 14th, 2019
VIP Reception: 6:00 PM
Comedy Show: 7:30 PM
Meet and Greet: 10:00PM

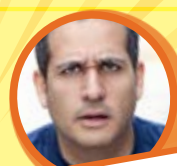
Isabel Bader Theatre
93 Charles St West
Toronto

For more information and to buy tickets:
amnesty.ca/comedy



In support of Amnesty International Canada
with all proceeds to benefit Amnesty.

Featuring...



Patrick Hakeem



Hoodo Hersi



Nour Hadidi



Frank Spadone



Leonard Chan



Ben Sosa Wright



Marc-Anthon Sinagoga



Salma Hindy

Event for 19+

GLOBAL ASSEMBLY 2019: AMNESTY'S HIGHEST DECISION-MAKING BODY MEETS IN SOUTH AFRICA

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S 2019 Global Assembly (GA) took place August 2-4 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The annual GA is Amnesty's highest decision-making body, bringing together member voices from across the globe represented by delegations from every section and structure.

As outlined in the GA Chair's statement, "we marked the 100-year anniversary of Madiba's birth. During this dark period of humanity, we saw the best of Amnesty as it campaigned tirelessly against the injustice of apartheid."

Amnesty's new brand strategy was shared under the umbrella of **HUMANITY** with four underlying themes: Strength in **UNITY**, Moral **COURAGE**, Making Human Rights **RELATABLE**, and Showing That **CHANGE** is Possible.

With close to unanimous support for each, six motions passed at the GA, including commitment to human rights research, measures to mitigate global warming, development of a policy on military occupation, and a vision on migration. The nearly unanimous support demonstrates that our movement is solidly behind them thereby increasing our momentum and, ultimately, our impact. And to strengthen our internal processes, we also passed motions on a new process for administrative amendments within our governance and a review of Amnesty's distribution model (the system for funding Amnesty's international budget from contributions by national Amnesty sections).

At Amnesty Canada's AGM in June we shared the steps being taken to create our next global and national Strategic Goals (see the sidebar for a list of key dates). Since June, we have also received feedback via webinars and our haveyoursay@amnesty.ca email account. To help shape our new Strategic Goals we heard from a number of speakers at the GA who

Amnesty's Global Assembly was held in August in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting brought together delegations from every Amnesty section and structure in the world.

inspired and challenged us as we strive to be a Bigger, Bolder and more Inclusive Amnesty, including youth panellists who challenged us to think about how we engage with young people and groups fighting for LGBTQI+ rights and climate justice.

You can read further detail about the GA and all these decisions at my.amnesty.ca in the resource library of our Member Community. Questions or feedback? Please email haveyoursay@amnesty.ca

2021-25 STRATEGIC GOALS TIMELINE

- › **October 2019:** Direction for International Strategy (2021-2025) is shared and focused consultation with national entities (webinars)
- › **February–April 2020:** Draft International Strategy shared with opportunity for broader consultation;
- › **May 2020:** Revised International Strategy shared and approved by International Board to be voted on at Global Assembly
- › **August 2020:** Global Assembly adopts new International Strategy
- › **August–December 2020:** Long-term plan developed for Amnesty Canada (English Branch) and endorsed by Board
- › **January–June 2021:** Member review of Amnesty Canada's long-term plan with consultation and approval at 2021 AGM

Stay tuned for more information from the Board and the Strategic Goals Advisory Committee on how you can get involved in the consultation process.

BLACK PEOPLE IN TORONTO ARE **20X** MORE LIKELY TO BE **SHOT DEAD** BY THE POLICE

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, 2018

POLICE CARDING: FIVE REASONS WHY CANADA SHOULD PUT AN END TO CARDING

CARDING IS WHEN police officers stop, question, and document individuals without any evidence that they have been involved in, or have knowledge of, an offence. Bias and stereotyping play into the officers' decisions of who to stop and why, which affects many racialized groups, but especially Black people.

Here are five reasons why carding should be banned:

1. It's racist

Carding is a form of systemic police racism that disproportionately impacts Black people in Canada. Carding can often be the first point of contact that can lead to further mistreatment, violence, and racism within other segments of the justice system as well as negative mental and physiological health outcomes.

2. It violates human rights

Racism in policing, including carding, violates many rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as:

- › Article 3 on life, liberty and security of person;
- › Article 7 on equal protection without discrimination before the law;
- › Article 9 on arbitrary detention, arrest, or exile;
- › Article 13 on freedom of movement;
- › and the list goes on.

3. It doesn't prevent crime

Carding does not lower crime rates and according to Justice Michael Tulloch, "there is little to no evidence

that a random, unfocused collection of identifying information has benefits that outweigh the social cost of the practice." Negative impacts on racialized groups, and particularly on Black individuals, far outweigh any supposed benefits that police claim result from carding.

4. Existing measures to ban carding haven't worked

In 2017, some restrictions were introduced to carding in Ontario, but to no avail. Without adequate monitoring and accountability measures, and with loopholes in the regulation's language, carding is still a regular practice in Ontario. In order to achieve a complete ban on carding, we need strong legislation, monitoring, and enforcement to hold perpetrators to account.

5. We have momentum

Activists and anti-racism organizations have been leading the way on speaking up against this form of racial profiling. Prominent human rights organizations and UN experts have raised the alarm on anti-Black racism in policing, and we should ensure their recommendations are turned into action. A permanent and effective ban on carding is one step towards curbing systemic racism in policing.

TAKE ACTION

- › Learn more at [amnesty.ca/carding](https://www.amnesty.ca/carding)
- › Visit [amnesty.ca/un-expert-panel](https://www.amnesty.ca/un-expert-panel) to read about a UN expert panel's probe of systemic anti-Black racism in Canada's criminal justice system
- › Visit [amnesty.ca/ohrc-inquiry](https://www.amnesty.ca/ohrc-inquiry) to read the Ontario Human Rights Commission's interim report on racial profiling and racial discrimination of Black persons by the Toronto Police Service.

SIDEWALK LABS: BIG CONCERNS ABOUT PLANS FOR TORONTO WATERFRONT

Sidewalk Labs, Google's sister company, wants to build a sensor-laden smart city on Toronto's waterfront.

Sidewalk Labs is advertised as an easy fix to the headaches of city life (for example, heated sidewalks so the ice doesn't stick and other flashy technological "solutions"). Questions have been raised about whether Toronto's residents want to be the guinea pigs for this project and the impact of coordinated data collection on human rights.

On September 10, 2019, Waterfront Toronto's Digital Strategy Advisory Panel (DSAP) released a report outlining concerns about Sidewalk's Master Innovation and Development Plan, a 1,500+ page document which sets out how Sidewalk intends to develop the neighbourhood. While this project has been challenged since its inception by a grassroots group called #BlockSidewalk, the DSAP report is yet another stinging indictment of Sidewalk's proposal, particularly in the areas of democratic participation, and privacy and surveillance.

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

The DSAP says that Sidewalk's plan "did not appear to put the citizen at the centre of the design process for digital innovations" and should have, at a minimum, established a process by which "Torontonians—and, in particular, any groups most impacted by a particular technology—would be given agency throughout the design process."

The Toronto waterfront. It is here that Sidewalk Labs has proposed building a sensor-laden smart city. The plans have raised serious human rights concerns.

Taking part in public affairs is a human right, and includes the formulation of policy at an international, national, regional and local level. In other words, it should be up to the residents and their elected representatives to determine whether, and how, they wish to proceed with this project, and not for Sidewalk to dictate outcomes.

PRIVACY AND SURVEILLANCE

The DSAP is concerned about Sidewalk's suggestion of creating an "Urban Data Trust" to manage data and the approach to de-identification: the idea that data can be collected and then anonymized to protect privacy. Not only has it proven quite simple to reidentify "anonymized" data by cross referencing other data sets (of which there would be plenty in a totally connected neighbourhood), the project does not appear to mitigate and respond to possible data breaches which would disproportionately affect various marginalized populations. These include children, Black and Indigenous communities who are overpoliced, immigrants, sex workers, and people on social assistance.

On October 31, Waterfront Toronto, the tri-governmental organization in charge of the waterfront area, reined in Sidewalk Labs' proposal and declined the expectation of an "Urban Data Trust", but will continue to engage with the company on what the 12-acre Quayside site will look like. Grassroots organizations are still wary of this outcome and Amnesty International remains tuned in to future developments and the potential impacts on human rights.

LEARN MORE

- Visit [amnesty.ca/waterfront-toronto](https://www.amnesty.ca/waterfront-toronto) to read the report by Waterfront Toronto's Digital Strategy Advisory Panel, which describes their concerns about Sidewalk Labs' plans.



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CLIMATE JUSTICE: LET'S BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM OF THE CLIMATE STRIKES

Amnesty supporters in Toronto joined the global climate strike on September 27, 2019. The climate crisis is the greatest human rights challenge of our time.

WOW! The global climate strikes on September 20 and 27 were incredible! The youth-led strikes made it abundantly clear that the climate emergency is an urgent priority for young people around the world. And for good reason—the climate crisis threatens human survival and the enjoyment of all human rights for present and future generations.

The same week as the global strikes, Amnesty International co-hosted the first ever global summit on climate change and human rights to galvanize the human rights community and push for human rights-based solutions to the climate catastrophe. Participants endorsed a Declaration that we encourage you to read at climaterights4all.com

THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has raised the alarm that in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, global greenhouse gas emissions must be halved by 2030. The Panel calls for full participation of Indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of climate solutions, while ensuring that all climate policies conform to the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples and the principle of free, prior and informed consent. UN states will hold international climate change negotiations in December. It is vital that all governments make commitments to intensify their efforts to address the climate emergency, and that human rights are made central to this. Action taken to combat climate change must not come at the cost of human rights, including Indigenous rights, or deepen inequalities.

It is critical that rich countries, including Canada, which bear the greatest responsibility for causing the climate crisis and have the most resources, take urgent action.

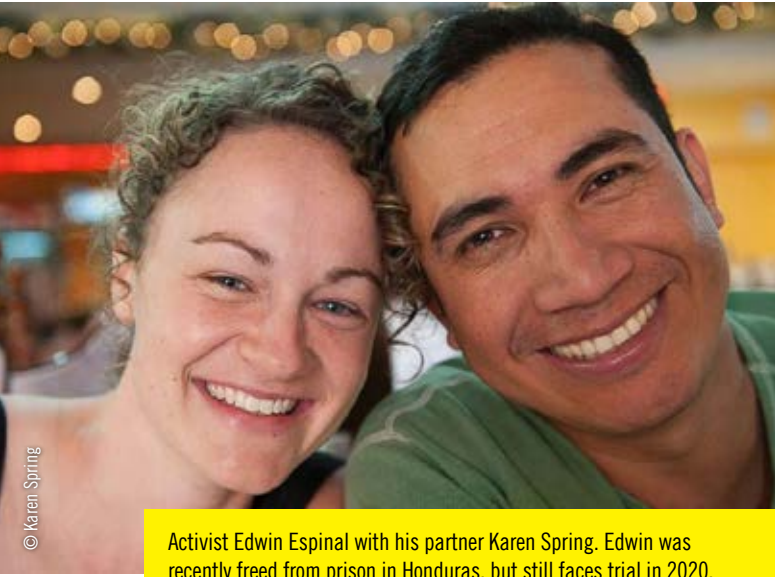
TAKE ACTION

1. Write a letter to Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, highlighting your concerns about human rights and the climate crisis. Urge Canada to:
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% by 2030, aiming for zero emissions as swiftly as possible after 2030;
 - Support Indigenous peoples' own initiatives to develop mechanisms on how to cope, adapt or mitigate the effects of climate change on their livelihoods and environments;
 - Respect and take into account Indigenous traditional knowledge when identifying and designing climate change mitigation policies and programs;
 - Provide substantial financial and technical support to help countries in the global south to reduce emissions;
 - Help the hardest hit communities, both at home and abroad, to protect themselves from climate change.

WRITE TO:

Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

2. Join the next global climate strike on Friday, November 29. Visit fridaysforfuture.ca to find a strike location near you.



Activist Edwin Espinal with his partner Karen Spring. Edwin was recently freed from prison in Honduras, but still faces trial in 2020.

HONDURAS: EDWIN ESPINAL FINALLY RELEASED FROM PRISON

WHILE A brutal crackdown on dissent continues in Honduras, there is a glimmer of hope for one of the victims.

On August 9, Edwin Espinal was released from prison and reunited with his long-time Canadian partner Karen Spring, coordinator of a Tegucigalpa-based human rights network.

Edwin was arrested in January 2018, days after he took part in demonstrations protesting electoral fraud by President Juan Orlando Hernandez. A long-time activist well known for speaking out against injustice, Edwin was denied his right to defend himself and locked up for 19 months in extremely dangerous conditions in a military-run jail.

Thousands of Amnesty Canada supporters signed our petition action calling on Honduras to release Edwin Espinal and guarantee him access to impartial justice.

"Thanks for all your support," Karen Spring wrote to us, amid the jubilation of Edwin's release.

Karen asked us to remain vigilant since Edwin still faces trial, scheduled for next May, in a corrupt system that fails to meet international standards.

Even so, Edwin is recovering from 19 months without adequate food or drinking water, beset by death threats.

His case continues to symbolize the plight of many in a country where protest can land you in jail or get you killed.

MEXICO: ACTIVISTS IN CANADA SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH 43 MISSING STUDENTS

AMNESTY SUPPORTERS from Salt Spring Island to Parkdale, Nova Scotia, took action in September to show solidarity with 43 students who have come to symbolize a massive crisis of disappearances in Mexico.

"It's been five years and we're still waiting for the return of our children, for the truth and for justice," said relatives of the 43 students in a video message to Amnesty Canada. "We will not stop until we find them. We ask for your support."

Our support was on display during a week-long installation in front of Amnesty's Ottawa headquarters: 43 chairs holding the photos of the teacher-training students who were taken away by police on September 26, 2014, and never seen again. Behind the chairs was a huge banner that read: "Today, just like five years ago, we raise our voices for the 43 missing students. We demand truth, justice and reparation."

This call was echoed in personal messages by activists to President López Obrador on paper decorated with the number 43.

The Mexican president launched a new inquiry, after years of cover up by his predecessor Enrique Peña Nieto. Credible results cannot come soon enough for the families of the 43 and all who care about human rights in Mexico.

Activists demanding justice for 43 students from a college in Ayotzinapa who were disappeared in 2014. Police attacked the students' bus and took them away. They were never seen again.





ROHINGYA REFUGEES: WE WANT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS

“We want a real, genuine, sustainable solution for us. Bangladesh is providing many things, but we want our rights, our citizenship, freedom of movement and education more than humanitarian assistance in the camps.”

These words were spoken by a member of the Rohingya Women’s Empowerment and Advocacy Network in February 2019 during an interview with an Amnesty International delegation. At that point, 18 months had passed since the start of the most recent campaign by Myanmar security forces against Rohingya communities—a campaign marked by mass atrocities, including killings, rape, destruction of villages and forced displacement. Rohingya communities were forced to flee into neighbouring Bangladesh.

The total number of Rohingya sheltering in Bangladesh is now around one million. Bangladesh has rightly been commended for the welcome. In today’s world, many other countries would have closed their border. But the Bangladesh government has also made it clear that they expect refugees to return to Myanmar in the near future.

Shelters in the camps are exceptionally small and inadequately built. But there has been reluctance to allow sturdier, more permanent homes because the Bangladesh government worries that might signify that refugees are there to stay.

Half of the refugee population are under the age of eighteen. Yet they have no access to official schools. The Bangladesh government has refused to allow formal schools to be built in the camps and barred the small number of Rohingya students who had managed to enroll in local Bangladeshi schools from continuing with their education. But access to education is a human right. Fifteen-year-old Bibi talked of her dream to become a doctor, because she wants to help her people. She asked, “Education for all, why not for refugees?”

“I love education... I want to become a doctor because I want to help my society, my country and my people,” Bibi, a 15-year-old Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh, told Amnesty delegates.

In August, in refugee camps across Bangladesh and in rallies and demonstrations around the world, Rohingya marked the second anniversary of the 2017 atrocities. Since 2017, there has been virtually no progress in pursuing justice and accountability for the terrible crimes that were committed by Myanmar’s security forces. Basic reforms in Myanmar to grant citizenship and ensure equal rights for Rohingya have gone nowhere.

The rights of Rohingya refugees—including education, healthcare, adequate housing, livelihoods and freedom of movement—must be upheld and respected.

It is time to move beyond an emergency response phase focused only on the basic needs of refugees. It is time for an approach that instead focuses on ensuring that the rights of Rohingya refugees—including education, healthcare, adequate housing, livelihoods and freedom of movement—are upheld and respected.

TAKE ACTION

- Read Amnesty’s new report “*I Don’t Know What My Future Will Be*”, *Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh* at [amnesty.ca/rohingya-report](https://www.amnesty.ca/rohingya-report)
- Go to [amnesty.ca/rohingya-justice](https://www.amnesty.ca/rohingya-justice) to call for an end to the violence against Rohingya.

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

“As a teenager in 1961, I read an article in the Observer newspaper by Peter Benenson, the founder of Amnesty International. Benenson had launched a worldwide appeal for amnesty aiming to release prisoners of conscience jailed in different countries.

Benenson’s article had a profound effect on me. As of that moment I supported Amnesty International completely, which I’ve done all my life since.

Because I’m a huge believer in Amnesty and all that we do as a movement, I decided to leave a gift in my will to the organization.

I encourage other Amnesty International supporters to consider leaving a gift in their will to Amnesty, too, whether they are passionate about protecting refugees, freeing prisoners of conscience, or just human rights in general. We know Amnesty does not accept government money for its research and campaign work, so we have to make sure that Amnesty has enough funds to carry out its goals, which are also our own.”

– **Graham Allen**



Graham Allen is a Human Rights Guardian, having left a lasting legacy to human rights and justice through a gift in his 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 for more information.



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