



AMNESTY
International
CANADIAN SECTION



**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2002**

**As an Amnesty supporter,
in 2002 you:**

*Secured the release of
prisoners of conscience* (see page 5)



*Provided protection for
human rights defenders* (see page 6)



*Helped build a system
of international justice* (see page 7)

*Sent Amnesty research missions
to dozens of countries* (see page 8)



*Strengthened the
voice of women* (see page 9)

*Protected the rights
of children* (see page 10)



*Helped stop
torture* (see page 11)

*Built upon Canada's
culture of human rights* (see page 12)



*Helped Amnesty move
into a permanent home* (see page 13)

Amnesty International's mission

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights. We are building a world in which every person enjoys the rights included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. Towards this end:

- Amnesty International takes action to stop grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination. We campaign, for example, to free prisoners of conscience, protect refugees, abolish the death penalty, and end political killings, “disappearances” and torture.

*Amnesty is building a world
in which the rights of every
person are respected.*

- Amnesty International seeks to expose human rights abuses accurately and quickly. We systematically and independently research the facts of individual cases and patterns of human rights abuses. These findings are publicized, and members, supporters and staff then mobilize persistent public pressure on governments, armed political groups, companies and others to prevent and stop these violations.
- Amnesty International promotes public awareness and understanding of the full range of human

rights, and we work with a global community of organizations to ensure broad support and respect for all human rights.

Amnesty International is governed by its members; we are independent of all governments, political persuasions and religious creeds. We are funded by our members and donors, and no funds are sought or accepted from governments.

Aung San Suu Kyi



Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi speaking at a press conference after being freed from 19 months under house arrest. For years Amnesty has worked on behalf of the Nobel Peace Prize winner who has been harassed and imprisoned for her human rights work.

1-800-AMNESTY (266-3789)

www.amnesty.ca

NATIONAL OFFICE
312 Laurier Ave East
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1H9
TEL: (613) 744-7667
FAX: (613) 746-2411
EMAIL: members@amnesty.ca

TORONTO REGIONAL OFFICE
56 Temperance Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3V5
TEL: (416) 363-9933
FAX: (416) 363-3103
EMAIL: toronto@amnesty.ca

PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE
319 West Pender Street, Suite 490
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1T4
TEL: (604) 294-5160
FAX: (604) 294-5130
EMAIL: pro@amnesty.ca

Thank you for protecting human rights

Dear Amnesty member,

Thank you for contributing to Amnesty International's human rights work in 2002. Together we have worked hard on behalf of millions of people around the world.

As the volunteer leaders of Amnesty International in Canada, it is our pleasant duty to report back to you on how the organization has used your financial contributions to advance the cause of human rights. We have done our best to ensure the wise and effective use of your donations.

Our dream is a big one – a world where every person can live with dignity, justice and respect. A world where every person can live in freedom. A world where people can peacefully express their beliefs and work to correct injustice without fear of jail or torture or death.

It is not always apparent how far we are from our goal. But we work in the faith that it is possible to make this world more humane and more just. Your support gives us strength and provides the means to be an effective voice that can speak up for people who are silenced and demand justice for those that have suffered from human rights abuses.

As you look through the pages of this report, you will see a small sampling of the type of work your contributions made possible last year. We can't show you everything – Amnesty International works in more than 100 countries around the world, and our almost two million members work on thousands of cases of human rights violations each year. So any report will by necessity be incomplete.

(Left to Right:) M. Amuchastegui, D. Koster, G. Hill, N. Melara Lopez, B. Gilsdorf, R. Steinke, D. Smith, L. Frogley, S. Burdett, N. Kingsbury, L. Anani

But we hope these examples will give you an idea of how your support is making Amnesty effective and keeping us strong as we work hard to build a better future for every child, woman and man in our world.

Sincerely,



Deborah Smith, PRESIDENT



Richard Steinke, CHAIRPERSON

Executive Committee (AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2002)

PRESIDENT: Deborah Smith, Ottawa, Ontario; VICE-PRESIDENT: Lina Anani, Toronto, Ontario; CHAIRPERSON: Richard Steinke: Toronto, Ontario; TREASURER: Bill Gilsdorf, Alexandria, Ontario; SECRETARY: Nancy Kingsbury, Montreal, Quebec; DIRECTORS: Maria Amuchastegui, Markham, Ontario; Liz Frogley, Edmonton, Alberta; Gina Hill, Ottawa, Ontario; Danielle Koster, New York, New York; Nora Melara Lopez, Hamilton, Ontario

Management Staff (AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2002)

SECRETARY GENERAL: Alex Neve; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Bob Goodfellow; DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Brenda Dashney; DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: Rosemary Oliver; PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Alain Roy

EDITOR: Jeff Sinden; PRODUCTION MANAGER: Hala Al-Madi; CONTRIBUTORS: Hala Al-Madi, Jennifer Auten, Andrew Bales, Will Bryant, Brenda Dashney, Bonnie Harnden, Alex Neve, Rosemary Oliver, Heather Warren; LAYOUT: Joss MacLennan Design. Printed by union labour at MPH Graphics Inc. on 10% post-consumer recycled paper with chlorine-free vegetable-based inks.



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Amnesty gives hope to those imprisoned for their beliefs

Helping free people jailed for their beliefs has been a cornerstone of Amnesty International's work for decades. In fact, the imprisonment of two Portuguese students for raising a toast to democracy inspired the establishment of the organization in 1961. Over the years, Amnesty has helped to free thousands of prisoners of conscience. 2002 was no different, witnessing the release of dozens of people imprisoned simply for their beliefs or peaceful activities.

In 2002, Amnesty helped free dozens of people imprisoned simply for their beliefs or peaceful activities.

After intense international pressure, Liberian journalist and human rights activist Hassan Bility was freed from detention in December 2002. Authorities jailed Bility for six months without charge or trial as a result of articles he wrote that were critical of the Liberian government. While in detention, he was tortured and mistreated.

Ngawang Sangdrol, a Tibetan nun imprisoned since the age of fifteen was released by Chinese authorities in October and is now in the United States receiving medical treatment. 2002 also saw the release of several other female prisoners of conscience. In Kuwait, Ibtisam Berto Sulaiman al-Dakhil, was pardoned after spending more than 12 years in prison for her work as a journalist. In May, Nobel Peace Prize winner and democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest in Myanmar after years of imprisonment and harassment.

Dr. Teye Wolde-Semayat, head of the Ethiopian Teachers Association and a former university lecturer, was released in May. Imprisoned for his peaceful opposition to government policies and his teachers' union activities, Wolde-Semayat was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Upon his release, he thanked Amnesty and international teachers' unions for their efforts in campaigning for his release, saying that he



© International Campaign for Tibet

Tibetan nun Ngawang Sangdrol (left) pictured with a friend after her release.



© Phaike

Lin ShenLi reunited with his wife in Canada after his release from a forced labour camp in China.

received so many cards that it took two cars to help transport them from the prison.

In February, Chinese citizen and former prisoner of conscience Lin ShenLi reunited with his Canadian wife after spending 18 months in a forced labour camp for his activities as a Falun Gong practitioner. Upon his arrival in Canada he stated: "I want to express my sincere thanks to Amnesty International of Canada, who continued to work tirelessly for my release."

Canadians provide symbolic security for Colombian heroes

During 2002 Amnesty International continued our work in support of human rights defenders. The unsung heroes of the global campaign to protect human rights, these brave people are at the front-lines of armed conflict, human rights abuses and other injustices. Over the past decade the number of people researching, documenting, educating and speaking out about human rights in their communities has grown dramatically. Around the world they persevere in this important work, despite intimidation, threats and physical attacks.

In this hemisphere no country represents the great risks of front-line human rights work more than Colombia. In a country that has seen more than two decades of civil war in which tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions more have been forced from their homes, countless human rights activists have lost their lives. Remarkably, despite the deaths of so many people, others valiantly take their place.

Amnesty Canada is working to provide support

Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty Canada, presents Colombian human rights defenders with solidarity quilts. Canadian volunteers made the colourful works to show support for those in Colombia who risk their lives for human rights.

and protection for Colombia's human rights defenders by insisting that Colombian authorities take concrete measures to ensure their safety and by pressing the Canadian government to make this a priority issue in Canada's relationship with the South American country.

At the same time, Amnesty members from across the country have shown their support for Colombia's human rights activists by creating 17 solidarity quilts, each made up of dozens of patches with messages of hope and peace.

Amnesty will not rest until defending human rights becomes one of Colombia's most celebrated vocations, not one of its most dangerous

In September 2002, with Colombia's Vice-President looking on, Amnesty Canada's Secretary General Alex Neve presented the quilts to human rights defenders in a high-profile public event in the National Congress building in Bogotá. Neve had the honour of telling Colombia's courageous human rights heroes that Amnesty will not rest until defending human rights becomes one of Colombia's most celebrated vocations, not one of its most dangerous.



The dream of an International Criminal Court becomes a reality

On July 1, 2002 Amnesty members in Canada had more than one reason to celebrate. The day marked not only Canada's birthday but also the birth of a new system of international justice with the official establishment of the International Criminal Court. The court will act as a permanent judicial check on war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, strengthening human rights protection around the world.

Hailed as the most important development in international human rights law in a half century, the court will have authority to try those responsible for these grave abuses when their own government is unable or unwilling to do so. Many see the court as the missing link between the ideals established more than fifty years ago in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the as yet unrealized reality of international justice.

The court will act as a permanent judicial check on war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, strengthening human rights protection around the world.

The past century witnessed the violent deaths of millions of people. Sadly, those responsible for mass human rights violations almost always escaped punishment. Victims and their families were denied justice time and time again. Even in the past decade, the world looked on as horrendous abuses were committed in Rwanda, Bosnia and East Timor.

Since 1993 Amnesty International has been working hard to make the dream of a permanent International Criminal Court a reality. The organization has been a leading voice advocating for a



The home of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands.

strong, fair and independent court, able to hold those responsible for atrocities accountable. For years, Amnesty and our almost two million members have pressed governments around the world to join the court.

These efforts came to fruition in the spring of 2002 when the 60th nation joined, triggering the official establishment of the court. There is substantial evidence that the work of Amnesty and other organizations had a real impact on the court's rapid realization. The first sixty nations were convinced to join the court much sooner than most observers expected (Canada was the 14th country to join in July 2000).

However, Amnesty's work in the area of international justice has not stopped. The organization continues to advocate for an effective, independent court that is able to send a strong message around the world that these crimes will no longer be tolerated and that the lives of all people, everywhere must be respected.



Some of the more than one million people forced from their homes in Côte d'Ivoire. Amnesty sent a research mission to the West African country shortly after a civil war broke out in fall 2002.

© AFP

Missions accomplished

As part of the organization's ongoing work to investigate and document human rights abuses around the world, Amnesty International sent missions to 76 countries and territories in 2002. The results form the basis of much of Amnesty's work; findings are published in reports, forwarded to the media, and posted on the Internet. Research teams visited countries such as Nepal, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Israel and the Occupied Territories, and Guyana. In many cases the missions took place amidst dangerous, volatile situations.

During the winter of 2002, shortly after a civil war erupted in Côte d'Ivoire, two Amnesty missions visited the West African country to document human rights abuses. The researchers gathered disquieting information, including evidence of arbitrary arrest and disappearances, the summary execution of civilians and the denial of certain essential rights such as freedom of movement.

Amnesty representatives also visited refugee camps and gathered personal testimony from some of the more than one million men, women and children

who have fled their homes since the war began.

Colombia also saw a tumultuous year in 2002 and was the subject of a number of missions. Amnesty's International Secretary General, Irene Khan, accompanied one of the delegations in May during Colombia's presidential election campaign. She took part in a round-table discussion with the presidential candidates in Bogotá and called on them to commit themselves to taking concrete action to protect human rights. Other missions to the country, which has suffered from decades of civil war, documented ongoing atrocities including the massacre of civilians by a number of the warring factions.

Impartial reporting and meticulous research continue to be hallmarks of Amnesty's work. To ensure credibility, information gathered during such missions is cross-referenced to a variety of sources. Delegates speak face-to-face with prisoners, lawyers, human rights workers, journalists, refugees, government officials and other human rights organizations in order to get an accurate picture of the situation. This ensures that when Amnesty speaks, the world listens.

Amnesty helps women defend their rights

During 2002 Amnesty International played a vital role around the world in helping strengthen the voice of women who choose to stand up and speak out for their rights. Women like Neelam Chaturvedi, a human rights advocate in India who founded the first women's shelter in her region and has spoken out on violence against women in her community. Chaturvedi works under difficult circumstances in a community where her work is often met with intimidation and abuse.

In May 2002 Amnesty brought Chaturvedi to Canada to support and strengthen her work by helping forge links between her organization and women's groups in Canada.

Amnesty has also worked with Fatana Gailani, an Afghani human rights activist who established the Afghanistan Women's Council and works to protect women's rights in her country. Despite the fall of the repressive Taliban regime, Afghan women continue to face systemic barriers to their equal participation in society. However, Gailani still has hope for the future. In 2002 she thanked Amnesty members for their support, saying: "Amnesty International

members are my friends. Our shared work is very important for people, especially the women. We still have hope for the future."

*Women around the world
often face different kinds
of human rights abuses*

Working with women like Neelam Chaturvedi and Fatana Gailani is an important component of Amnesty's work because women around the world often face different kinds of human rights abuses.

Amnesty also works with other Canadian organizations to support women's human rights. These and other important projects are coordinated by Amnesty's Women's Action Network (WAN) a dedicated group of 2000 Canadians who support and defend the rights of women around the world.

Neelam Chaturvedi, a women's rights activist from India, speaks to a group of Amnesty members. Amnesty brought Chaturvedi to Canada to support and strengthen her work by forging links between her organization and women's groups in Canada.



The fight against the use of children in war



© AFP

Speaking out for the rights of children continued to be a major priority for Amnesty International in 2002. Children in countries throughout the world face alarming human rights violations. Many suffer abuse, torture and imprisonment in appalling conditions. Thousands are killed and maimed in armed conflicts. Millions live dangerous lives on the streets. Millions more work at hazardous jobs or are victims of child trafficking and forced prostitution. For years Amnesty has worked hard to ensure that children everywhere enjoy the rights they deserve.

As part of this continuing work Amnesty has supported international efforts to ban the use of children in armed conflict. Currently, more than 300,000 boys and girls (some as young as 10) are fighting in more than 40 countries, including Colombia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Many have been taken from their families against their will. Hundreds of thousands more are members of armed forces who could be sent into combat at any time.

In February 2002 Amnesty celebrated the establishment of a United Nations treaty banning the use of children in war. As a founding member of The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers,

A young soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Hundreds of thousands of children are fighting in countries around the world.

Amnesty has joined other organizations in pressing governments to ratify and comply with this treaty, known as the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Amnesty members from around the world were active in the campaign. So far, 111 countries have signed the agreement and more than 45 have made a binding legal commitment to enforce the treaty. This represents a concrete advance towards the goal of eliminating the use of children in war.

In addition to work on behalf of child soldiers, in 2002 Amnesty called attention to the ill-treatment of young offenders and the poor conditions in juvenile detention centres in countries such as the Russian Federation, the Philippines and Burundi, as well as the neglect and abuse of street children in Spain. Amnesty also called on the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to protect the lives of children caught in that region's conflict. While much work remains, the organization is working hard to protect the rights of society's most vulnerable people.

Positive steps in the struggle to eliminate torture

Amnesty International is a leading voice in the fight against torture. During 2002 the organization concluded our third Campaign against Torture which saw torture-free zones declared in jails and cities all over the world and entire buildings wrapped in Amnesty's "Stop Torture" tape.

While the campaign is officially over, eliminating torture remains a priority. Amnesty's continuing work includes pressing governments to sign and live up to international agreements, campaigning to ban the export of equipment used for torture, and reporting on mistreatment wherever it occurs.

Partly as a result of this pressure 2002 witnessed the adoption of the Draft Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on Torture. By establishing a system for inspecting prisons and detention centres, the agreement seeks to prevent torture before it happens.

Seeking legal reform is just part of efforts to stop torture. Amnesty's work often involves calling for the protection of an individual subject to torture because of their identity: an individual from a minority ethnic population; children who are being coerced into armed service; or people whose sexual identity makes them an acceptable target in many countries.

During 2002 Amnesty took action on a number of such cases including that of Houndjo Mawudzro,

a student leader in Togo, West Africa. Detained, tortured and released in September 2002, Mawudzro was rearrested in November after he spoke out about the treatment he had received in prison. Amidst fears that he would be tortured again an urgent appeal was posted on Amnesty's website, and a press release was issued to coincide with the visit to France by the President of Togo. Mawudzro was released after almost 11,000 appeals were sent on his behalf.

Amnesty's work often involves calling for the protection of an individual subject to torture because of their identity.

Unfortunately, Mawudzro's story is not extraordinary; torture continues regularly around the world. However, as his case shows, together we can make a difference in the struggle to eliminate this barbaric practice.



Time to stop torture. While Amnesty's Campaign against Torture wrapped up in 2002, eradicating this practice remains a focus for the organization.

Amnesty brings human rights message to the Canadian public

Canada has a strong tradition of promoting international human rights; a tradition which Amnesty and our Canadian members work hard to build upon. The country's human rights legacy dates back to 1948 and the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the drafting of which was assisted by McGill University professor John Humphrey. The Universal Declaration lays out the rights belonging to all people and remains a vastly important document.

Through education, public service announcements, daily press releases, website campaigning, presence at international conferences, and literally thousands of meetings every year, Amnesty International is working to increase Canadians' awareness of the rights that belong to all people and to ensure a continuation of the proud tradition of human rights in this country.

In 2002 Amnesty Canada continued our extremely successful initiative to educate and mobilize youth on issues of global human rights. 45 high school and university students attended the 2002 Human

Rights College in Vancouver. Allison from St John's, Newfoundland welcomed the unique experience, saying "This was an amazing opportunity. My motivations are now sky high!" There are also hundreds of youth and student groups that operate in high schools and universities around the country.

Youth are not the only enthusiastic participants in Amnesty activities. More than 100 volunteer groups exist in communities across Canada, making Amnesty one of the strongest grassroots volunteer organizations in the country. Through special events, meetings and media work, these groups spread the Amnesty message throughout their communities.

During 2002 the organization also worked hard to maintain a strong presence in the media. Over the course of the year Amnesty spokespersons gave countless interviews to local and national media outlets.

Your support helps Amnesty work to build upon Canada's human rights tradition.

An Amnesty high school group from Barry's Bay Ontario created an enormous appeal for the release of a prisoner of conscience outside the embassy of Myanmar. There are hundreds of Amnesty youth and student groups operating in schools and universities across the country.



Amnesty Canada finally owns its home

During 2002, Amnesty purchased a house in Ottawa and after almost 30 years, Amnesty International Canada finally has a permanent home. Amnesty Canada was founded in May 1973. At first, operations were coordinated out of people's homes. By the early 1980s the organization was proud of its office in a church basement. From these humble beginnings Amnesty has grown immensely in this country and now includes the support of tens of thousands of Canadians.

The building places Amnesty front and centre in Canada's capital with excellent access to the public, media, government officials and diplomats. In addition to the good location, our new building gives us more working room.

The support of Canadian donors made the acquisition of "Amnesty House" possible and further illustrates the fact that there is a large and growing number of Canadians who care about the human rights of all people, everywhere. Special thanks to those who gave to Amnesty's Building Fund.



Amnesty Canada's new national office in the Ottawa neighborhood of Sandy Hill.

Amnesty Nepal gets a helping hand

Amidst a bloody civil war, a small but courageous group of Amnesty International members in Nepal have been struggling to make human rights a priority in their country. In a nation that has seen eight years of war in which more than 3,000 people have been killed, volunteers in Nepal have been striving to construct a permanent home for Amnesty Nepal in the capital Katmandu.

In 2002 Canadian members helped out their Nepali counterparts and raised \$10,000 towards the building costs. Construction is progressing well with the first floor nearly complete. Bhola Bhattarai of Amnesty Nepal thanked Canadian members: "I don't have words to express our happiness for your solidarity in our building campaign. Please kindly accept our warm thanks."

Amnesty youth member Jane Imai helps fund a home for Amnesty Nepal by "Buying a Brick".



SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Canadian Section (English Speaking)

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As at September 30, 2002

	2002 (\$)	2001 (\$)
Assets		
Current assets	1,256,916	1,737,392
Capital and deferred assets	2,441,823	496,966
	3,698,739	2,234,358
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	427,326	685,445
Long-term debt	1,395,660	–
	1,822,986	685,445
Net assets	1,875,753	1,548,913
Net assets are comprised of:		
General fund	1,173,739	602,253
Special fund	702,014	946,660
	1,875,753	1,548,913

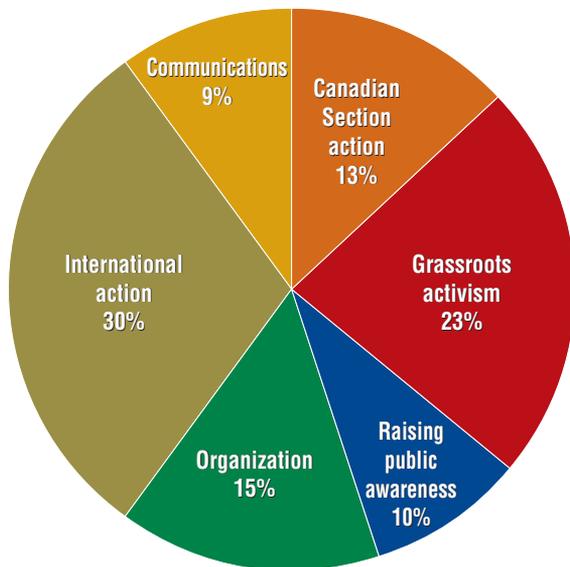
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Canadian Section (English Speaking)

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expense and Fund Balances

For the year ended September 30, 2002

	General Fund		Special Funds		Total	
	2002 (\$)	2001 (\$)	2002 (\$)	2001 (\$)	2002 (\$)	2001 (\$)
Revenue						
Resource development revenue	7,041,549	6,592,266	51,776	19,301	7,093,325	6,611,567
Less: Resource development expense	(1,846,784)	(1,734,555)	–	(5,798)	(1,846,784)	(1,740,353)
	5,194,765	4,857,711	51,776	13,503	5,246,541	4,871,214
Other revenue	255,837	225,347	–	1,000	255,837	226,347
	5,450,602	5,083,058	51,776	14,503	5,502,378	5,097,561
Expense						
Action	988,523	968,479	56,193	34,923	1,044,716	1,003,402
Membership	1,641,963	1,489,181	19,829	6,685	1,661,792	1,495,866
Communications	810,688	738,336	–	–	810,688	738,336
Public awareness	889,836	879,716	–	–	889,836	879,716
Organization	768,506	807,878	–	–	768,506	807,878
	5,099,516	4,883,590	76,022	41,608	5,175,538	4,925,198
Net revenue (expense) for the year	351,086	199,468	(24,246)	(27,105)	326,840	172,363
Fund balance – Beginning of year	602,253	444,825	946,660	931,725	1,548,913	1,376,550
	953,339	644,293	922,414	904,620	1,875,753	1,548,913
Transfers	220,400	(42,040)	(220,400)	42,040	–	–
Fund balance – End of year	1,173,739	602,253	702,014	946,660	1,875,753	1,548,913

Your contributions at work



9% Communications: Publications, documentation, website, *The Activist*.

13% Canadian Section action: Campaign materials, Urgent Actions, refugee protection, Crisis Response.

23% Grassroots activism: Materials and support for local groups, networks, fieldworkers, coordinators, youth action; national and international membership meetings.

10% Raising public awareness: Media work, television programs and videos, public displays, public service announcements.

15% Organization: Assistance to Amnesty sections in other countries, planning, National Office volunteer program, technological support, audit, staff training and development, administration.

30% International action: Contributions to the International Secretariat for research, missions and reports, worldwide campaigns, observers at trials, work with international bodies like the United Nations.

Bequests keep the candle bright

Amnesty International gratefully acknowledges the estate gifts received during the past year from the following donors. We honour the memory of these dedicated Amnesty supporters. Their final gifts serve as a lasting legacy of their commitment to protecting human rights for everyone.

Douglas Creighton
Dr. Margaret M. Donnell
Olwen G. Evans
Jennie Feld
Harry K. Girling
John B. Gush
Dr. Gerhard Herzberg
Helene M. House
Thomas A. House
Harold H. Jacobson
Allan T. Johns
Gerhard H. Kuhn
Margaret L. Lewis
Jean Rand MacEwen
Mary E. Molloy

Gladys A. Morton
Sarah M. Murchison
Garth Nelson
Igor Newerosky
Jessie Reade Patterson
Marjorie Robins
Philip Salisbury
Nicholas M. Seltzer
Dorothy Sharp
Gerald Sherrard
Maria Siwik
George Toews
Dr. Maurice A. Vernon
Leonard Wertheimer
Donald Williams

A legacy for human rights

Bill Gilsdorf has been an active member of Amnesty International for two decades, since his early retirement from Concordia University. He has volunteered in many capacities and is currently serving as Treasurer on Amnesty Canada's Executive Committee (Board of Directors). Bill and his partner Susan gave careful



© Private

Bill Gilsdorf has included Amnesty International in his will.

thought to their estate planning. "By including Amnesty in our wills, we get to continue our commitment to the organization's important work on human rights and help to secure its legacy," Bill said. "We wanted to honour a community of caring people, an organization that represents our values, and the work it does to enrich and safeguard the citizens of our shared world."

José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez



“Without your support our father’s release would not have been possible.”

The children of freed prisoner of conscience General José Gallardo thanked Amnesty for its work in support of their father. After spending more than eight years in prison, Gallardo was released in February 2002 when Mexican President Vicente Fox ordered his sentence reduced to time served. In 1993 he was imprisoned for writing an article detailing human rights abuses committed by the Mexican armed forces, in which he served as a high-ranking officer.

“I could always feel that you were concerned about us. Throughout your work you have reflected the reality of what was happening to the pro-democracy activists.”

Syrian prisoner of conscience Riad-al-Turk thanked Amnesty and other organizations who paved the way for his release from prison in November 2002. The 72-year-old leader of the opposition National Democratic Alliance had been sentenced to two and a half years in prison for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. He had been previously jailed for more than 17 years without charge or trial.

Riad-al-Turk

