



**ANNUAL
REVIEW**

AMNESTY
AT WORK IN
2014

TOGETHER AGAINST INJUSTICE





Activists in Port Harcourt, Nigeria call on Shell to compensate communities whose livelihoods have been ruined by oil spills. It has taken six years of campaigning and legal action to finally force the company into making a settlement © AI

TOGETHER AGAINST INJUSTICE

Large scale human suffering which impacted on the lives of millions of people dominated the headlines in 2014.

The continuing brutal civil war in Syria, which has killed nearly 200,000 people and driven four million from their homes. The murderous activities of Islamic State terrorists and their fellow fanatics in Nigeria, Boko Haram. The 50-day conflict in Gaza, in which more than 2,100 Palestinians died and 100,000 were displaced from their homes, with war crimes committed on both sides. The tragedy of more than 2,500 men, women and children drowned in the Mediterranean as they attempted to flee conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa...

Some of these issues seem so big and intractable. Can they ever be resolved? But one of the most important lessons we have learned in more than 50 years of work by Amnesty International is that however big and ugly a human rights problem may seem, it can be tackled if sufficient willpower, persistence and courage are brought to bear.

Some truly wonderful, heartening things took place in 2014 – many of them the result of exactly that kind of patient pressure, applied by hundreds of thousands of Amnesty supporters. In December the Arms Trade Treaty came into force. Agreed at the UN in 2012, it was the culmination of a campaign begun by Amnesty and others in 1997. In January Shell was finally driven to pay millions of pounds compensation to fishermen

whose livelihoods had been ruined by oil spillages in the Niger Delta, following years of campaigning by Amnesty. Another long-standing campaign to bear fruit was that against the forced eviction of slum dwellers in Kenya. In October 2014 a Kenyan judge ordered a company responsible for evictions, and the Kenyan government, to pay compensation to victims in a case brought with the help of Amnesty.

One of the most exciting developments in our work has been the adoption of digital technology to enable ordinary people to record and report human rights abuses. It was used by slum dwellers in Nairobi and now by Adivasi (indigenous people) communities in India who are fighting to preserve their lands and way of life against destructive coal mining schemes. Another innovation was our use of satellite photographs to prove once and for all the existence and scale of North Korea's hellish labour camps for political prisoners.

Our work has expanded enormously over the years and we campaign for human rights on many fronts – but we are still able quickly to mobilise hundreds of thousands of supporters across the world to come to the aid of an individual at risk. It is enormously rewarding when someone such as Meriam Ibrahim, the young Sudanese mother facing execution for refusing to renounce her Christian faith, is freed.

It is such successes, and all the campaigns we have undertaken in this busy year, that are only possible thanks to our supporters.

ANNUAL
REVIEW 2014
Amnesty International UK

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'I have been aware of all your efforts on my behalf and want to thank you and your colleagues for your work'

Nasrin Sotoudeh, Iranian human rights lawyer, released from prison in 2013

COVER: Residents of the besieged Yarmouk refugee camp south of Damascus queue up for food aid. Syria, January 2014 © unrwa.org



'I would like to thank all those who stood beside me' Meriam Ibrahim, who had been sentenced to death for refusing to convert from Christianity to Islam, was freed after a million people called on the authorities in Sudan to release her © AP

SAVING LIVES

- 11 percent of the urgent cases we worked on saw positive outcomes*
- Sentence cut in Burma ■ Bahrain dissident freed ■ 1,000,000 help to free Meriam Ibrahim

*Based on an analysis of our Urgent Actions January to June 2014

Amnesty International was founded nearly 54 years ago with the aim of working for the freedom of people imprisoned or persecuted for expressing their beliefs, whether political, religious or social. Amnesty's work has expanded enormously since then and we campaign for human rights on many fronts – but at the heart of what we do are still individuals at risk.

MERIAM IBRAHIM

In June Meriam Ibrahim, a 27-year-old mother of two young children, who was facing execution for refusing to renounce her Christian faith, was freed from Sudan's death row. We ran a high-profile campaign that saw more than a million people around the world call on the Sudanese authorities to release her. Meriam has since started a new life in the USA with her husband and children. 250,000 people in the UK took action with us via emails, texts and letters. Her freedom is proof that putting pressure on authorities at the right time, in the right way, really does work.

ÁNGEL COLÓN

Angel, a Honduran migrant, was tortured and imprisoned in Mexico for nearly six years. He had been trying to reach the USA to find a job to pay for medical treatment for his sick son. Police raided the house where he was staying. He was blindfolded and taken to a military base where he was beaten and racially abused. A plastic bag was placed over his head to provoke near-asphyxiation, and he was stripped and forced to lick the shoes of other detainees.

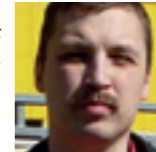


© AI

We began campaigning for Ángel's freedom in July 2014. Over 20,000 supporters took action to demand his release. In October 2014, the Mexican federal attorney general agreed to drop charges against Ángel and released him unconditionally.

MIKHAIL KOSENKO

On 6 May 2012 hundreds of protesters were arrested after police brutally dispersed an anti-government protest in Bolotnaya Square, Moscow.



© Private

The protest was mostly peaceful but authorities used isolated incidents of violence as an excuse to arrest hundreds of peaceful protesters at random, including Mikhail. In October 2013 he was sentenced to compulsory psychiatric treatment in a ruling that harked back to Soviet-era tactics to silence dissent. Following an international campaign by Amnesty and others, he was released as an 'out patient' in June 2014.

DR TUN AUNG

Dr Tun Aung, a doctor and community leader in Myanmar (Burma), was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment following an unfair trial. He was arrested following riots between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims in Maungdaw, western Burma, in June 2012. Independent eyewitnesses confirm that he actively tried to calm the crowd and played no role in the violence. But he was convicted of inciting riots and other criminal offences. Following a campaign by Amnesty and others his sentence was reduced and he has been released in 2015.



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'My message to all those who are showing me their solidarity, and are against torture and discrimination, is don't drop your guard'

Ángel Colón

NABEEL RAJAB

A prominent human rights defender in Bahrain, Nabeel was released in May 2014 after serving a two-year sentence based on fabricated charges of 'illegal practices, inciting illegal assemblies, and organising unlicensed demonstrations through Twitter and other social networking sites'. During his incarceration he was kept away from other prisoners of conscience. After his release he said: 'During this time of isolation, my wife told me... about the free world's solidarity with me and campaigns organised by Amnesty and others. This made me feel in my heart that I'm not alone.' Imprisonment has not silenced Nabeel: he now faces new charges over tweets deemed insulting to the authorities.



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LI YAN

Li Yan, from Sichuan province in Southwest China, was sentenced to death in August 2011 for the murder of her husband, who had subjected her to years of violent abuse. The Supreme Court overturned the sentence in July 2014, following months of campaigning by Amnesty and others. We highlighted Li Yan's case as an Urgent Action and our SMS Action Network sent 11,011 messages to the Chinese authorities urging them not to implement her death sentence. She now faces a retrial. William Nee, our China researcher, said: 'We do not condone Li Yan's actions, but we do believe that this tragic outcome could have been avoided. The case has shone a spotlight on the need for the Chinese authorities to do more to prevent violence against women.'



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Palestinians salvage belongings from their destroyed home in the heavily bombed town of Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip. August 2014 © AP

ISRAEL HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER FIRE

■ 56,000 signatures to halt arms trade ■ Evidence given to the Select Committee on Arms ■ Amnesty stands up for marginalised Bedouin and forgotten African refugees

Our efforts to improve the human rights situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories were inevitably overshadowed by the devastating 50-day conflict in Gaza in July and August.

This conflict saw an unprecedented scale of destruction, damage and death with respect to previous Gaza/Israel conflicts.

The United Nations estimated that about 110,000 Gazans were displaced during ‘Operation Protective Edge’, which destroyed hundreds of homes, schools, hospitals, shops, workplaces and Gaza’s only power station.

WAR CRIMES

We reported that Israel committed war crimes during the campaign, having displayed callous indifference to the fate of civilian lives and family homes in densely populated areas. War crimes were also committed by Palestinian armed groups, although the violence inflicted by Israel on civilians in Gaza was out of all proportion to the attacks mounted against its citizens.

We campaigned for the UK government to cancel all arms export licences to Israel, in line with its obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty. After the Gaza conflict the government said it would suspend 12 licences for arms to Israel, but only if ‘significant hostilities’ resume. Our campaign secured 56,000 signatures and an opportunity to give evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Arms.

Amnesty also lobbied the Palestinian Authority (PA) to seek justice via the International Criminal Court and on 31 December, the PA signed an instrument of accession to the ICC which is a first positive step towards ensuring justice for both Palestinian and Israeli citizens.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ISRAEL

Human rights campaigners face an uphill struggle in Israel, where most people view Amnesty’s call for an international arms embargo and for the International Criminal Court to investigate human rights violations by all parties as hostile, even traitorous. So Amnesty UK is working to provide moral and practical support to Amnesty activists in Israel.

Amnesty Israel works with other organisations in the country to build up a vibrant human rights community and despite the conflict in Gaza, it has succeeded in signing up new members. It was also able to press ahead with campaigns supporting two of the most marginalised groups in Israel: Bedouin living in ‘unrecognised’ villages and African refugees.

Amnesty Israel is urging the government to halt forced evictions of Bedouin villagers and to carry out a thorough review of its policy on the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel to land and property.

Israel treats the estimated 50,000 refugees, mostly from Eritrea and Sudan, as illegal immigrants and denies them refugee status and access to benefits. The result is great hardship and distress. Some 1,600 refugees are held at the remote Holot detention centre in the Negev desert. Amnesty has supported them with organisation, visits and legal information. In September the detainees celebrated when the Israeli High Court of Justice ordered the closure of Holot within 90 days. However, our work is not done, as MPs are considering a move which would allow the Knesset (parliament) to over-rule court decisions.

Smoke from an Israeli air-strike rises over Gaza City ©AP



GAZA CONFLICT IN NUMBERS

- 2,100+ Palestinians killed
- 100,000 displaced
- 4,500 rockets fired into Israel
- 72 Israelis killed

‘UNRECOGNISED’ VILLAGES

The plight of Bedouin in Israel’s 40-odd ‘unrecognised’ villages, which have limited access to water and electricity, was starkly illustrated during the Gaza conflict. Despite rockets fired from Gaza regularly landing within the villages, no protection was given to them – no sirens, no fortified shelters, nor the missile defences employed throughout the rest of Israel. Two Arab sisters aged 10 and 13 were injured in a rocket strike on an ‘unrecognised’ village. The government refuses to provide protection because doing so would give de facto recognition to such villages.



More than 40 people were inside the al-Bayoumi family house when it was hit by an Israeli air-strike. 14 people were killed, including six children © AI



Syrian refugee looks out of a tent in Lebanon, January 2015. Amnesty's latest briefing *Left Out in the Cold: Syrian refugees abandoned by the international community* coincided with a UN conference on improving protection for vulnerable Syrian refugees © AP

SYRIA THE WORLD SHAMED OVER REFUGEES

■ Amnesty secures resettlement for refugees ■ Amnesty aims to see killers in court ■ Support for non-violent groups

Since the Syrian conflict began in March 2011, more than 10m people – nearly half the population – have been forced out of their homes. Of these, approximately four million have sought refuge in other countries. Some 3.8m of these – 95 per cent – have moved to just five host countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. The UN says it is ‘the most dramatic humanitarian crisis the world has faced in a very long time’.

The UK government initially refused to admit any additional Syrian refugees at all: it was pressure from Amnesty members that led to a grudging offer of safe haven to some of the most vulnerable.

This can be seen on a local level, with both the Malvern Hills and Perth Amnesty groups successfully lobbying their local councils to allow Syrian refugees to be resettled in their towns. However, by the end of November 2014 the UK, despite its contribution of more than £100m to the UN’s humanitarian appeal for Syria, had accepted just 100 Syrian refugees for resettlement.

With the exceptions of Germany and Sweden, other countries’ response to the crisis has been similarly inadequate. Some countries – Russia, China and the six major Gulf states for instance – have not offered to resettle any Syrian refugees at all.

In November Amnesty joined other major charities in a letter to prime minister David Cameron. It said: ‘Syria’s neighbours are struggling under the weight of this unprecedented crisis and it is time we stopped asking of them what we are not doing ourselves.’

The letter called for the rich and developed countries to agree collectively to resettle at least 5 per cent of the total Syrian refugee population by the end of 2015: ‘This is a

modest but proportionate contribution and Britain’s fair share would involve offering hope for up to 10,000 Syrians in that time.’

INSIDE SYRIA

Although it is currently too dangerous for Amnesty to be active within Syria, there are a number of areas where we can make a difference, apart from lobbying governments to improve the lot of refugees.

We are doing everything we can to research, document and increase the visibility of human rights violations and abuses that occur by any party to the conflict as a step towards them being held to account – ideally at the International Criminal Court.

Similarly, we are doing all we can to increase the visibility of the humanitarian crisis, to put pressure on governments and to assist aid agencies.

We take action in solidarity with detained Syrian activists and call for their release via Amnesty’s Urgent Action network. They must not be forgotten. Many of these people are critical to hopes for a future Syria with human rights for all.

We continue to support groups in Syria who are trying to maintain and develop an independent and active civil society, to take human rights messages out to a wider audience and to use non-violent means to defend their own and others’ rights. For example we offer training to groups such as the Syrian Non-Violence Movement.



Solidarity with Syria: Amnesty activists with a message of hope for human rights defenders in Syria © Marie-Anne Ventoura

SYRIA REFUGEES IN NUMBERS

- 4,000,000 refugees have fled Syria
- 100 refugees have resettled in UK

DON'T GIVE UP ON SYRIA

Amnesty’s crisis response manager, Kristyan Benedict, has this message for supporters tempted to despair at the seemingly endless bad news from Syria: ‘Try not to give up – it will take many years to see sustainable stability and protection in Syria and a lot of effort and resources from civil society, states and the UN. Syria must not become another forgotten conflict. With your help, we can make sure it isn’t.’

NEIGHBOURS’ BURDEN

Turkey hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees – 1.6m, of whom only 220,000 are in officially-run camps. This has put severe pressure on Turkey’s infrastructure in border areas. But the most disproportionate share of the burden has fallen on Lebanon, where the 1.1 million registered refugees amount to more than a quarter of the population.



Hell in the fields: courtroom sketch artist Priscilla Coleman drew a series of striking illustrations of life in the North Korean camps for Amnesty International, based on the testimony of former prison guards and inmates. Right: (top) Amnesty direct mail leaflet on North Korea; (below) satellite image showing layout of one of the camps

NORTH KOREA WE MADE THE WORLD LISTEN

- Our satellite photos prove brutal prison camps exist
- Survivors' shocking stories collated
- UN inquiry likens conditions to Nazi concentration camps

In 2014 Amnesty International took the lead in exposing the horrific truth about life in North Korea – and the world sat up and listened.

Though banned from access to this closed hereditary dictatorship, where all freedom of expression is repressed, Amnesty has undertaken detailed research into widespread human rights abuses, especially in the country's brutal prison camps, where murder, starvation and torture are routine.

One way we've done this is by commissioning satellite images proving beyond all doubt that the camps exist and that they hold around 100,000 inmates. Our pictures had a worldwide impact, being reported in media across the globe early in 2014.

Amnesty researchers also gathered testimonies from some of the brave survivors who have escaped North Korea's camps. Their stories reveal the almost unimaginable horrors happening on the inside.

Former camp inmates and guards told of atrocities, including a woman who was forced to drown her own baby, prisoners tied to a stake before being publicly executed and women who disappear after 'servicing' officials.

Our satellite images and survivors' testimonies were made available to the UN Commission of Inquiry investigating

human rights abuses in North Korea which presented its report in March 2014. The inquiry report likened the conditions and treatment of North Korean prison camps to Nazi concentration camps.

The 400-page report recommended that the UN Security Council refer North Korea's leaders to the International Criminal Court for investigation and possible prosecution, calling the gravity and nature of abuses in the country 'without parallel in the contemporary world'. On 18 November 2014 a UN General Assembly committee voted to condemn North Korea for its abuses and recommended the prosecution of its leaders by 111 votes to 19, with 55 abstentions.

Despite the regime's increasingly hysterical denials, people in North Korea know the camps are real. Entire families sometimes disappear into the night. Others know that if they speak out, there's a chance they could join them.

Kang Cheol-hwan was nine when he and his family were sent to the camp known as Yodok (Kwanliso 15). His grandfather vanished first. No one knew what his crime was – you can fall out of favour for making a joke about the regime or for owning a Bible. 'Guilt by association' meant the security police came knocking for Kang, his granny, father, sisters and brothers – and they were all carted off to the camp.

Camp survivor testimony suggests one camp, Senghori, was actually closed following an Amnesty report and the international attention it generated.

In 2015 we will continue to spread the truth about North Korea as widely as possible. In the words of former prisoner Jihyun Park: 'The change needs to begin with a greater awareness of human rights in North Korea. Many people wish for reform and openness.'



'People got so hungry they would eat anything – from dog food to beans and maize kernels stuck in animal dung'

Jihyun Park, camp survivor

'The purpose of the camps is to oppress, degrade and violate the inmates for as long as they are alive. The prisoners are only humans insofar as they can speak. In reality though, they are worse off than animals'

Former prison official at Hwasong camp (Kwanliso 16)

'IMPROVEMENT' PRISONS

For more than 60 years the North Korean regime denied the very existence of the camps. After being faced with the irrefutable evidence of Amnesty's satellite photographs, foreign ministry official Choe Myong-nam conceded that they did exist – but claimed they were nothing more than 'detention centres where people are improved though their mentality and look on their wrongdoings'. On the eve of the UN vote Mr Choe said the Commission of Inquiry's work had been based on 'the fabricated testimonies of a handful of defectors who committed crimes and abandoned the country'.

People are sent to prison camps if they hold a particular religious belief – or have watched a foreign soap opera. Many inmates have committed no 'crime', but are related to someone who has: generations of the same family are thrown into prison camps under 'guilt-by-association' rules.



Search and rescue: The Italian navy saves passengers from a fishing boat carrying 403 Syrian refugees, June 2014 © Massimo Sestini / Eyevine

REFUGEES LOST AT SEA

- 120,000 join our calls to strengthen search and rescue missions
- Thousands die attempting Med crossing. Italy saves 100,000
- Huge media coverage ■ Amnesty presses for EU action

A deadly survival test is being imposed on refugees and migrants by European Union states. Unable to enter the EU through safe and regular routes, tens of thousands of men, women and children, desperate for asylum and a better life, attempt to cross the central Mediterranean each year. In the first nine months of 2014, more than 2,500 people died trying – a new record.

Italy, alone among EU member states, took concrete steps to avoid deaths at sea. It launched Operation Mare Nostrum (OMN), deploying a significant part of its navy to rescue refugees and migrants.

In the first nine months of 2014, OMN rescued 100,000 people. But in October 2014 Italy said it could no longer afford the £1.6m a week it was spending on search and rescue.

Such a sum would be easily affordable, spread among all the EU states, but they have hardened their hearts and turned their backs. The UK government said, unbelievably, that rescuing drowning people only encourages others to attempt the crossing.

In the autumn of 2014 Amnesty International produced *Lives Adrift*, the most thorough and influential report so far on the nature and extent of the refugee deaths crisis in the Mediterranean – and what needs to be done to bring it to an end.

The top priority is an adequately funded and appropriately mandated EU-led search and rescue operation. The refugee crisis affects every EU state and it is therefore a shared EU responsibility. Amnesty International is campaigning for Italy to keep search and rescue operations going at the same level as OMN until it can be safely replaced by another operation of comparable scale.

Amnesty International UK is urging the British government to take a moral lead in pushing for this.

To end the crisis in the long term, the ‘Fortress Europe’ mindset needs to be put aside.

EU institutions and member states must offer more safe and regular routes to refugees, increase resettlement and humanitarian admission places, facilitate family reunification for those who have family members living in the EU, be more flexible as to documentary and other requirements and ensure that refugees who arrive at the EU’s external land borders are able to access asylum procedures.

Below: Syrian refugees on a street in Turkey, 2014 © EPA



‘We tried our best to travel to Europe in a legal way, but no matter how hard we tried, we were not allowed’

Mohamed, camp survivor

FLEEING CONFLICT

The number of refugees trying to reach safety in Europe by boat has significantly increased in the past two years. In 2013, 48 per cent of all irregular entrants and 63 per cent of all those arriving irregularly by sea to the EU came from Syria, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Somalia – countries torn by conflict and human rights abuses. In the first eight months of 2014 about 40 per cent of people reaching Europe irregularly through the central Mediterranean route were Eritreans (23 per cent) and Syrians (17 per cent). An increasing number have come from Libya, as that country descends into anarchy, and Libya remains the most popular starting point for sea journeys across the Med.

Young Amnesty activists outside the Nigerian High Commission in London demand an end to torture, highlighting the case of Moses Akatugba who was 16 when he was arrested
© Marie-Anne Ventoura



TORTURE MAKE IT STOP

- A million Amnesty supporters take action in new campaign
- Signs of progress in Philippines and Nigeria as campaign grows
- EU calls on Uzbekistan to stop torture

In 2014 we marked the 30th anniversary of the Convention Against Torture (CAT) – the historic 1984 agreement in which all members of the United Nations agreed to work together to end the vile practices which states use to oppress and terrorise their ‘enemies’ – real and imagined.

Amnesty has a long history of campaigning for the eradication of torture worldwide. In 1977 we won the Nobel Peace Prize for our campaign against it.

The CAT, which came after years of lobbying by Amnesty and other human rights organisations, was a landmark achievement, and should be celebrated.

Yet torture is still flourishing. At least 141 countries have practised it in recent years, according to our research. It features in more than a third of our Urgent Action cases every year.

FOCUS ON FIVE

In May 2014 we launched a new Stop Torture campaign, focusing on five countries – Nigeria, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines and Uzbekistan – where torture is rife. The campaign has highlighted a long-term case from each of these countries. People like 16-year-old Nigerian schoolboy Moses Akatugba, who said he was beaten and shot by the soldiers who arrested him, and Claudia Medina Tamariz, a mother-of-three who was abducted from her home in Veracruz City, Mexico, by two soldiers in plain clothes, and taken to a military barracks where she was given electric shocks, beaten and kicked.

SIGNS OF HOPE

While there is a long way to go, we have seen some positive developments since the campaign was launched. The Philippines Senate opened an enquiry into police torture the day after Amnesty International launched its report *Above the Law: Police Torture in the Philippines* on 4 December.

In Nigeria, a bill that criminalises torture has progressed in its legislative process and is now pending in the Senate. Thanks in part to lobbying by Amnesty, in October the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on Uzbekistan to eliminate torture and allow a visit from the Special Rapporteur.

CRUEL AND DEGRADING

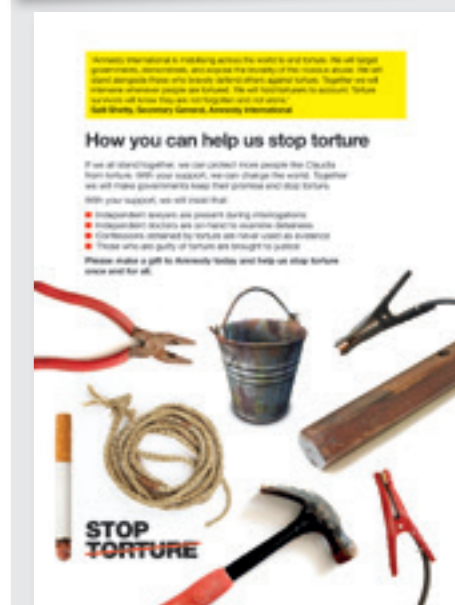
How much work there is still to do was emphasised in the same week as the CAT anniversary, when a damning US Senate report on CIA torture revealed how techniques such as waterboarding, ‘rectal feeding’, mock executions, sleep deprivation, stress positions and other cruel and degrading treatments had been used against terror suspects in secret prisons around the world.

Amnesty is campaigning for the UK government to come clean about the extent to which it participated in and facilitated such abuses. We have demanded a thorough, impartial, independent, judge-led inquiry which will finally reveal the truth about the UK’s involvement.

Since December 2014 nearly 25,000 people have taken action online in support of this demand.

‘Torture can never be justified... Since the launch of our campaign, we have mobilised a million people to take action against torture. We hope that together we can help force governments to fulfil the promises made 30 years ago’

Salil Shetty, secretary-general, Amnesty International



Illustrating torture: Ali Aarass drew pictures to show the torture he says he suffered at the hands of Moroccan intelligence officers in 2010. Our direct mail leaflet showed everyday implements being used by torturers



Cross-community peace mural designed by schoolchildren in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland Credit: Jimmy Harris

BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME

- Thousands of young people reached through our human rights education programme
- Fighting for accountability in Northern Ireland
- Safeguarding human rights in the UK

Every year, Amnesty reaches tens of thousands of secondary school students and older primary pupils by providing free high-quality human rights educational materials, tailored to the curriculum.

The *Everyone Everywhere* pack provides eight lesson plans which demonstrate that human rights matter wherever you live. Last year thousands of students throughout the UK took part in such lessons.

We produced a number of new resources, including an updated version of our popular *Power of Our Voices* pack, focusing on protest songs and human rights, and a new toolkit on women's rights in Afghanistan.

We upgraded our website to enable teachers and school speakers to download electronic versions of education resources – fast becoming the preferred method of access.

Amnesty school speakers reached more than 27,000 school students in 2014. These visits receive positive feedback: 'One pupil said it was the best "learning for life" lesson he had had!' Meanwhile, uptake for Amnesty's continuous professional development training programme for teachers was strong.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Nearly 17 years after the Good Friday Agreement Northern Ireland's peace is still uneasy.

Difficult issues remain unresolved. Although more than 3,500 people died in the Troubles and some 40,000 were injured, in most cases no one was prosecuted. Families of victims feel they have been denied justice. There are unanswered questions about the role of the intelligence and security forces in the killing of republicans, and about the fates of 'the disappeared' – members of the

nationalist community, suspected of being informers by the IRA, who were murdered and buried in secret.

Opinion is divided about how to deal with such sensitive issues. Some believe it is better to let sleeping dogs lie, while others, including Amnesty International, think that genuine, lasting peace can only be secured if a new, comprehensive process is established to review the conflict as a whole, establish the truth about outstanding human rights violations and determine responsibility.

In September 2013 Amnesty launched a report, *Northern Ireland: Time to Deal With The Past*. It received widespread coverage and was well-received by politicians, other human rights groups and victims' groups in Northern Ireland. It was read by those engaged in talks chaired by former US diplomat Richard Haass, aimed at reaching inter-party agreement on these issues.

Regrettably, the Haass talks concluded at the end of 2013 without agreement, but it was widely acknowledged that work by Amnesty and other civil society groups had contributed to the considerable progress made towards finding an ultimate agreement.

SCOTLAND

The Scottish independence referendum of September 2014 was a unique event in the history of the United Kingdom.

While Amnesty International UK took no position on the outcome of the vote, nor on the constitutional framework of post-referendum Scotland, it saw the process as a vital opportunity to promote discussion about how human rights could be respected, promoted and safeguarded. To that end we hosted five high-profile public debates leading up the referendum.



Amnesty Youth Awards finalists learn about newspaper production at the Guardian © Marie-Anne Ventoura

AMNESTY YOUTH AWARDS

This year we combined our Young Human Rights Reporter and protest song contests into a wider Amnesty Youth Awards competition, and introduced a number of new categories. It was a huge success, confirming the value of bringing young people together and inspiring them to engage with challenging issues.

One hundred and seventy schools and youth groups took part in the Young Reporter element of the competition. There were 626 individual entries.

The winners of the Young Reporter award included Ciara Griffin, from Merryhills Primary School in Enfield, for her article 'Where do I belong?' highlighting the challenges faced by refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria. Other subjects tackled included child soldiers in Uganda, children in Palestine, human rights in China, Guantanamo Bay and the abuse of elderly people in UK care homes.





In September Amnesty supporters delivered a powerful message to the Nato summit in Cardiff – reminding world leaders they can't just talk about women, they need to talk to women © Barry Batchelor/PA

WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINE

- Afghan women: EU promises real support
- Burkino Faso attitudes changing on women's rights
- Education challenges FGM and forced marriage

AFGHANISTAN

Women's rights have been badly eroded in Afghanistan during more than three decades of violence. In 2011 it was named the most dangerous country in the world to be a woman.

Huge numbers of women experience domestic violence. Girls' education has improved since the end of Taliban rule in 2001, but schools continue to be attacked and teachers threatened. Poor healthcare and poverty impact disproportionately on women.

Recent months have seen progress. Amnesty's Women's Rights in Afghanistan campaign has worked hard to encourage the new Afghan government to embrace reform and has succeeded in extracting firm promises of support from the international community.

At the London Conference on Afghanistan last December, 59 countries pledged aid and support to Afghanistan. The Afghan Women's Network – a group Amnesty has worked with for years – addressed the conference. Promises were made to strengthen the implementation of the Elimination of Violence Against Women law, which had been in danger of being watered down by the previous Afghan government. Such specific promises would not have happened without Amnesty supporters' energetic campaigning. Thousands signed our petition calling for a clear operational plan to support Afghan women.

Also in December the EU promised real protection and support to Afghan women. Human rights defenders at risk can now turn to diplomats from EU embassies for help. They can now seek temporary protection or apply for an emergency visa. Safe houses are promised by the end of 2015. Such measures offer hope for Afghan women and a vital safety net at a dangerous time.

BURKINA FASO

Approximately 600 women in Burkina Faso are living in internal exile – in 'witch camp' shelters, often in squalid conditions, following allegations of witchcraft.

Amnesty has worked with local partners to help reintegrate excluded women, and has significantly changed attitudes among their communities.

This is part of a programme aimed at improving women's ability to exercise their rights, including the right to life, equality before the law, the right to inherit land, and access to maternal healthcare and family planning services.

This work is part of a larger, long-term programme of work by Amnesty to support women's rights in Burkina Faso. It aims to enable thousands of rural women to exercise all their human rights, including the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, and the right to equality within marriage.

SIERRA LEONE

Six years ago Amnesty embarked on a community-led education programme in Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso, countries where the practices of female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage are rife.

Over the life of the project our intervention will help prevent at least 10,000 cases of FGM and 8,000 cases of forced marriage, while reaching more than 150,000 people through educational activities. Dozens of communities have signed formal agreements agreeing to end FGM following our intervention.

Yet millions of girls remain at risk. Figures from Unicef suggest that 88 per cent of women in Sierra Leone and 76 per cent in Burkina Faso have been subjected to FGM.

'This is a critical moment. If the UK and EU translate their words into action it could save lives'

Samira Hamidi, Afghan Women's Network

The practice is banned outright in Burkina Faso and is illegal for girls under 18 in Sierra Leone, but the law is widely ignored.

There is nothing inevitable about these abuses, or the inequality that underlies them. In dozens of villages we have worked to empower rural women, supporting them in tackling discriminatory beliefs and practices, and engaging with community leaders, leading to significant change in both attitudes and behaviour.

WHOSE 'HONOUR'?

Amnesty supports Women for Afghan Women (WAW), which provides frontline services to the women and girls of Afghanistan. Their shelters offer refuge to women and girls escaping forced marriages, rape and violence.

After 10-year-old Brishna was raped by Mullah Mohammad Amin in May 2014 she sought refuge in a WAW shelter run by Dr Hassina Sarwari – who then received death threats for protecting the child from an 'honour' killing. She was deemed to have brought 'shame' on her family, even though she was the victim.

Then, in a move hailed by women's activists as a huge victory, the mullah was convicted under Afghanistan's Elimination of Violence Against Women law.



A long walk to justice: Bhopal on the 30th anniversary of the world's worst industrial accident © Giles Clarke / Reportage by Getty

HOLDING BUSINESS TO ACCOUNT

- Innovation to protect human rights defenders in India
- Legal actions for communities in Kenya and Niger Delta bear fruit
- Campaign success in sight for modern slavery law

Amnesty International's work on business and human rights has expanded considerably in recent years as part of our increasing focus on the 'Global South', especially countries where economic expansion is progressing at a greater pace than concern for human rights.

NIGER DELTA

Years of campaigning by Amnesty supporters bore fruit in January 2015 when Shell finally agreed to pay £55m compensation to a community devastated by oil spills in the Niger Delta. It marked an important victory for the victims of corporate negligence.

More than 15,000 people in the Bodo area of Nigeria, mostly fishermen, had their livelihoods destroyed six years ago by two oil spills. Legal action in the UK, supported by Amnesty, drove Shell to make the out-of-court settlement, of which £35m is for 15,600 individuals and £20m for the community.

Shell repeatedly blamed illegal activity in the Niger Delta for most oil pollution but its claims were discredited in joint research undertaken by Amnesty and Nigeria's Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development.

Christian Kpandei, a fish farmer whose business was destroyed by the spill, said: 'I am very happy that Shell has finally taken responsibility for its action. I'd like to thank the lawyers for compelling Shell to make this unprecedented move.'

Thousands more remain at risk of future oil spills because of Shell's failure to fix its dilapidated pipelines. Amnesty will continue to call the company to account in 2015.

KENYA

Amnesty's long campaign against the forced eviction of slum dwellers in Kenya won a significant victory in October 2014.

In the early morning of 10 May 2013, residents of 'City Carton', an informal settlement in Nairobi, were woken by gangs of men who burst into their homes to forcibly evict them. Nearly 400 homes were destroyed with crowbars and sledgehammers, leaving the people homeless and unable to salvage their possessions. When residents protested police fired live ammunition and teargas.

Amnesty and partner organisations in Kenya worked with residents to bring a court case against the company which carried out the evictions, Moi Educational Centre, and the Kenyan government.

In October 2014 Lady Justice Mumbi Ngugi ruled that both should pay compensation to the residents. 'The eviction and demolition of houses was [degrading to] human dignity,' she said. 'Moi Educational Centre was the author of the unlawful acts that led to violation of the petitioners' rights and the state, through the national police, chose to aid it against the interests of the poor, marginalised villagers.' We hope this sets a precedent for other forced eviction cases.

MODERN SLAVERY

Amnesty UK has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen the Modern Slavery Bill, currently completing its progress through Parliament. We have sought to make this Bill more victim-focused, strengthening the remit and independence of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, and addressing the modern forms of slavery in the supply chains of companies doing business in the UK. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation points to the presence of forced labour in the UK across industries including cleaning, construction, care, domestic work and catering. The current legal framework is inadequate to combat this.

At first, the Bill contained no provisions

'Oil pollution in the Niger Delta is one of the biggest corporate scandals of our time... Shell knew Bodo was an accident waiting to happen. It took no effective action to stop it, then made false claims about the amount of oil that had been spilt'

Audrey Gaughran of Amnesty International

relating to companies. With other NGOs, we campaigned for an amendment requiring companies to disclose annually the steps taken to eradicate slavery from their supply chains. We briefed MPs and peers, made submissions to parliamentary committees, and argued our case with the Home Office and Department of Business Innovation and Skills.

In November 2014 the government made a major concession, tabling an amendment requiring transparency in supply chain reporting. We welcomed this, but pressed for it to be made more substantive and to include enforcement measures. According to the International Labour Organisation, worldwide the illicit trade in slave labour is worth nearly £100bn per year and exploits some 21 million people.

UK Minister Karen Bradley said: 'Modern slavery is taking place here – often out of sight – in shops, fields, building sites and behind the curtains of houses on ordinary streets.' Amnesty continues to work to eradicate this.

INDIA

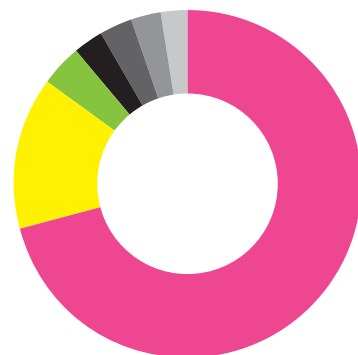
In March 2014 Amnesty International UK, in partnership with AI India, embarked on an innovative project using digital technology to support and protect human rights defenders campaigning against coal mining projects in the eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh, where those adversely affected are mainly Adivasi (indigenous) communities.

Human rights defenders (HRDs) are being equipped and trained to use the technology to safely document and report violations of human rights against their communities.

State authorities continuously criminalise HRDs involved in such campaigns, with trumped up charges, arbitrary detention and imprisonment.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

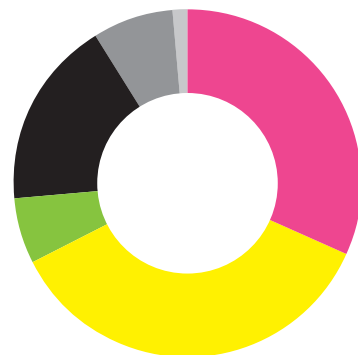
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM (£ms) Total: £24.8m



17.6	Members and supporters
3.5	Legacies
1.0	Appeals and raffles
0.7	Grants
0.7	Other
0.7	Shops and catalogue
0.6	Community fundraising

Amnesty International UK can maintain its financial independence and integrity because the majority of our income comes from individual members and supporters. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support of charitable trusts, foundations and companies, as well as individuals who have remembered us in their wills. We could not do our work without your support.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES (£000s) Total: £24.3m



7,755	Campaigning, raising awareness and educating
8,700	Research
1,453	Encouraging more people to become activists
4,271	Recruiting, retaining and communicating with our supporters
1,825	Raising additional funds
320	Sustaining our systems of governance

The money Amnesty International UK receives goes towards research and action that aim to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights. Most of it – 76 per cent – is spent directly on human rights work: research, campaigns, education, awareness-raising and encouraging more people to take an active part in our work. The remaining 31 per cent supports our human rights work indirectly, enabling us to recruit and keep supporters, raise additional funds and sustain our democratic systems of governance. 2013 expenditure includes the one-off cost of reorganising AIUK to align with major developments in our global movement.

2014 accounts will be available in April 2015

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Amnesty International UK is committed to transparency and accountability in all its operations. A full description of how the organisation is governed, managed and funded, the nature of our work and the extent of our impact, is available in the 64-page Amnesty International UK Annual Report 2013. See www.amnesty.org.uk/annualreport or call 020 7033 1777

FEEDBACK

Amnesty International UK values feedback from all our stakeholders.

Tel 020 7033 1777
Fax 020 7033 1503
Textphone 020 7033 1664
Email feedback@amnesty.org.uk
Web www.amnesty.org.uk/feedback

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WILL YOU JOIN THE CIRCLE OF CONSCIENCE?

The Circle of Conscience is a very special group of Amnesty supporters who have committed to giving an annual donation of £2,500 a year for three years.

As a member you'll be with like-minded individuals dedicated to protecting some of the world's most vulnerable people from human rights abuses. As one of our closest supporters, we will keep you informed on the issues you care about most, in the way you want to hear about them. You'll be invited to learn more about our work through briefings with campaigners and researchers, Amnesty's key annual events and our annual Circle of Conscience reception. You will also have a personal contact to answer your questions and to hear your thoughts and ideas.

If you wish, you can direct your gift to one of three key areas:

- Supporting human rights defenders
- Upholding women's rights
- Insisting on justice

You don't have to specify how you want your money to be used. You can simply allow us to use your gift where the need is greatest at the time. This allows us the agility to respond to crises as they arise and direct funds where they are most needed.

'For many years I have been a passionate supporter of Amnesty International's struggle for human rights and justice throughout the world. I hope you will join me so we can work together to transform the lives of people who are struggling for their rights and freedoms'

Bianca Jagger, Patron of the Circle of Conscience

WHY THREE YEARS?

We have learned over 50 years of campaigning that lasting change takes time. It took 20 years to secure a global treaty to control the international arms trade, but now we have a binding agreement that will save thousands of lives. We campaigned for human rights in Burma for decades, when change seemed an improbable dream. Yet in the past few years scores of political prisoners have been released and the best known (Aung San Suu Kyi) is a member of parliament.

We're in it for the long haul and we'd like you to be there with us. A three-year commitment will enable us to plan confidently for our work.

JOIN THE CIRCLE OF CONSCIENCE TODAY

For more information phone **020 7033 1601** or email circleofconscience@amnesty.org.uk

Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
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Leaving a lasting legacy Gifts left in Wills to Amnesty are vital to our work. To find out more about leaving a gift to Amnesty International UK in your Will, tick here to receive a free guide

www.amnesty.org.uk/donate 020 7033 1660

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NB. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax in each tax year (6 April to 5 April) at least equal to the tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that you donate to will reclaim on your donations for that tax year (25p on every £1 you give). Please notify us if you no longer pay sufficient tax, want to cancel this declaration, or change your name or home address. If you pay a higher tax rate, you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

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Please send this completed form to: Ruma Rahman, Amnesty International UK, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

'Only when the last prisoner of conscience has been freed, when the last torture chamber has been closed, when the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a reality for the world's people, will our work be done'

Peter Benenson, founder of Amnesty International

◀ DONATION FORM

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2015

This year Amnesty will be working to:

- combat the increasing use of torture
- address the worldwide backlash against women's rights
- hold governments to account
- continue our work with Syrian activists to promote human rights and bring abusers to justice
- protect the freedom of hundreds of individuals to defend human rights on the ground.

It is your generosity that makes this work possible and we hope you will continue to support Amnesty International in 2015.

HOW YOUR MONEY HELPS

£1,800 could give security training in a safe place to a South Asian Human Rights Defender whose safety is at risk.

£4,000 could cover the cost of our school speakers programme, teaching 27,000 young people about human rights and inspiring the next generation of human rights defenders.

£8,000 could cover the annual costs of our Rapid Response system, which mobilises thousands of our members when a community is at imminent risk of forced eviction.

CONTACT US

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sct@amnesty.org.uk

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