

226-8850 Jones Rd.,  
Richmond, B.C.  
October 4, 2000.

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Ms. Fran Ashton  
City of Richmond  
6711 No. 3 Rd.  
Richmond, B.C.

Dear Ms. Ashton:

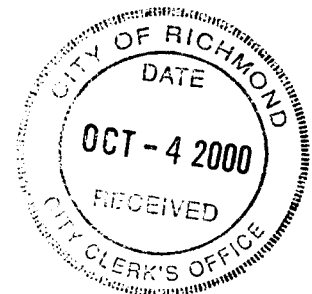
I would like to speak at the next meeting of the City Council on October 10 for five minutes on behalf of the Richmond Amnesty International Group.

I would like to speak about the Amnesty International Campaign Against Torture which will begin October 18 and ask Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt to proclaim October 15 to October 22 Amnesty International Week in Richmond.

I am enclosing brochures about Amnesty International and Amnesty International's Campaign Against Torture for Mayor Halsey-Brandt and the members of the city council.

Thank you very much for your consideration. My telephone number is 278-2543.

Yours sincerely  
Orval Chapman



# The Amnesty story

Amnesty International began in 1961 as an angry reaction to the imprisonment of two Portuguese students who had raised their glasses in a toast to freedom. British lawyer Peter Benenson and several other activists organized a one-year public "Appeal for Amnesty" campaign, which they launched in a newspaper article printed internationally on May 28, 1961. Within a month, more than a thousand people offered their help. Amnesty International was born.

Amnesty has always been a changing, responsive movement. As new patterns of human rights violations have emerged, we have sought out new forms of effective action. Support for Amnesty International has now become truly international – with more than one million Amnesty activists in 150 countries. In honour of its work, Amnesty International received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 and the United Nations Human Rights Prize in 1978.

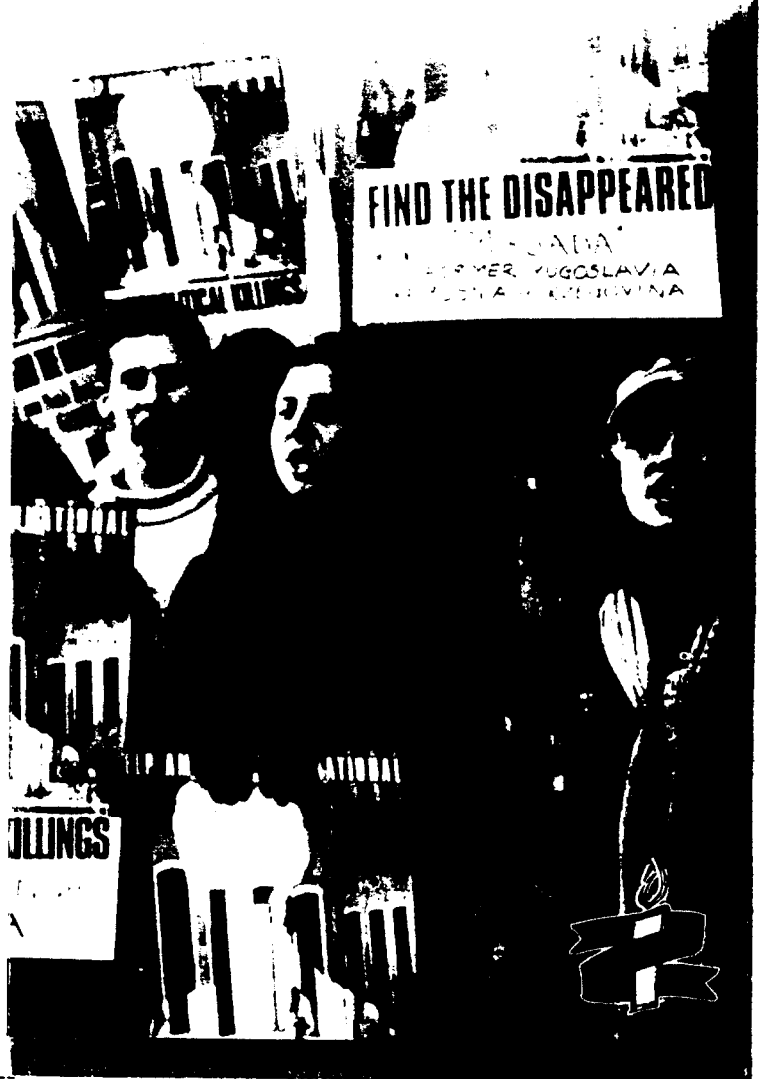
Canadian activists founded Amnesty International Canada on May 13, 1973. Our first president, Dr. John Humphrey, was a leading author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today we have more than 60,000 members in communities and schools across the country – each contributing in his or her own way to our shared vision of a world where freedom and dignity have their rightful place.



**"Human rights abuses can only be dealt with if ordinary people take personal responsibility for the safety of others. I feel compelled to take action, and through Amnesty I have the ability to make a difference."**

Martin Otterson,  
Urgent Action Network

# Speak out for human rights



Youth groups start up wherever there's interest – whether in schools, faith communities, colleges, CEGEPs, universities, or youth organizations – and they receive materials specially designed for young people. Many youth groups that focus on a broad range of social and environmental issues also campaign on Amnesty International's concerns.

Amnesty International community groups organize publicity and fundraising events. They participate in worldwide Amnesty campaigns and special interest networks. They "adopt" particular individuals or a human rights issue in a specific country. And they can provide Amnesty speakers, videos, and other resources to local organizations.

Amnesty youth and community groups offer friendship and support to individual activists. As one group member says: "It's a terrific feeling of empowerment to be part of a group that is pulling together in the fight for human rights."

## Make a financial contribution

Your donation to Amnesty International is a vital act of support for human rights.

To ensure our independence, Amnesty International does not seek or accept money from governments. Instead, our work depends on the contributions of many individual supporters and the fundraising activities of our members. Pressure from Amnesty carries added weight because we are independent, impartial, and self-financing.

Donations to Amnesty have helped free more than 43,000 prisoners of conscience. Donations make possible our fact-finding, reporting and public awareness activities. They sustain our global Urgent Action Network. They help promote human rights awareness and activism among young people across Canada. And they support Amnesty International programs to strengthen

**"We need your solidarity, we need your help."**

Dita Indah Sari, imprisoned for five years in Indonesia for her peaceful efforts to improve workers' conditions



respect for human rights in countries such as South Africa, Russia, Poland and the Philippines.

You can contribute to Amnesty International in many ways. Join The Covenant of Hope, our monthly giving plan. Leave Amnesty a bequest in your will. Make an annual donation.

You can also attend a local Amnesty benefit – or organize a concert, painting exhibition, reading, walk-a-thon, auction, or restaurant banquet to benefit Amnesty. Or join artists such as painter Robert Bateman, author Margaret Atwood, and other "Friends of Amnesty" who contribute their talents in support of human rights.



Students in Richmond, B.C. create a dragon banner to publicize Amnesty International's human rights concerns in China

# Voice your support for human rights... here's how

Wherever you live and whatever your circumstances, you can speak out in support of human rights. Here's how to make your voice heard...

## Take direct action

It is within your power to send messages directly to government authorities – demanding that they stop abusing the human rights of individual victims.

Join Amnesty International and request our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Activist*. This will give you all the tools you need to help stop the abuses. You will be able to appeal to a Minister of Justice half-way around the world, or send greetings of support directly to a prisoner of conscience. With Amnesty's help, your individual voice will join with countless others to build pressure for change.

## Involve others

Let your children, friends, neighbours, and co-workers know about your commitment to human rights. Let them know that each person, in his or her own way, can help shift the balance in favour of human rights. Help them voice their concern.

Prepare an appeal letter or petition that friends can sign. Use an Amnesty International video or an article from *The Activist* to lead a

"I used to feel overwhelmed by the injustices faced by ordinary people. Amnesty International enables me to play a small part in returning power, providing protection, and giving a voice to people who are being silenced. I feel less helpless now in the face of those who would crush the human spirit."

Janet Kilgallon,  
Amnesty International's  
Labour Outreach Program



**"Amnesty works tirelessly and peacefully, attempting to expose the truth. By holding the truth up for all to see, it endeavours to re-awaken the humanity in the hearts of all of us."**

**Ken Agar-Newman,  
Amnesty  
International's  
Medical Network**

topical human rights discussion in your history class or book club. Set up an Amnesty poster display in your local bookstore, faith community, student centre, or professional or trade union conference. Use examples from *The Activist* to write a Letter to the Editor on current Amnesty International concerns. Include Amnesty appeals in your day-to-day teaching.

## Take up a special interest

Ask about our programs for youth and students, members of religious

communities, women, educators, artists, trade unionists, medical and legal professionals, and people interested in refugee issues and death penalty abolition. You can also respond to human rights emergencies by joining our Urgent Action Network. Or get started in human rights activism by joining our Letter Writing Network.

Through most of these programs, you can receive easy-to-use action material that is appropriate to your interest. Some network members take action entirely on their own; others involve friends, neighbours and co-workers. You can take ready-to-sign appeals to your workplace, church outreach group or service club. Some law and medical students organize informal Amnesty International groups in their school programs. Some local trade union leaders circulate ready-to-sign Amnesty International appeals to help workers under attack.

## Organize with others

Join the Amnesty International group in your school or community. Many Amnesty groups are active throughout Canada – in fact, this pamphlet may contain the address of an Amnesty International group near you. If there is no group nearby, speak to us about getting one started.

# Imagine...

...being imprisoned because you asked to be treated fairly. Imagine being tortured for defending the dignity of others. Imagine being killed because you demanded the truth. These outrageous things are happening right now around the world – to people just like you and me.

1 In Tibet, a Buddhist nun is in prison for peacefully practising her beliefs.

2 In Mexico, villagers are being beaten, kidnapped and killed for protecting their sacred land.

3 In Libya, a lawyer is tortured and imprisoned after calling for human rights reform.

4 In Uganda, some 8,000 children are kidnapped by armed groups and forced through extreme violence to become soldiers.



**"If it wasn't for your work, I would still be in jail."**

Prisoner of conscience Israel Marcelino Gonzalez Leyva, writing to Amnesty International members in Halton Hills, Ontario, on his release from prison in Cuba.

## You can make a difference

You have the power to stop these attacks against people's freedom and dignity.

Make your feelings heard. Speak out. Demand that these violations stop.

Strengthen your demand by supporting Amnesty International. Join our network of more than a million Amnesty activists – ordinary, concerned people just like yourself – living across Canada and around the world.

**Speaking out together, we have the power to make a difference.**

## Speak out human rights

Nadezhda Chaykova



**I challenge you. Make an important decision this year. Join the struggle to defend human rights.**

Why this year? Because 1998 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Amnesty International in Canada.

Fifty years ago, the world declared that all human beings have basic rights that must be respected. Since then, much has been achieved – often as a result of the courage and determined pressure of human rights activists.

Yet many governments and opposition groups still treat human rights with contempt. Examples are only too plentiful – in China, legal aid workers are beaten while the authorities turn their backs; in Myanmar, entertainers are imprisoned for telling political jokes; and in the Chechen Republic, Russian journalist Nadezhda Chaykova is killed for investigating high-level corruption.

When I hear of such abuses, I know my own voice of protest is needed. I know all our voices are needed. Please – make 1998 the year you speak out for human rights. Make this the year you support Amnesty International.

**Karen Kain**, Prima Ballerina



Mothers of the "disappeared" hold a vigil in Colombia. © Julio Etchart/Reportage

# What is Amnesty International?

We are a  
**worldwide  
voluntary  
activist  
movement**

that works impartially to  
**prevent violations of  
people's fundamental  
civil and political rights.**

For many years, Fabiola Lalinde Lalinde and others have demanded justice on behalf of their "disappeared" loved ones in Colombia. Despite threats and detention, they have never given up. Amnesty has stood with them in this struggle. In appreciation, Fabiola Lalinde Lalinde writes:

**"Everything in this process has been very painful – but also very beautiful because of the solidarity of people like you who do not even know me, yet have given me the spirit, support, and strength to carry on."**

Amnesty International activists in St. John's, Newfoundland, work with the media to publicize their letter-writing campaign to government authorities in Libya.



## We take action to:

- **free** all prisoners of conscience – people imprisoned for their beliefs, origins or status, who have not used or advocated violence
- **ensure** fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners
- **abolish** the death penalty, torture, and other cruel treatment of all prisoners
- **end** political killings and "disappearances"

We call on both governments and opposition groups to respect human rights.

We also promote public awareness and understanding of the full range of human rights as set out in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and other international covenants, conventions, and treaties. These internationally recognized standards demonstrate that human rights are the same for all people everywhere.

Amnesty International is a democratic, self-governing movement. We are funded by our worldwide membership and by donations from the public. We do not ask for nor do we accept any money from governments. We are free from outside control. We do not take sides in political conflicts, nor do we support or oppose any government, political persuasion or religious creed. We are concerned solely with the impartial protection of human rights.

# How Amnesty International makes a difference

## Amnesty searches out the truth

Authorities who violate human rights like to keep their crimes hidden. Amnesty begins by searching out the truth. We send experts to talk with prisoners, observe trials, and interview local activists and officials. We monitor hundreds of media outlets and keep in touch with activists around the world.

## Amnesty alerts the world

Once we gather the facts, we make them known through detailed public reports. We tell the media. We display our concerns in storefront windows, lunchrooms, billboards and advertisements. We tell our neighbours, classmates, co-workers. We hold publicity and fundraising events. We organize demonstrations.

## Amnesty mobilizes public pressure

Next we mobilize mass, direct pressure on governments and others with influence to stop the violations. We make it possible for any interested person to send messages of concern – such as letters, drawings, petitions, faxes, and clippings of press reports – directly to those who can make a difference. We also ask members of specific social sectors – such as medical and legal workers, members of religious communities, business people, trade unionists, women's organizations, and civic leaders – to add their special influence to our appeals.

## Amnesty responds quickly and persists in its demands

Amnesty responds immediately when we hear of an individual suffering torture, facing execution, or threatened by "death

squads." Up to 80,000 activists send urgent messages from every corner of the globe, including Canada, in response to such emergencies.

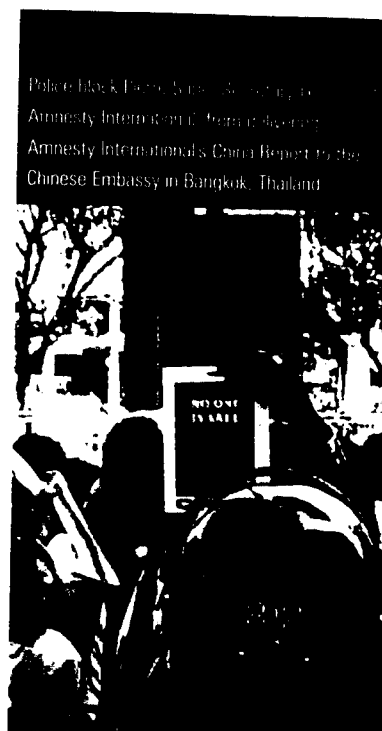
When a large-scale human rights crisis occurs – as happened in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa – Amnesty International's membership is quickly mobilized in a massive global campaign.

Amnesty members "adopt" specific individuals and issues – if necessary, for years – seeking freedom for prisoners of conscience or working to abolish the death penalty in specific countries.

Amnesty International also works to prevent human rights violations from happening in the first place. When abuses appear likely to occur, we appeal to international organizations to intervene. We seek the protection of refugees fleeing from persecution. We "adopt" and protect human rights workers who are at risk of attack.

## Amnesty promotes respect for human rights

Amnesty International supports programs that help people learn about their human rights and how to defend them. We take part in training programs for government officials and security personnel. We pressure governments to strengthen international human rights standards. We also join with other organizations to build community support for all the rights included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – the cornerstone of international human rights law.



# Yes, I want to support the work of Amnesty International!

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

Salutation (please check)    Mr    Ms    Mrs    Miss    Dr    Other .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

City & Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing my contribution of (check one)

- \$15<sup>00</sup>    \$35<sup>00</sup>    \$50<sup>00</sup>  
 \$100<sup>00</sup>    \$150<sup>00</sup>    Other .....

Our suggested membership contribution is \$35<sup>00</sup>, or \$15<sup>00</sup> for students and people on fixed incomes.

Method of Payment:

- Cheque/Money Order    Visa    MasterCard

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder name \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up for the **Covenant of Hope** monthly giving plan.

I would like to contribute (check one)

- \$15<sup>00</sup>/month    \$25<sup>00</sup>/month    \$30<sup>00</sup>/month  
 Other \$ ..... on the (check one)    1<sup>st</sup> of the month  
 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

**Tax receipts** will be issued for all contributions of \$10<sup>00</sup> or over.  
Note that monthly donors receive one annual tax receipt.

## Institutional subscriptions

Libraries, resource centres and other institutions can subscribe to our bi-monthly newsletter *The Activist* for \$ 35<sup>00</sup> per year (GST included).

Please send us ..... subscriptions at \$35<sup>00</sup> per subscription for a total of \$ .....

**Please complete payment and address information.**



Let us know how **you** would like to be involved. Check either the **Supporter** or **Member** option:

### Supporter Option

- Please list me as a financial supporter only. While I do not wish to be considered a formal member, I understand you will keep me informed of Amnesty International's human rights work through periodic updates.

### Member Option

- Please add me to your list of members. I understand you will keep me informed of Amnesty's human rights work through periodic updates.
- As a member, please also send me *The Activist* newsletter six times a year so that I can take direct action to help stop human rights violations.

Members with special interests and skills are invited to receive more information about our programs in the following areas:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labour                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Communities   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educators                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth & Students        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Professionals                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Women                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Professionals                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Program         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artists                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent Action Network   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Letter Writing Network               | <input type="checkbox"/> Death Penalty Abolition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Amnesty International groups |  |

- Please send me Amnesty's
- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications catalogue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchandise catalogue  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlet on bequests   |

**Return to:**

### Amnesty International

214 Montreal Rd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Vanier ON K1L 1A4

Fax: (613) 746-2411 ■ E-mail: info@amnesty.ca

**1-800-AMNESTY**

Local Amnesty International contact, where available



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**"They are after me  
but I will not live  
in fear."**



Digna Ochoa is a Mexican human rights activist. She has been abducted and beaten by people who oppose her work. But she refuses to give up the fight to stop torture.

it's  
time

to stop torture

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is campaigning  
to abolish torture.

We are pressuring governments around the world to eliminate torture and cruelty in their  
justice systems. We are demanding that places of detention are open to public scrutiny, that  
the victims of torture are compensated, and that torturers are brought to justice.

We are fighting for the rights of torture and protection for all society. Police, judges, and  
others must be held accountable for torture, regardless of the victim's ethnicity, gender,  
social orientation, age, or beliefs. The world must speak out in defense of human rights  
defenders. Those whose lives are threatened simply for exposing torture  
must be protected. Torture is a crime against humanity. Governments  
must be held accountable for their actions.

To join the campaign, call 1-800-AMNESTY  
or fill out the coupon below.

For more campaign information and actions at  
www.amnestyusa.org or call 1-800-AMNESTY.

# "I want to take action to stop torture."

- Please add my name to the campaign mailing list. I'm looking forward to receiving an introductory campaign package and monthly action sheets.

Your Name

Address

Postal Code

Phone

Email

- Please send a copy of this pamphlet to my friend, whose name and address I've written in the space below.

Name

Address

Postal Code



Return to: Amnesty International Canada  
214 Montreal Road, Fourth Floor, Vanier ON K1L 1A4  
actnow@amnesty.ca

Please deliver this message to my  
Member of Parliament

My MP is

Dear Member of Parliament:

No one should have to live in fear. It's time for  
Canada to be a leader in the global movement to  
end torture. I urge you to do your part by taking  
the following steps:

- Use your influence to speak out on behalf of victims of torture and their courageous defenders like Digna Ochoa of Mexico.
- Help make the abolition of torture a priority for Canadian foreign policy:
  - Urge Canada's trading partners to ratify and uphold the Convention Against Torture.
  - Actively support the formation of the International Criminal Court to try torturers who are beyond the reach of the law in their own countries.
- Contact Amnesty International Canada at **1 800 AMNESTY** or [www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca) to learn more about the global campaign to abolish torture.

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Signed

Return to: Amnesty International Canada  
214 Montreal Road, Fourth Floor, Vanier ON K1L 1A4

Torture takes place in

It's carried out in jails and military compounds  
from public scrutiny.

It's carried out in villages and homes wherever  
governments on the victims of  
domestic and ethnic violence.

Torture continues when torturers think they can  
get away with it. And torture thrives when the  
public is silent. It's time to speak out.

It's time to stop torture.

Here's what you can do.

1. **Speak out today.** The postcard above urges Canadian MPs to make the abolition of torture a priority in Canadian foreign policy. Sign your name and return the postcard to Amnesty International. We'll deliver it along with information on the campaign
2. **Join a global movement to stop torture.** Amnesty International has launched a global campaign to stop torture. Join human rights defenders like Digna Ochoa and more than one million Amnesty members worldwide in calling for an end to torture. Contact Amnesty International Canada to receive an introductory campaign package and monthly action sheets.
3. **Make a donation to support Amnesty International.** Amnesty International doesn't accept money from any government. Donations from our members are vitally important to maintaining ongoing programs that consistently and objectively investigate and oppose torture. Use the form below to support Amnesty International's work.

## to stop torture

Here's my financial contribution to help  
Amnesty International's work.

CT1

Sign me up to make a monthly donation.

Each **month** I want to contribute (check one)  \$21  \$30  \$35  Other \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make this contribution on the (check one):  1st of each month  
 15th of each month

Method of Payment

By pre-authorized payment plan (Please enclose a cheque marked "VOID.") or  
 By credit card (Please fill in the information below)

I am enclosing a contribution of  \$15  \$35  \$50  
 \$100  \$150  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment

Cheque/Money order  Credit card (Please fill in the information below)

Charge my  VISA  Mastercard

Card number

Expiry date

Print name as it appears on the credit card

Signature

Be sure to include your full name and mailing address on the reverse side of this coupon so that we know where to reach you. Tax receipts are issued for all contributions of \$10 and over, unless requested otherwise. Monthly donors receive one annual tax receipt. Revenue Canada charitable registration number **11878 5914 RR0001**