

226-8880 Jones Rd.,  
Richmond, B.C.,  
November 30, 2002.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Councillors,  
Richmond City Hall,  
6911 No. 3 Road,  
Richmond, B.C.

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	DW	
	KY	
	AS	
	DB	
	WB	

0105-01

Dear Mr. Brodie and Councillors:

I would like permission to speak for five minutes at the next city council meeting on Monday, December 9 about Amnesty International. The Richmond Amnesty International Group would be pleased if Mayor Brodie would proclaim December 10 Human Rights Day in Richmond. December 10 is the anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

I am enclosing a brochure about Amnesty International.

I thank you for your consideration.

My telephone number is 604-278-2543.

Yours sincerely,  
Orval Chapman



# 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.

■ In Tibet, a Buddhist nun is in prison for peacefully practicing her beliefs.

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

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

■ 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."**

Portrait of Argentine lawyer Mercedes D'Arcego Leizaola, standing to Amnesty International's members in Flix, Chile. D'Arcego was released 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 for human rights

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



Maheshia Graykora

Because 1998 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

International Year of Human Rights — as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

International Year of the Girl — Amnesty International in Canada

is asking you to help us make the world a more just place. Since then, much has been achieved, but human rights are still often as a result of the courage and determination of individuals like you.

Human rights activists are still being killed, tortured, imprisoned, and discriminated against.

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Members of the "disappeared" hold a vigil in Colombia. Photo: 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.**

114

Amnesty International activists in St. John's, Newfoundland, participating in a candle-light vigil to give voice to the victims of the 1997-98 election.



**We take action to:**

- free all prisoners of conscience — their beliefs, origins or status, who are advocating violence
- ensure fair and prompt trials for all prisoners
- abolish the death penalty, torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment
- end political killings and "disappearances"

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

We also promote public awareness and education about human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. These internationally recognized standards demonstrate that human rights are the foundation of a just and free society everywhere.

Amnesty International is a democratic, non-profit organization. We are funded by our worldwide membership of more than 3 million people from over 150 countries. We are free from outside influences. We are free from government, political persuasion or religious bias. We are concerned solely with the impartial promotion of human rights.

For many years, Fabiola 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 International 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."**

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:

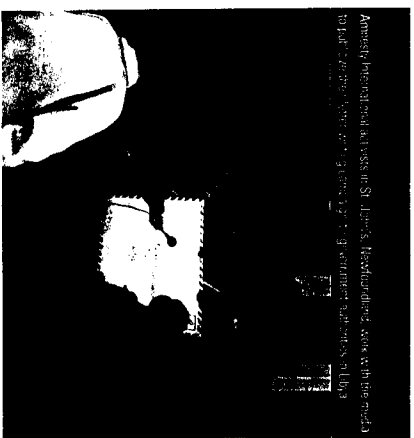
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labour                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Communities   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educators                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth & Students        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal 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  Publications catalogue  
 Merchandise catalogue  
 Pamphlet on bequests

#### Return to:

**Amnesty International**  
 214 Montreal Rd., 4th Floor, Vanier ON K1L 1A4  
 Fax: (613) 746-2411 ■ E-mail: info@amnesty.ca  
**1-800-AMNESTY**

Local Amnesty International contact, where available



## 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.



Photo by © Peter Stone, Secretary-General of Amnesty International's Global Project to the Chinese Embassy in Beijing, Thailand

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.

### 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.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Solution (please check)  Mr.  Ms.  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 (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.**

## 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."

Amnesty International  
 Letter Opened 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.

Your groups start up where schools, faith communities, organizations – and they're young people. Many your social and environmental International's concerns.

Amnesty International organizes fundraising events. They're campaigns and special individuals or a human right can provide Amnesty special organizations.

Amnesty youth and community activists. As feeling of empowerment together in the fight for

### Make a final

Your donation to Amnesty human rights.

to ensure our irreplaceable contributions of human activities of our membership, because we are

Donations to Amnesty International are tax-deductible. We report and public awareness and activism they support Amnesty International



# Speak out for human rights



## 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.

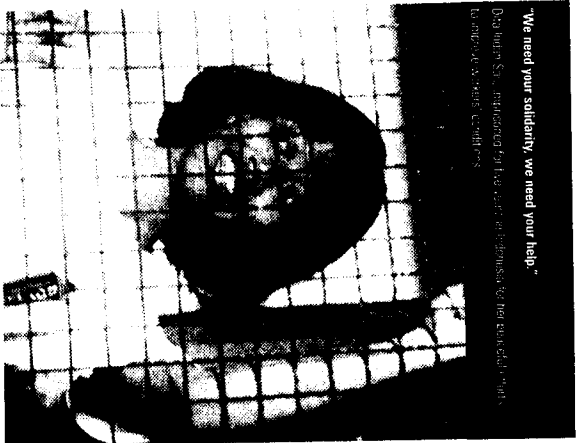


**"Human rights abuses can only be dealt with if ordinary people take personal responsibility for the safety of others. I feel compelled to take action, and through Amnesty I have the ability to make a difference."**

**Martin Otterson,  
Urgent Action Network**

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

During the 1980s, hundreds of the cases of repression of the political rights of people in many countries.



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 publicly and fundraise 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



Students of the University of Toronto participate in a workshop on human rights.

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