

WIRED

FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS
MAY/JUNE 2012 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 003

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



PRESS FREEDOM IN AFRICA
CHINA'S DEFIANT HEART

**BRAVING
THE BATONS**
POLICING DEMONSTRATIONS IN EUROPE

Activists march to stop forced evictions in Africa, Accra, Ghana, March 2012.

© Amnesty International (photo: Christian Thompson)



Welcome to WIRE,

published in the same month as the *Amnesty International Report 2012* on the state of human rights worldwide. Both put the spotlight on how people around the world are pushing back against the forces that are repressing them – even if it means being silenced, punished, or killed.

This year, as Amnesty's 50th anniversary celebrations come to an end, we will continue to tell the stories of individual human beings who are demanding respect for their rights. And we will keep the focus on the millions of activists who are standing behind them, shouting out whenever an injustice takes place.

You can take action right now, simply by signing and sending the postcards on our insert. Please also write appeals for the people featured there and throughout the magazine. And don't miss our Twitter/email action on Iran (see page 15).

yours,
the WIRE team

**HELP US TELL MORE
STORIES THAT
INTEREST YOU.**

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READER SURVEY AT
SURVEYMONKEY.COM/S/WIRE2012**

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INSIDE THIS WIRE

CHINA'S DEFIANT HEART

People in Tibet and across China are protesting against repression in increasingly desperate ways. Sign and send our postcard urging the Chinese government to allow free expression.



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Journalists across Africa are risking their freedom and their lives for criticizing the authorities or reporting on conflicts. Sign and send our postcard for World Press Freedom Day.



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Why are cargo ships still delivering arms to states that are abusing human rights? **BRIAN WOOD** explains how we can stop them.



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A new film shows the Sarayaku Indigenous Community's fight for their lands and way of life in Ecuador. **MARIANO MACHAIN** met them.



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WHAT ELSE?

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COVER IMAGE

Riot police disperse an anti-austerity demonstration in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 May 2011. Police repeatedly hit peaceful demonstrators with batons, and shot at them with rubber bullets and blanks.



Q&A: "YOU CAN'T JUST STAND THERE AND NOT ACT"

Sudanese activist **MOHAMED HASSAN ALIM** explains why he would rather go to prison than stand idly by.

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ON THE LINE

Iran's new Cyber Police is forcing bloggers and social media users offline, with plans to limit access to the internet and replace it with a state-run intranet.

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A YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A round-up of our successes during our 50th anniversary year campaign, including a look at how social media revolutionized campaigning in Italy.

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ACT NOW

WORLDWIDE APPEALS
READ, DISTRIBUTE, ACT
SEE OUR INSERT
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The Agenda

News from Amnesty International's regional teams and campaigns

Asia and the Pacific

Afghan children dying in displacement camps

Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflict in southern Afghanistan are forced to live in makeshift camps, facing starvation and hypothermia. At least 40 people have died during this year's bitter winter, most of them children.

Support displaced Afghan people by signing our petition at amnesty.org/en/activism-center

At least
18,750
people were living under a death sentence globally at the end of 2011

Indigenous teacher still being held

Soni Sodi, an Adivasi schoolteacher, is still being held in India on charges of aiding Maoist rebels. Amnesty believes the charges against her are false and politically motivated, and is calling for her release. Soni Sodi claims that Chhattisgarh state police tortured and sexually assaulted her.



Middle East and North Africa

Lawlessness in Libya

Hundreds of armed militias continue to operate in Libya more than a year after the uprising began. In January and February 2012, Amnesty delegates interviewed scores of detainees – many reported torture and ill-treatment including beatings and electric shocks, in militia custody in western and central Libya – as well as the families of several detainees who died after being tortured. Suspected al-Gaddafi loyalists have been targeted, including foreign nationals, mainly from Sub-Saharan Africa and some local communities, and thousands continue to be detained or have been displaced. Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/lawlessness-libya>

We issued
369
new Urgent Actions in 2011

Join us!
Email uateam@amnesty.org
or write to
Individuals Team,
Amnesty International,
1 Easton Street,
London
WC1X 0DW, UK.

Europe and Central Asia

Olympics ethics chief resigns

The ethics commissioner for the London 2012 Olympics recently quit over Dow Chemical Company's sponsorship of the Games. In her resignation statement, Meredith Alexander cited Amnesty's research into the 1984 Bhopal gas leak, which killed more than 20,000 people. Since 2001, Dow has fully owned Union Carbide, the owner of the Indian subsidiary that operated the plant responsible for the disaster. More than 100,000 people in Bhopal are still suffering serious health problems as a result of the leak and ongoing contamination.



©Ilya van Marle / Amnesty International

“The main thing is that during the ‘Arab Spring’ we broke through the barrier of fear. As a result, a wonderful opportunity for change has arisen, for good or for ill. Ultimately I am very optimistic about what is happening. We can bring about change.”

Shawky Othman, a university lecturer from Cairo, Egypt

“It feels good to be with my friends again. Amnesty International is a symbol of human rights and freedom. I am grateful for all the hard work done by your organization and other organizations which fight for freedom in Azerbaijan.”

Jabbar Savalan, student, released from prison following Amnesty’s Write for Rights campaign

20 countries are known to have executed people in 2011, down from 31 in 2001

<http://tinyurl.com/olympics-dowchemical>

The Americas Tasers kill

The number of people who have died in the USA following the use of a Taser reached 500 in February. Johnnie Kamahi Warren was unarmed when an Alabama police officer deployed a Taser on him at least twice on 13 February. He reportedly stopped breathing shortly after being shocked, and was pronounced dead less than two hours later. Amnesty International believes such weapons should only be used in situations where police would otherwise use firearms. Read more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/taser-report>

Africa International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

Many people in Africa face harassment, persecution and violence because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. On 17 May, Amnesty will campaign for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Contact your local Amnesty office for more details.



© Amnesty International

Maha Abu Shama at the Jordanian border with Syria

After a week of winding our way to Jordan’s al-Ramtha transitional camp in early February, I found a building housing a handful of newly arrived refugees from Syria. From a large, bare hall, five doors led off into rooms for families. I chose a door at random and knocked.

The room was home to two sisters, their two sisters-in-law, and several children. They were from Tasil, a village near Dera’a in Syria, about 10km from the camp. “We are a bit scared to give you information”, one sister explained, “as we don’t know if you would tip off the Syrian authorities”. When I described what Amnesty does, they began to relax.

They had lost their older brother 10 months ago: “He was killed by a sniper in a Dera’a city neighbourhood.” Then, almost as if recounting someone else’s story, they told me about another brother, an activist, shot dead a week ago in front of a teenage girl: “We heard that she lost her ability to speak as a result of the shock.”

They knew of seven other people killed in one week, and listed a couple of names. I asked: “Were they all men?” Only then did they remember a woman who was shot while putting out her laundry on the roof.

They had fled Syria in the dead of night, walking for miles with their children before crawling on their bellies into Jordan to avoid the Syrian border security. “If they don’t catch the activists, they’ll eventually go after their families.”

As we parted, one woman told me, almost jokingly: “Before leaving Tasil, I was looking out from the window and saw security forces chasing a man near the village. They were shooting at him and I thought no doubt they would kill him. When I looked closely I realized that the man was actually my husband. Thank God he managed to escape.”

Amnesty International has repeatedly called for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court. We are also calling for an international arms embargo and for the assets of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and those close to him to be frozen.

Letters

Want your views and comments to appear in WIRE? Write to us at yourwire@amnesty.org

CHINA'S DEFIANT HEART

Images of Tibetans dousing themselves with petrol and setting themselves alight have captured the world's attention. Other people across China are taking the same extreme measures to demand respect for their rights.

On 5 March this year, Dorjee, an 18-year-old Tibetan, set himself on fire in Ngaba county in the south-eastern province of Sichuan. He reportedly shouted anti-government slogans before he died, engulfed in flames.

He was the third person to self-immolate – or set himself on fire – in the space of a single week. Thirty Tibetans, mostly monks and nuns, have set themselves on fire since 2009 (as of 20 March 2012) in protest against the Chinese government's attack on their religion, language and culture. At least 20 of them died.

Refusing to acknowledge Tibetan people's grievances, the authorities have instead sought to vilify those who have died, to discredit them and their demands. The top Chinese official in Ngaba recently accused those who had burned themselves of having "criminal records" and "bad reputations".

The Chinese authorities have long used a blend of brute force and acquiescence – such as conceding to some demands or paying off protest leaders with jobs or cash – to defuse protests. But the voices of discontent continue to rise.

Across China, pro-democracy activists, people who have been thrown off their land and out of their homes, and many others are also demanding respect for their rights. Their demands have sometimes culminated in the same desperate act that has increasingly characterized the Tibetan protests.

HOMES DEMOLISHED WITHOUT WARNING

The one issue that has probably galvanized ordinary people most across China is forced eviction. Since the lead-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics,

development projects have powered ahead with little concern for those affected.

Thousands of people in rural and urban areas alike have endured the trauma of having their homes demolished without consultation, compensation or practical offers of a new home elsewhere. Families might hear that a demolition is about to happen by word of mouth, or from the sudden appearance of a public notice. Sometimes, there is no warning at all.

On 17 November 2010, while studying law at Tsinghua University in Beijing, Wang Jinwen from Beisanli village in Shandong province learned that his parents' home had been demolished without warning.

"My house was bulldozed and immediately cleared away – furniture, clothing, food, my books... scattered everywhere", he wrote in an open letter to the local authorities shortly afterwards.

When evictions occur, they tend to be violent, with police, "urban management" or even thugs hired by developers beating up those who resist or dare to protest.

A RALLYING CRY

Some Chinese people facing forced eviction have resorted to setting themselves on fire. It has been the final act of defiance for some of those prevented from getting legal help, or who have been harassed for trying to protest in other ways. Tang Fuzhen set herself on fire in November 2009 after unsuccessfully trying to resist eviction from her home in Chengdu, Sichuan province. She later died from her burns. Her case became a rallying cry for critics of the Chinese government's weak protections against forced



© REUTERS/Carlos Barria

eviction. It has since forced the government to move ahead with some limited reforms.

But land disputes have driven other people to self-immolate since Tang Fuzhen's desperate act. Amnesty International has documented the cases of more than two dozen people who have set themselves alight since 2009.

'JASMINE PROTESTS'

Over the past year, the government has seen the Chinese people grow stronger in their demands for more freedoms and a say over their country's future.



A Tibetan Buddhist nun from the Ganden Jangchup Choeling nunnery pauses from repairing a mountain road near the town of Daofu, Sichuan province, on 13 November 2011. Ten days earlier, Palden Choetso, a 35-year-old nun who lived at the same nunnery, burned herself to death.

The tremors that reached it as political upheaval rocked the Middle East and North Africa in early 2011, also unleashed one of the harshest crackdowns on protest in the country since the Tiananmen Square demonstrations of June 1989.

Tunisia's "Jasmine Revolution", in particular, inspired an online call for similar protests in China during February 2011. "For our country's future, for the fundamental rights of our children and future generations, please bravely come out", read the post, which appeared on a Chinese language website based in the USA. It urged citizens to simply gather

and stroll peacefully around cities and towns in various parts of China.

The authorities' response was swift. Before the end of the month more than 130 people, including bloggers, artists, government critics and online activists were detained, subjected to enforced disappearance or placed under surveillance.

Among them was Chen Wei, a veteran of the Tiananmen pro-democracy movement. In December last year, he was sentenced to nine years in jail for "inciting subversion of state power" because he had written online articles that criticized the Communist Party.

Whether fighting for their cultural beliefs or their housing rights, ordinary people in China are taking an extreme stand – sometimes sacrificing their lives in the process. It's time for the Chinese government to listen to the people, and prioritize political reforms to match the economic reforms that have catapulted it onto the world stage.

ACT NOW

Sign and send our postcard insert calling for freedom of expression in China.

‘YOU CAN’T JUST STAND THERE AND NOT ACT’

Mohamed Hassan Alim is well known to the Sudanese authorities as a member of the non-violent opposition Ba’ath party. Also known as Boshi, he is 29, from Khartoum in Sudan and recently graduated as an engineer. He was first arrested by the security services in January 2011, tortured and held incommunicado for 45 days. They arrested him again on 26 December, just after he had criticized a government official in a speech posted on YouTube. He was released without charge both times.

What sparked your interest in human rights?

I’ve grown up witnessing human rights abuses on a daily basis, and I’ve been an activist for more than 12 years now. There is so much injustice in Sudan that as a human being you can’t just stand there and not act. I’ve always felt the need to stand up for my rights, and the rights of the society as a whole.

How does your work impact on your life?

My work as an activist has taught me that from the moment I step out of my house everything is possible: I could get arrested, detained and beaten at any time. All activists in Sudan fear for their safety. The current government does not accept any opposition. Many activists are still in detention, with no judicial review for longer than the period prescribed by the Penal Code. The law is not being respected. The police and the army are not there to protect citizens; they’re there to protect the government. All of this has created a difficult and unsafe environment for activists.



“THE TIMES I’VE SPENT IN DETENTION ARE THE TIMES I FELT MOST VALUABLE TO MY SOCIETY.”

Mohamed Hassan Alim, also known as Boshi

What are the main challenges in the struggle against human rights abuses in Sudan?

The situation in Sudan has become like a cancer that requires surgery. The main issue is the flawed political system that’s been in place for all these years, and that needs to be removed. Many activist groups, particularly student groups such as Girifna and Youth for Change, are all standing up and acting to achieve this main objective: removing the system.

There are many challenges in Sudan today: corruption, lack of freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of movement as well as a rampant discrimination against ethnic groups. I think it all relates to one main issue: abuses of power by the authorities and the culture of impunity that prevails. A member of the police or the army can arrest, detain, and torture any Sudanese citizen without any legal proceedings. Meanwhile, government officials and their families are protected and free to do as they please. Power is what matters, and this has led to significant inequalities within our society in relation to education, health, and employment.

If you could change one thing about the situation in your country, what would it be?

I would change the culture of Sudanese society that the government has been encouraging. It is a culture of marginalization, lack of solidarity, gender

inequality and discrimination. We need to change these aspects of our society and then proceed with establishing a just, democratic system.

What keeps you motivated when times are hard?

I believe that we all have a purpose on this earth and mine is to defend people’s dignity and rights. My motivation stems from my conviction in speaking out against injustice. The times I’ve spent in detention are the times I felt most valuable to my society.

Do you have a message for our readers?

I would like to thank Amnesty International and its members for all their efforts. I would also like to add that it is important to speak the truth and stand up for it. All human beings have the right to live in dignity and respect. We need to all act together, in solidarity, against all human rights violations.

“We are all Boshi”, a cartoon by Khalid Albaih. It references the “We are all Khaled Said” Facebook group and campaign for justice for a young man who was dragged from an internet café and beaten to death by Egyptian police in 2010.



UNDER

Many journalists in Africa risk a harsh response if they criticize governments. In some countries, newspapers, websites, and TV and radio stations are closely watched by security agents ready to clamp down on dissent. In others, journalists are targeted for reporting on armed conflicts or attacks. Those who continue to work despite the dangers can face arrest, prison, torture, even death.

GAMBIA: HARD LABOUR FOR PRINTING T-SHIRTS

Journalists in Gambia risk arrest for writing stories or leaking information critical of the authorities. Newspapers have been closed down or had their websites hacked into. At least 27 journalists have gone into exile in the last two decades, fearing for their lives. Others have been subjected to enforced disappearance or allegedly been tortured or killed by government security forces.

Daily Observer journalist Chief Ebrima Manneh is still missing after he disappeared in 2006. A court ruling that he should be released and damages paid to his family has gone unheeded. The wider situation for freedom of expression is also sombre. Dr Amadou Scattered Janneh, Gambia's former Minister for Information and Communication, was arrested in June 2011 for possessing T-shirts calling for an "End to Dictatorship Now". He was later sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour for treason. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience.

SUDAN: VOICES SILENCED

"The charges against me have not been dropped. I could end up in jail without any notice. I am unemployed and can't write for my newspaper any more."

Abuzar Al Amin

Threats have intensified against vocal critics of the Sudanese government in recent years. Journalists, writers and activists have been arrested and tortured by the security services.

Abuzar Al Amin, former Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the *Rai Al Shaab* newspaper, was arrested in May

2010 and sentenced to five years in prison for "undermining the constitutional system" and "publishing false news". This was later reduced to one year but new charges were brought against him. He was released on bail in August 2011. However, the charges against him have not been dropped and he could be imprisoned again at any time.

MALAWI: IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

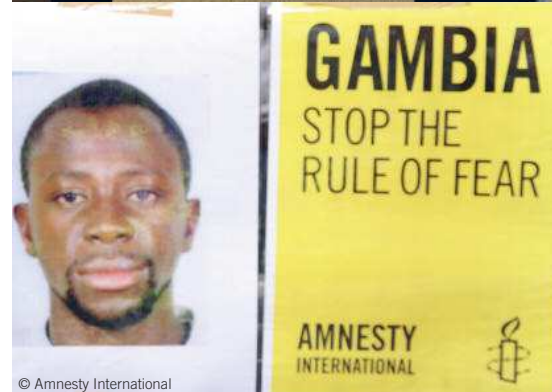
"You cannot demonstrate, you cannot freely express yourself. Malawi is becoming a police state. Where are we heading?"

Malawian human rights defender, 2011

The situation remains tense for Malawi's journalists. Reporters covering nationwide demonstrations in July 2011 were arrested, beaten, and had their cameras and notebooks confiscated and destroyed. Some suffered serious head injuries after being assaulted with gun butts. Four independent radio stations were temporarily taken off air.

A recent law gave the Minister of Information the power to ban any publication deemed "not in the public interest". This has since been used to silence critics and clamp down on press freedom.

Starting on page 8 from the top: Eskinder Nega and his family; **Journalists protest in Khartoum, Sudan;** Chief Ebrima Manneh; **Somali journalists at the funeral of their colleague Abdusalan Sheikh Hasan;** **Page 9 from the top:** Abuzar al-Amin; Dr Amadou Janneh; Malawi, July 2011.



PRESSURE



© Amos Gumulira/Africa Media Online



ETHIOPIA: ENOUGH!

“Maybe this could be the year when freedom of expression and association will be respected... Maybe this could be the year when Ethiopians will no more be imprisoned for their political convictions.”

Eskinder Nega, Ethiopian journalist and former prisoner of conscience.

Days after giving a speech on press freedom in September 2011, Eskinder Nega was arrested. He is now on trial alongside 23 other journalists and opposition politicians. The charges against them include “terrorist acts”, “high treason” and “espionage”.

The authorities routinely use criminal charges and accusations of terrorism to silence dissenters. In January 2012, journalists Reyot Alemu and Woubshet Taye were found guilty on terror and money laundering charges after writing articles criticizing the government. US-based journalist Elias Kifle was found guilty in his absence. The evidence against them mainly focused on their reports about the slogan *Beka!* (“Enough!”) appearing across the capital, Addis Ababa, in May 2011 as a call for peaceful anti-government protests.

RWANDA: WORDS BEHIND BARS

After years of intimidation, only a handful of independent Rwandan journalists are still able to work. The authorities used sanctions, laws and criminal defamation cases to paralyze the independent media before the 2010 presidential elections. Leading editors and journalists fled, and others were sentenced to long prison terms.

Agnes Nkusi Uwimana, editor of the private Kinyarwanda newspaper, *Umurabyo*, and her deputy editor, Saidati Mukakibibi, were prosecuted over

articles criticizing government policies and alleging corruption among senior officials, including President Paul Kagame. In February 2011, they were sentenced to 17 and seven years in prison respectively.

The government recently embarked on an ambitious set of reforms which, if passed, could reduce state control of the media.

SOMALIA: COURAGE UNDER FIRE

Somalia is one of the world’s most dangerous places to be a journalist. At least 27 Somali journalists have been killed since 2007. Others have been harassed, attacked and forced into exile, preventing independent reporting of the armed conflict in the centre and south of the country.

Abukar Hasan Mohamud Kadaf, former Director of private radio station Somaliweyn, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on 28 February 2012. He was the third journalist to be killed in just two months in the capital, Mogadishu. Hassan Osman Abdi, known as “Hassan Fantastic”, was shot outside his home in Mogadishu on 29 January. Abdisalan Sheikh Hassan was shot in the head by a man wearing a government military uniform on 18 December 2012.

So far, no one has been brought to justice for any of the killings and attacks against journalists in Somalia.

ACT NOW

Sign and send our postcard insert for journalists in Somalia. To send an appeal for Abuzar al Amin, visit tinyurl.com/abuzar-action

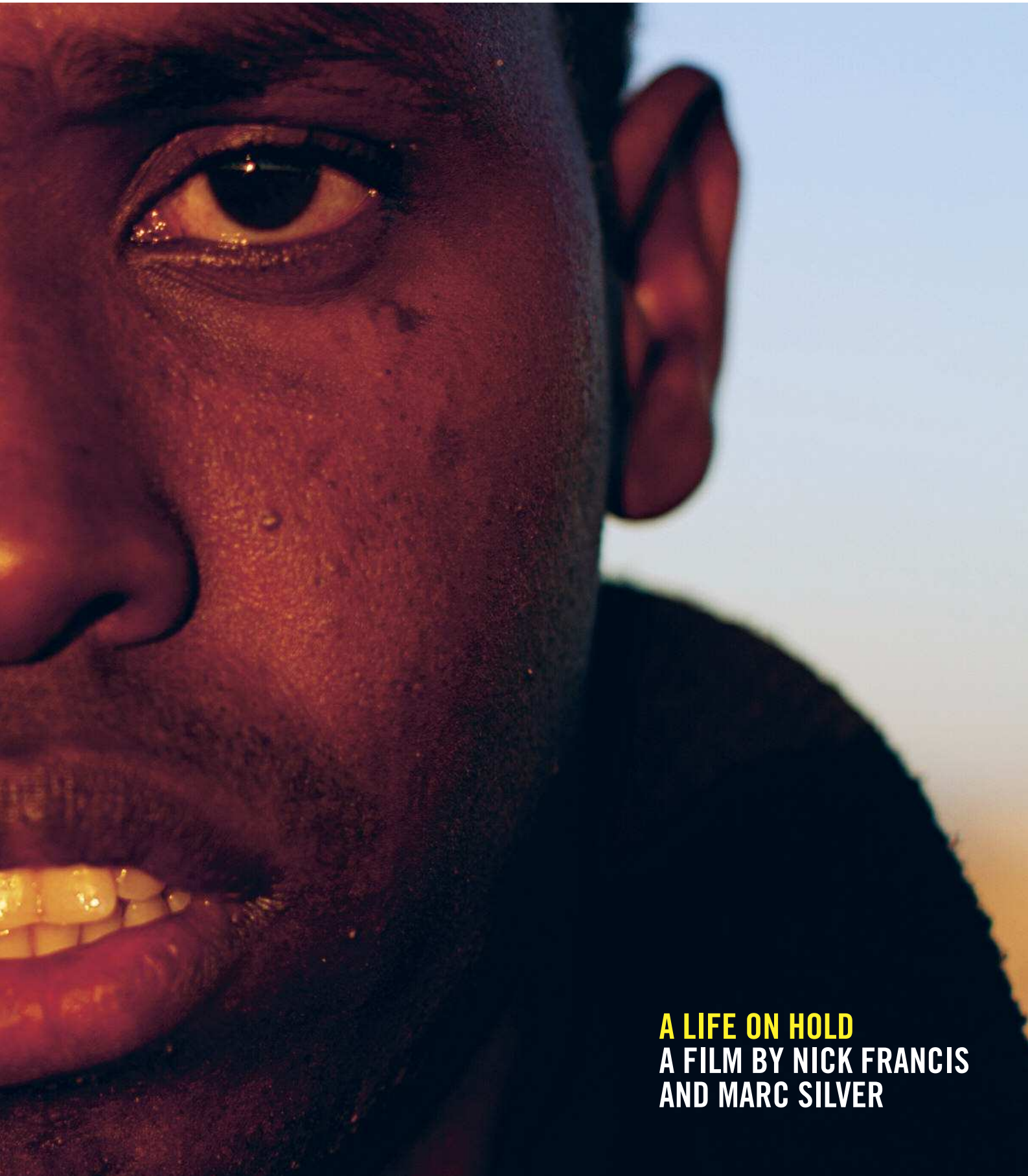


THIS IS OMAR,
A TEENAGE REFUGEE FROM SOMALIA.
A LIFE ON HOLD IS A NEW FILM ABOUT
OMAR'S LIFE IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN TUNISIA.
WATCH IT AT [AMNESTY.ORG/REFUGEES](https://www.amnesty.org/refugees)

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A LIFE ON HOLD
A FILM BY NICK FRANCIS
AND MARC SILVER



KEEPING THE PEACE BEATING THE PEACEFUL

Austerity measures, redundancies, small arms in the hands of police never held to account. This deadly recipe is being brewed up across Europe – most recently in Greece – and threatening our rights to peaceful assembly and protest, says Amnesty International Campaigner **GIORGOS KOSMOPOULOS**.

© AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis



A Greek riot police officer kicks a protester who was trying to calm others down during clashes in Athens' main Syntagma square, June 2011.

“When I was reporting from war zones and was caught [in cross fire], I always said to myself: ‘Manolis, this is a good day to die.’ I never thought I would say the same in the streets of Athens.”

On 15 June 2011, journalist Manolis Kypreos was reporting live from a protest against austerity measures in Athens, when he saw policemen beating peaceful protesters. As he took photographs, the head of the riot police asked him what he was doing, so Manolis showed him his journalist’s ID card. According to Manolis, the man then directed him to another policeman, who promptly threw a stun grenade at him.

The effect was devastating. When Manolis finally got back on his feet, he realized he couldn’t hear. A medical examination later confirmed a permanent loss of hearing in both ears. A recent implant has partially restored Manolis’ hearing in one ear, but his career as a journalist is effectively over.

Policing of demonstrations in Greece has typically involved repeated incidents of excessive use of force, including tear gas and other chemicals, against largely peaceful protesters.

Media images of burning cars, incendiary bombs and violent rioters conceal the sometimes hundreds of thousands of peaceful demonstrators who are also there to exercise their fundamental right to protest.

Violations of international standards during the policing of demonstrations are not limited to Greece. In the past months, many protests have taken place in European union (EU) cities against government austerity measures. EU and International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailouts have come with conditions attached: new property taxes, public sector pay cuts, welfare benefits reductions, and tax hikes. As a result, public anger has grown and angry citizens are holding more and more demonstrations throughout the region. This calls for increased vigilance over policing practices.

In Spain, Amnesty International has documented that people were hit by police officers with batons in Barcelona and in Madrid, in May and August 2011 respectively. Video footage showed police officers hitting seemingly peaceful protesters on both occasions.

Amnesty International also wrote to the Romanian authorities in January 2012 to express concerns after media reports and video footage showed police apparently using excessive force against demonstrators.

The UK, Denmark and Italy have also allegedly violated international standards during the policing of demonstrations.

Police dealing with demonstrations that have turned violent are required by international law to exercise restraint. They should only use “necessary” and “proportionate” force to apprehend people committing criminal acts or to defend themselves or others from violence. Crucially, they should minimize the risk of harm to those who are not involved in the

violence, and facilitate – or at least not curtail – people’s legitimate right to gather and protest.

Police must be held accountable for their actions and pursued through the criminal courts if they have acted in an arbitrary or abusive way. Unfortunately, the prevailing culture of impunity in Greece gives the police no reason to curb their behaviour. They therefore often use force in a general way against all protesters.

Across Europe, the authorities must ensure thorough, prompt, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of such abuses in their countries’ policing, if they are to stop them.

THE ROLE OF ARMS IN POLICE ABUSES

Weaponry and munitions such as tear gas and stun grenades, like the one that injured Manolis, are widely used by police forces in a way that does not comply with international standards.

Multiple shipments for a range of policing equipment, including CS hand grenades, stun grenades, tear gas and other riot control agents, are continually supplied to Greece. They are supplied by Brazilian, UK, German and US companies without any legally binding human rights criteria concerning their use. In countries where abuses by the state are commonplace, a similar flow of arms continues, unencumbered by the protection of human rights.

For more than a decade, Amnesty International has been at the forefront of the campaign for an effective Arms Trade Treaty with strong human rights safeguards. It is crucial that the Treaty contains the highest possible international standards to ensure that situations like the one Manolis experienced do not continue in future.

In July, UN member states will meet to negotiate the content of the first ever treaty to control the global arms trade. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save lives, protect careers – such as Manolis’ – and protect human rights. Read more about our campaign for an effective Arms Trade Treaty on page 14 and how you can be involved.

Hundreds of you wrote to Manolis and to the Greek authorities to demand justice for him. Following an investigation into his case, Manolis received interim compensation for his injury in November 2011.

ACT NOW

Write to the Greek authorities. Urge them to ensure that the police do not use stun grenades, tear gas or other chemicals against peaceful protesters. Call for the policing of all demonstrations to comply with international law enforcement standards. Send your appeal to:

Michalis Chrisochoidis

Minister of Citizens’ Protection

Ministry of Citizens’ Protection

4 P. Kanellopoulou Street

10177 Athens, Greece

STOP THE SHIPS OF SHAME

The global arms trade has rarely been obstructed by something as simple as justice. Deadly cargoes of arms cross oceans every year, destined for states that commit serious human rights abuses. Amnesty International Campaigner BRIAN WOOD explains how an International Arms Trade Treaty could change this.

In April 2008, after the disputed Zimbabwean elections, senior personnel in the Zimbabwean army were beating, torturing and killing anyone suspected of voting for opposition parties. At least 200 people died as a result, thousands were injured and tens of thousands were displaced.

Several weeks later, a Chinese ship, the *An Yue Jiang*, arrived in South Africa carrying more than 3,000 cases of arms destined for the Zimbabwean Defence Force. The cargo, exported by Poly Technologies Inc. of Beijing, included weapons, ammunition, rockets and bombs due to be transported to Zimbabwe with the assistance of AB Logistics, a South African state-owned company. But then ordinary South Africans, knowing the plight of their neighbours, rose up in protest.

Trade unions, churches, human rights groups and lawyers in South Africa launched an urgent campaign to stop the cargo reaching Zimbabwe. Dock workers refused to handle the cargo at any port and a court order later prevented its transit through the country. Transport workers at ports in Mozambique, Namibia and Angola, mobilized by national trade unions, soon followed.

Human rights groups and campaigners demanded action from governments in Africa, the European Union and the USA, who all called on Beijing to stop the shipment. And in May 2008, despite reports of some cargo being offloaded in Angola, the *An Yue Jiang* reportedly returned with its military cargo to China.

This extraordinary demonstration of courage by South African workers made headlines around the world, and sent a strong message to the Zimbabwean authorities and all states that commit serious human rights abuses.

Despite this, the ships carrying arms to such states continue to operate with impunity.

Throughout the popular uprising in Egypt, security forces there have persistently used excessive and often lethal force against demonstrators. Tear gas, water cannons, shotguns and automatic weapons, rubber bullets and live ammunition have all been used to crush protests. Yet between December 2011 and February 2012 the US government – Egypt's main arms supplier – allowed at least seven arms shipments to Egypt containing 349 tons of military equipment.

In Syria, more than 7,000 people have been killed since mass demonstrations began there in March 2011. Syrian security and armed forces have brutally suppressed protests using tanks and a variety of weapons and ammunition, often firing into civilian residential areas in towns and cities where the demonstrations have occurred. People trying to help the wounded on the streets have been targeted by snipers. And in February, the Baba 'Amr district of Homs city was heavily shelled, leaving desperate residents with no means of escape and lacking the most basic amenities.

In the midst of this brutal crackdown, a Russian cargo ship reportedly carrying between 35 and 60 tons of weapons, ammunition and explosives, sold by Russia's official arms trading company, Rosobornonexport, is suspected of docking at the Syrian port of Tartus, where Russia maintains a naval base, on 12 January 2012. Rosobornonexport has neither confirmed nor denied reports that it was the owner of the cargo.

The transfer of arms to countries committing serious abuses could be prevented if UN member states can agree an effective Arms Trade Treaty this year. Negotiations will take place at the UN from 2 to 27 July and provide a historic opportunity for change. With so much at stake, we must ensure that human rights safeguards are at the Treaty's core; they could help save hundreds of thousands of lives.



© AP Photo

The *An Yue Jiang* outside Durban harbour, South Africa, April 2008, carrying weapons destined for the Zimbabwean security forces. After an international campaign and action by dock workers in the region, the ship was forced to return to China with most of its cargo.

Amnesty International is campaigning hard for a Treaty that requires states to carry out rigorous risk assessments on all arms transfers, and to prevent them where it is likely they'll be used to commit or facilitate serious human rights abuses.

In March, we launched our 100 Days of Action campaign, with a global appeal urging governments to ensure that the Treaty stops arms transfers from fuelling atrocities. In our Global Week of Action, from 11 to 17 June, we'll give a final push to governments, demanding that they stand up and speak out for human rights.

Take action. Tell your government to support an effective Arms Trade Treaty that stops arms getting into the wrong hands – sign and send the postcard in this edition of WIRE and pass it to your local Amnesty section. They will send it on to the UN. Check with your section to find out how you can get involved in local events. Let's tell governments everywhere that we need an Arms Trade Treaty that is bullet-proof.

Demonstrations organized via Facebook and Twitter. Blogs and articles criticizing unsympathetic officials posted online and circulated on social media. No wonder Iran's government wants to limit the internet's immense power. A new "Cyber Police" force now keeps a close eye on online content, controlling technology and punishing those who speak uncomfortable truths.

ON THE LINE



© 2011 by Khalil

Well-known blogger and opposition activist Somayeh Tohidlou recently felt the full effect of the government's online monitoring. She was flogged 50 times in September 2011 for "insulting" the President. Afterwards, she posted a message on her blog to those who flogged her, recalling how she had been chained hand and foot first: "Be happy, because if you wanted to humiliate me, my entire body is burning with humiliation."

Another Iranian blogger, Hossein Ronaghi Maleki, is serving a 15-year prison sentence for criticizing the authorities. Following an unfair trial, he was convicted of "membership of an [illegal] internet group", of "spreading propaganda against the system", and "insulting the Supreme Leader and the President". He was held in solitary confinement for over a year, tortured and otherwise ill-treated. He briefly went on hunger strike in December 2011 and is in poor health.

Their experiences are symptomatic of a more fervent type of censorship and repression in Iran, part of a wider

Image from *Zahra's Paradise* – a graphic novel which first appeared online. The story is told by a blogger helping his mother search for his brother, who disappeared in the 2009 Tehran street protests.

crackdown on freedom of expression in the country. During the protests that erupted after the country's disputed 2009 election, the authorities realized that social media sites like Facebook and Twitter gave ordinary people the power to share information about gatherings and report widely on the government's violent repression.

It wasn't long before Iran's long-standing censorship of newspapers, books, television, plays, film – even art – was extended to online material. In January 2012, Police Chief Brigadier General Esma'il Ahmadi-Moghaddam announced that a new Cyber Police, established in 2011, was now working throughout the country to confront Internet crimes and counter social networks that spread "espionage and riots" (cyberpolice.ir).

The Cyber Police – under the command of the police force and Ministry of the Interior – recently ordered internet café owners to install CCTV cameras and register users' identities and contact details before allowing them to use their computers. Countless international websites, including amnesty.org and domestic social networking sites are now blocked on servers based in Iran. Many Iranians using proxy hosts and filter-busting programmes to access sites abroad increasingly find that these are blocked too or extremely slow. Providing this kind of software, or training in how to use it, is a criminal offence.

Iranian officials have stated that they intend to establish a state-wide intranet that conforms to "Islamic principles". Running parallel to the World Wide Web, they say it is intended to "replace it in Muslim countries in the region". Despite the Iranian authorities' claims to the contrary, many people fear most Iranians' access to the global internet may soon be shut off completely.

ACT NOW

Email Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei or tweet your call for the Iranian authorities to amend legislation which unduly restricts the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly; to ensure that no one is detained or imprisoned just for peacefully exercising these rights; and to immediately and unconditionally release anyone so detained, including Hossein Ronaghi Maleki.

Email: info_leader@leader.ir (addressed to Your Excellency)

Twitter: [@khamenei_ir](https://twitter.com/khamenei_ir)

THE MAKING OF *CHILDREN OF THE JAGUAR*

Mariano Machain, Amnesty International Campaigner, tells the story behind a new documentary film about the Sarayaku Indigenous Community's campaign to defend their home and way of life in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

We arrived in Sarayaku after a long drive from the Ecuadorian capital to Puyo, the regional capital, and a short flight into the Amazon. Eriberto Gualinga, Sarayaku's videomaker, was waiting for us by the landing strip. After exchanging so many emails and Skype calls, we felt that we had already met.

We began by talking to José Gualinga, Sarayaku's leader and Eriberto's older brother, about why we were making the documentary and how it would be used. *Children of the Jaguar* is a co-production between the Sarayaku and Amnesty International, so it was important to clarify these issues before we started shooting the film. We were relieved when José confirmed that the Sarayaku were happy to let us wander around the community with our cameras, boom and cables.

I had come to Sarayaku with a local film crew, Rosie Kuhn and Pavel Quevedo, to capture a crucial stage in the community's struggle. A few years earlier, Ecuador's government had granted an oil company permission to look for oil on their traditional lands, without talking to the Sarayaku first.

The community responded quickly and managed to stop that project. But 1.4 tons of explosives

remain buried on Sarayaku's land as a result of oil exploration. The government has refused to remove the explosives or to guarantee that they will consult the community about future projects. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is now their last hope for redress.

Children of the Jaguar follows the community's journey to present their case before the Court. The stakes are high. The Court's decision will have an impact far beyond the Sarayaku. It will also affect the future of thousands of Indigenous communities throughout the Americas fighting to be consulted before governments grant concessions for development projects that will affect their way of life.

The date for the Court hearing was fast approaching by the time we arrived in the community, so we only had four days to film in Sarayaku. Three members of the delegation chosen to travel to the Court in Costa Rica became the focal point of the film – Ena Santi, Patricia Gualinga and Eriberto Gualinga. Each had a powerful story to tell and was willing to devote time and energy to the sometimes painfully time-consuming business of making a documentary.

Some of the delegation had never visited another country before. On this journey, they also encountered challenging new experiences, such as facing television cameras and appearing in court. Apprehensive but undaunted, the delegates set off armed with an unwavering belief in their right to justice and dignity.

Indigenous Peoples have a special relationship with their lands – we knew this long before we arrived in the Amazon. But in Sarayaku, home to

“FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLES WHO HAVE WEPT, WHO HAVE BEEN MARGINALIZED, WHO HAVE BEEN MISTREATED AND INSULTED – WE, THE SARAYAKU PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SAY: ‘ENOUGH!’”

José Gualinga, President of the Sarayaku community

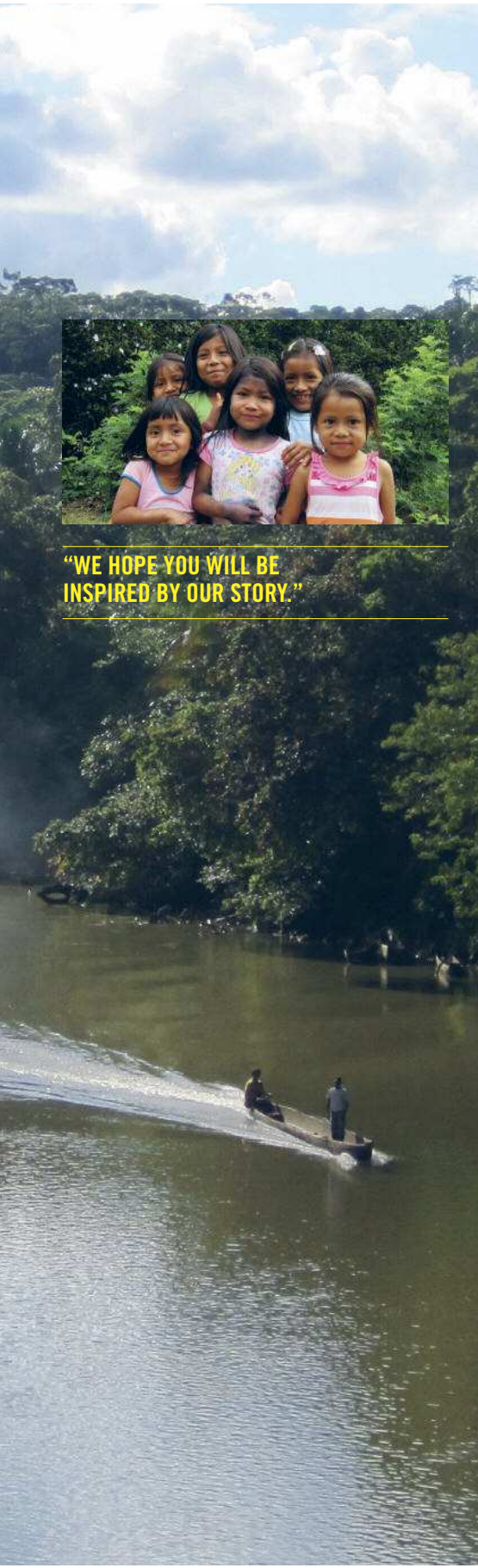
some 1,200 people, we saw for ourselves just how intense that relationship is and how precious the rainforest is to the culture and sense of identity of the community living there.

The Sarayaku are fully aware that the international community has recognized Indigenous Peoples' right to be consulted and give their free, prior and informed consent regarding projects which may affect them. The aim of their journey is to ensure that their right is respected in practice.

The Inter-American Court's decision will be handed down anytime now. While they wait to hear the outcome, the Sarayaku are preparing for the challenges ahead.

ACT NOW

Watch a trailer for *Children for the Jaguar* at bit.ly/Jaguar-trailer and sign up for future campaign updates. Please spread the message about this documentary to support the Sarayaku and other Indigenous Peoples facing similar threats to their lands and livelihoods. The film will be on wider release after touring various film festivals, and you can request screenings in advance with subtitles in several languages.



“For us, the rainforest is life. It is what gives us our identity as an Indigenous People. Our life as a people depends on our natural environment. I have something worth defending. For me, this is what living with dignity means.”

Eriberto Gualinga



“WE HOPE YOU WILL BE INSPIRED BY OUR STORY.”



“Face painting is one of our ancestral traditions. The paintings have many different meanings.”

From *Children of the Jaguar*



“In 2002, an oil company came onto our lands. The helicopters arrived bringing the company’s workers and technicians. Then came the soldiers and private security guards. At no point were we consulted by the government on this oil project.”

From *Children of the Jaguar*



“Next Tuesday we have to travel to Costa Rica. I’ve never been to that country... I’m going as a witness from the community to tell them what happened to us when the oil company arrived.”

Ena Santi explaining to the children in her class why she is going away.



“We are going to set out the whole issue of free, prior and informed consent and that we have the power to say ‘No!’ when we do not want extractive companies to come onto our lands.”

Patricia Gualinga



“Our future depends on what we say to the judges in the next few hours. Right now, we are really feeling the pressure and the responsibility we carry.”

From *Children of the Jaguar*

All images © Amnesty International

THE SOCIAL NETWORKERS

As Amnesty International's anniversary year campaign enters its final phase, Campaign Coordinator TINA MARINARI and Online Activism Officer SAMANTA PALADINO explain how social media helped Amnesty Italy achieve the highest number of appeals sent globally during the recent faxjam.

SAMANTA

"The faxjam was so successful because it linked an online and an offline element. It was helped by the fact that Italian members already knew the two cases very well. We also did a video chat with two members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Jesus Emilio Tuberquia and Noelia Tuberquia Salas, a few months before the action so people already felt motivated to campaign for them.

The social media actions we did were liked and shared and taken. Doing real time updates on social networks was vital, because you can reformulate the same call to action in a new way and reiterate the message to increase impact. Having a social media strategy in advance is really important too, because it synchronizes the message globally.

The aim of social media is making online activists feel part of a global movement. We want to increase our online actions in future and also feature video chats with international guests or local experts. That's a great tool for learning about human rights issues. We have a long way to go in this sense. Having the technology helps, but it's difficult to translate Amnesty's long, detailed reports and our rich, complex messages into something that can easily be delivered online."

TINA

"The concept of sending a fax via a PC was a perfect way to embody activism in Amnesty's 50th anniversary campaign year. It was a new tool and an unexpected success. And we've used faxes a lot in past campaigns so the fax tool links our traditions with the present.

Many activists were scared of sending a fax – some didn't understand whether they had to pay. Working with a new tool definitely generates curiosity: someone even emailed me to ask if the fax noise coming out of the computer was real.

I was worried that the faxjam was going to be a disaster, so I was surprised by the numbers we achieved – 2,361 faxes for Norma Cruz and 1,524 faxes for the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. That's a great result for a one-week long action.

It was so successful we're now thinking about reusing the tool in future. Next time it would be ideal to have the fax page in Italian. We would also like a



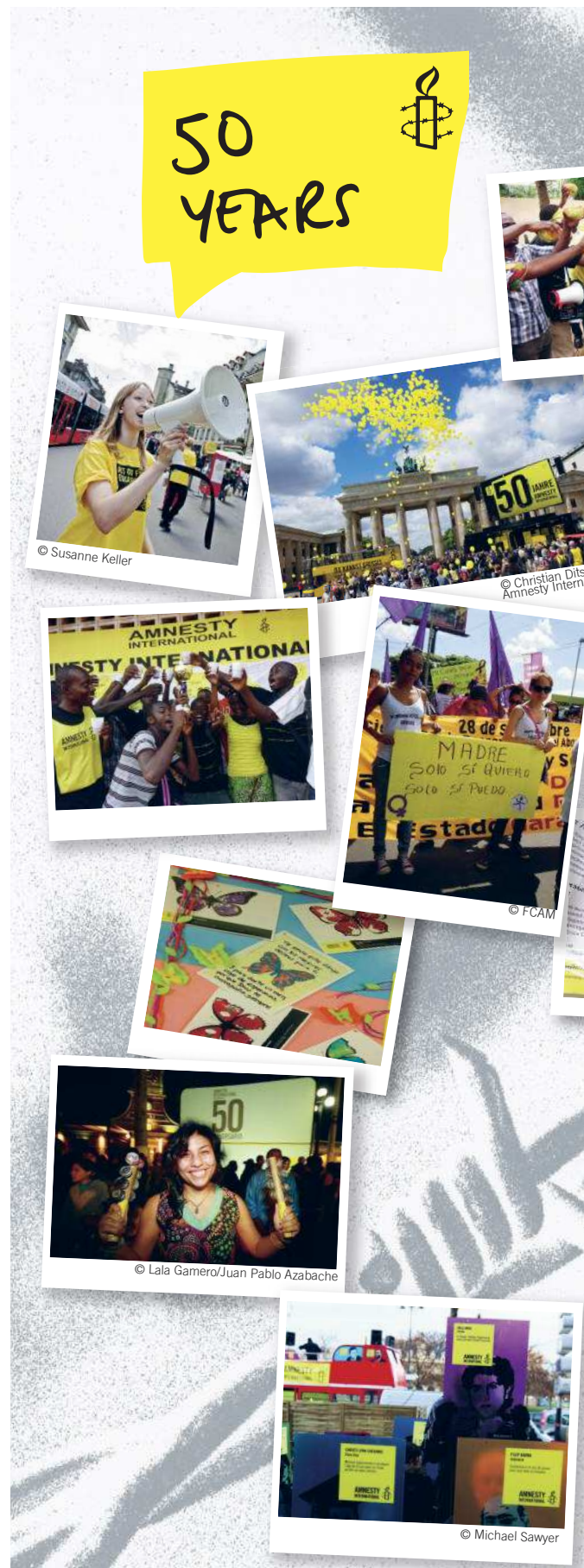
follow-up video message from the people we're appealing for, showing the impact it has had on their lives with voices and images.

We circulated Norma's thank you message to supporters online, on email and via social media. Several activists emailed us to say how pleased they were with the fax tool's success. Working for Amnesty is challenging, so it's great to receive direct feedback and thank you messages from people.

Amnesty's anniversary campaign was a fantastic opportunity to make us feel part of a global movement. Our pride in our 50 year-long story challenges us to do more, with more strength and enthusiasm."

From 14-21 July, Amnesty International Italy will repeat its successful International Camp for Migration in Lampedusa, focusing on migrants' rights. Visit amnesty.it/lampedusa

ACT NOW TWEET YOUR CALL FOR SHELL TO #CLEANUPTHE #NIGERDELTA



A YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

MAY 2011

Toast to freedom in 58 countries.
Great pics on flickr.com/groups/annesty50/pool/show



JUNE 2011

Shepard Fairey creates butterfly of hope for women and girls in Nicaragua.



JULY 2011

Egypt online action for women
7,526 appeals made (May-November)



AUGUST 2011

Butterfly action ends
50,000 butterflies created in 177 countries!



SEPTEMBER

All butterflies delivered to Nicaragua

See pics from the demonstration defending girls and womens rights here: amnesty.org/en/50/campaigns/reproductive-rights

OCTOBER

Launch: Belarus death penalty petition
Powerful videos at tinyurl.com/day-against-death-penalty

NOVEMBER

Belarus death penalty petition ends

We handed 250,000 signatures to the government



DECEMBER 2011

Letter Writing Marathon

1,376,962 actions taken in 78 countries

Human Rights Day
Hundreds of thousands of us lit up the world!

Amazing shots at tinyurl.com/annestyshineatlight



JANUARY 2012

FaxJam for Norma Cruz
We sent 4,634 faxes to Guatemalas Attorney General



FEBRUARY 2012

FaxJam for Colombia's Peace Community of San José de Apartadó
5,469 faxes sent

MARCH 2012

Time for justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
1,089 actions taken so far

APRIL/MAY 2012

Shell: Own up. Pay up. Clean up.

Demonstrations, stunts and lobbying for the Niger Delta

See amnesty.org/en/50/campaigns/stop-corporate-abuse

28 May
Closing toast to freedom!



© Laurent Ziegler



© Amnesty International (photo: Panithan Kitsaku)

ACT NOW
Tweet your calls for Shell to #cleanupThe #NigerDelta

GOOD NEWS & UPDATES

MAIKEL NABIL SANAD

Prisoner of conscience Maikel Nabil Sanad (Worldwide Appeals, January/February 2012) was released from prison on 24 January. He was imprisoned in April 2011 for criticizing the Egyptian military authorities in his blog and on Facebook, and for his objection to military service. He was put on trial in a military court in April, and retried before a military court in December.



He told Amnesty International: "I dreamed for the last 10 months for the day [I would] be beside my friends in Tahrir again... it's the beginning of a new level and a new era of fighting for our rights in Egypt."

"For Amnesty I am very grateful for all the efforts for my freedom, and I want [you] to know that I was

receiving hundreds of letters from Amnesty members all over the world. These letters helped me to fight more and to continue my struggle against the military council in Egypt, and my message to you: you helped me to reach this day, you helped me to be better, so thank you."

SUDANESE YOUTH ACTIVISTS RELEASED

Six members of the student-led movement Girifna have been released from Kober prison in Khartoum. Amar Dirar, Nagi Musa, Gazi Eltayeb, Mohamed Mahjoub, Sharif Kamal and Omar Hamid were arrested on 25 January 2012 after taking part in a public forum organized by Girifna. The event was held to commemorate the 2005 Beja massacre at Port Sudan and to discuss the human rights situation

in eastern Sudan. Relatives of some of the students have sent their thanks to members of our Urgent Action network, who called for their release.

Many activists still face arrest, incommunicado detention, torture and other ill-treatment at the hands of the authorities in Sudan. Amnesty International continues to monitor the situation and campaigns for the human rights of activists to be respected.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN A LETTER IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL IN WIRE?

Maybe you have received a reply from the authorities or from an individual at risk? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your stories and copies of any correspondence you have received to the address at the beginning of WIRE.



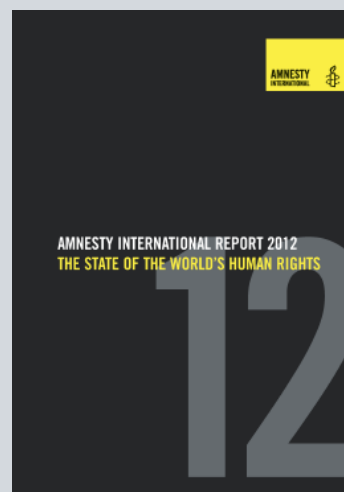
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2012 THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S HUMAN RIGHTS

In a year of unrest, transition and conflict, too many people are still denied their most basic rights. As demands for better governance and respect for human rights grow, this report shows that the time has come for world leaders to rise to the challenge.

The *Amnesty International Report 2012* documents the state of human rights in 155 countries and territories in 2011.

For the first time, it is also available on Kindle.

To find out more, visit amnesty.org/annual-report/2012





Journalists interview the activist and artist Ai Weiwei, one of the many symbolic figures of 2011, after he was released from detention in Beijing, China, in June 2011.

'WE ALL HAVE A PURPOSE ON THIS EARTH'

MOHAMED HASSAN ALIM, PAGES 6-7

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



BAHRAIN

14 OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS BEHIND BARS

Ebrahim Sharif with his wife.

© Private



Fourteen opposition activists in Bahrain have been given prison sentences by a military court. Their arrests followed anti-government protests in February and March 2011. Most were arrested in the night by security officers who raided their homes and took them to an undisclosed location, where they were held incommunicado for weeks.

Many of the 14 defendants say they were tortured during the early days of their detention, during interrogation by officers from the National Security Agency. Many of the charges against them were vague and may not amount to a recognizably criminal offence under international law. The 14 defendants were subjected to unfair trials and sentenced on 22 June 2011.

Seven of the activists were sentenced to life in prison. They are Hassan Mshaima, 'Abdelwahab Hussain, 'Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Dr 'Abdel-Jalil al-

Singace, Mohammad Habib al-Miqdad, Abdel-Jalil al-Miqdad and Sa'eed Mirza al-Nuri. Four people, Mohammad Hassan Jawwad, Mohammad 'Ali Ridha Isma'il, Abdullah al-Mahroos and 'Abdul-Hadi 'Abdullah Hassan al-Mukhodher were sentenced to 15 years in prison. Two people, Ebrahim Sharif and Salah 'Abdullah Hubail al-Khawaja, were given five-year prison terms while Al-Hur Yousef al-Somaikh received a prison sentence of two years. A military appeals court upheld their sentences on 28 September 2011.

Please write, expressing concern that the 14 opposition activists had an unfair and politically motivated trial before a military court. Call for a fair retrial of the activists before a civilian court, and for the immediate and unconditional release of those held as prisoners of conscience solely

for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Send appeals to:

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Manama
Bahrain

Fax: +973 1766 4587
Salutation: Your Majesty

KYRGYZSTAN

AZIMJAN ASKAROV

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

"THEY HAVE DESTROYED US"



© Private

Azimjan Askarov is serving a life sentence in a single underground cell in Prison No.47, Bishkek. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for his legitimate human rights work. He is the director of Vozdukh (Air), an independent human rights organization. For years he has documented ill-treatment by police in the Jalal-Abad region of southern Kyrgyzstan.

Azimjan Askarov was detained on 15 June 2010, after documenting violence between groups of ethnic Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks in the south of Kyrgyzstan. He reported that he was severely beaten in the first three days of his detention in an attempt to force him to confess to the murder of a police officer and to incriminate others.

Azimjan Askarov continued to be ill-treated

in pre-trial detention and, in August 2010, he was charged with various crimes including storage of ammunition and being an accomplice to murder. He denies all the charges. In November 2010 he was taken to hospital after collapsing as a result of his treatment in detention.

In June 2011, he told Amnesty International during a prison visit: "I shouldn't be here. They've taken everything that was dear to me and my wife... They've ransacked our lovely home and destroyed our garden... They burned down my office. They beat my brother so badly that he is now disabled, my wife is ill, my sons mostly in hiding. They have destroyed us."

The Supreme Court upheld Azimjan Askarov's life sentence in December 2011. Amnesty International is concerned that he is in poor

health and has not received adequate medical treatment.

Please write, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of human rights defender Azimjan Askarov, whom Amnesty International considers to be a prisoner of conscience. Send appeals to:

Almazbek Atambaev
President
Government House
Bishkek 720003
Kyrgyzstan
Fax: +996 312625012
Salutation: Dear President

MAURITANIA

14 PRISONERS

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

PRISONERS ABDUCTED FROM THEIR CELLS

On the night of 23 May 2011, 14 prisoners were taken from their cells at the Central Prison in Nouakchott by security forces. They have not been seen since. A fellow prisoner said: "Security forces came at 3am; their faces were hidden and they had a list. They were calling out names one by one... and were asking the detainees to come with them. Nobody knew what was going on."

Some of those abducted had been sentenced to death, while others were serving sentences of between five and 15 years. Amnesty International had met with most of the prisoners prior to their abduction, and had recorded that they were tortured or otherwise ill-treated in the first days of their detention.

Their personal belongings, including books, blankets and clothes, were returned to their

families in June 2011 with no further explanation. In November 2011, the Minister of Justice told an Amnesty International delegation that the men had been isolated "for security reasons". No further information has been provided about the men's whereabouts.

Please write, calling for disclosure of the whereabouts of the 14 men who were moved from the Central Prison in Nouakchott to an undisclosed location on 23 May 2011. They are: El Khadim Ould Semane, Sidi Ould Sidna, Mohamed Ould Chabarnou, Maarouf Ould Haiba, Mohamed Abdellahi Ould Ahmednah Ould Mohamed Salem, Mohamed Ould Abdou, Abderrahmane Ould Areda, Mohamed Ould Chbih, Amar Ould Mohamed Saleh, Taghi Ould

Youssef, Salem Ould Hemmod, Tiye Ould Saleck, Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Sebty dit Dahoud Sebty and Mohamed Khaled. Urge that the men are given access to their families, lawyers and medical care. Send appeals to:

General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz
President of the Islamic Republic of
Mauritania
Presidency
BP 184 Nouakchott
Mauritania

Fax: +222 45259801
Salutation: Your Excellency

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ISLAM UMARPASHAEV

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

DETAINED, CHAINED AND BEATEN



Inter-regional Committee Against Torture, COPYRIGHT, 2009

Islam Umarpashaev was taken from his family home in Grozny on 1 December 2009 by men in black uniforms claiming to be police officers. His abduction came shortly after he used his mobile phone to post an angry comment about the Chechen police to an internet chat forum. His family knew nothing of his whereabouts until he was released four months later, on 2 April 2010.

Following his abduction, Islam Umarpashaev was shown a print-out of his internet message and interrogated about whether he had links with Chechen armed groups. He was reportedly beaten during interrogation, and spent three and a half months chained to a radiator, ill-treated and threatened. He believes he was held in the basement of a building belonging to the Chechen riot police force, OMON (Special Police Force).

He was released from detention following interim measures issued by the European Court of Human Rights. An application had been made to the Court on his behalf by the Russian human rights organization Nizhnii Novgorod Inter-Regional Committee Against Torture. Since his release, Islam Umarpashaev and his family have had to relocate outside Chechnya for their safety. Members of the investigation team have also received threats from members of the Chechen police in connection with this case.

Please write, welcoming the ongoing investigation into Islam Umarpashaev's case by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. Express your concern over the ability of the investigation team to carry out their work unimpeded and without intimidation,

and urge that investigators working on his case and members of his legal team are given adequate protection. Urge that all those responsible for his abduction, unlawful detention and ill-treatment are identified and brought to justice. Send appeals to:

Chairman of the Investigation Committee
Aleksandr Ivanovich Bastrykin
Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation
Tekhnicheskii pereulok, dom 2
105005 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7499 2659077 or +7499 2659775
Salutation: Dear Chairman of the Investigation Committee

SYRIA

ANAS AL-SHOGRE

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

ACTIVIST AT RISK OF TORTURE



© Private

Anas al-Shogre (or al-Shogri), aged 23, has been detained incommunicado since 14 May 2011. Amnesty International has received reports that he is in poor health and is concerned that he may have been tortured in detention.

Anas was the first person to call for anti-government demonstrations in the Syrian city of Baniyas on 18 March 2011. He spoke in the mosque after prayer, saying: "Whoever would like to call for freedom, join us. Whoever does not, go home. I'm going to the street even if I have to do it on my own." People followed him, marking the beginning of demonstrations in Baniyas. The Syrian authorities have stated that Anas al-Shogre is a terrorist and leader of an armed group. However, his family and local human rights activists believe he was arrested for

leading peaceful protests and for reporting on human rights violations in Baniyas to the media, including the BBC Arabic service.

Former detainees told Anas' family that he was held in the Military Security branch in the city of Tartus, and later transferred to a branch of the State Security (controlled by the Ministry of Interior) in Damascus. One former detainee at the Military Security branch said they heard Anas call out "I don't want to live, let me die", raising concerns that he was tortured. Torture and other ill-treatment are widespread in Syria. A reliable source said Anas is unwell and has lost a lot of weight. No further information was forthcoming, and the authorities have refused to confirm where he is being held or the precise reasons for his arrest.

Please write, calling for Anas al-Shogre to be released immediately and unconditionally, or charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried in accordance with international fair trial standards. Send appeals to:

Minister of Interior
His Excellency Major General Mohamad Ibrahim al-Shaar
Ministry of Interior
'Abd al-Rahman Shahbandar Street
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic

Fax: +963 112119578 (keep trying)
Salutation: Your Excellency

VIET NAM

NGUYEN VAN LY

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

INTERNET ACTIVIST IMPRISONED



© Amnesty International

Pro-democracy activist and Catholic priest Nguyen Van Ly is serving an eight-year prison sentence for "conducting propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam". He is sentenced to a further five years under house arrest after he completes his prison sentence. At his trial in March 2007, he did not have legal representation and he was manhandled by guards and gagged in court. Four co-defendants received either suspended sentences or prison sentences with house arrest on release.

Official accusations against Father Ly included involvement in banned political groups and the internet-based pro-democracy movement Bloc 8406, which he co-founded. He and four co-defendants also published a dissident journal, *Tu Do Ngon Luan* (Freedom and Democracy). Since the late 1970s, Father Ly has spent some 15

years in prison for advocating human rights and criticizing government policies on religion. Amnesty International first adopted him as a prisoner of conscience in 1983.

Father Ly was temporarily released from prison in March 2010 in order to receive medical care for a stroke, which left him paralyzed on one side of his body, and for a brain tumour. He was returned to Ba Sao prison, Ha Nam province, in July 2011 despite still being in poor health. The authorities claimed that he had distributed anti-government leaflets during his release period. Since his return to prison, Father Ly has been on periodic hunger strike in protest at his detention.

Please write, calling for Father Nguyen Van Ly to be released from prison immediately and

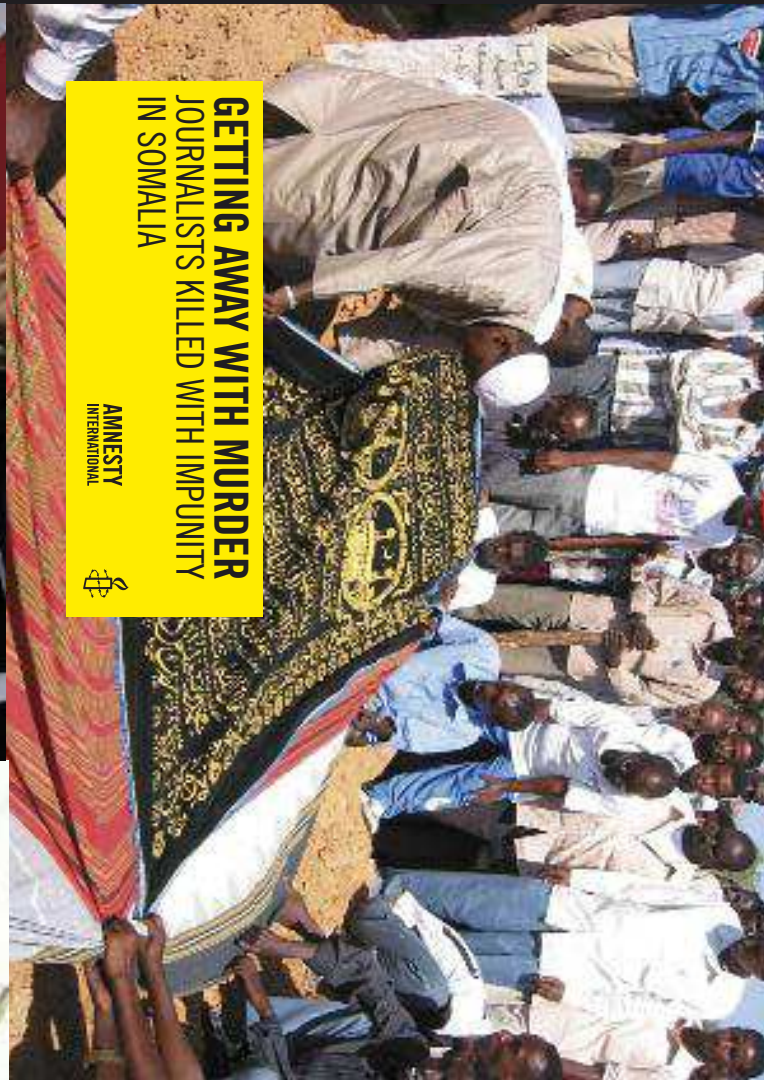
unconditionally. Note that Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of speech and association. Call for him to be provided with adequate medical care while in detention. Send appeals to:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Pham Binh Minh
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1 Ton That Dam
Ha Noi
Viet Nam
Fax: +844 3825 9205
Email: bc.mfa@mofa.gov.vn




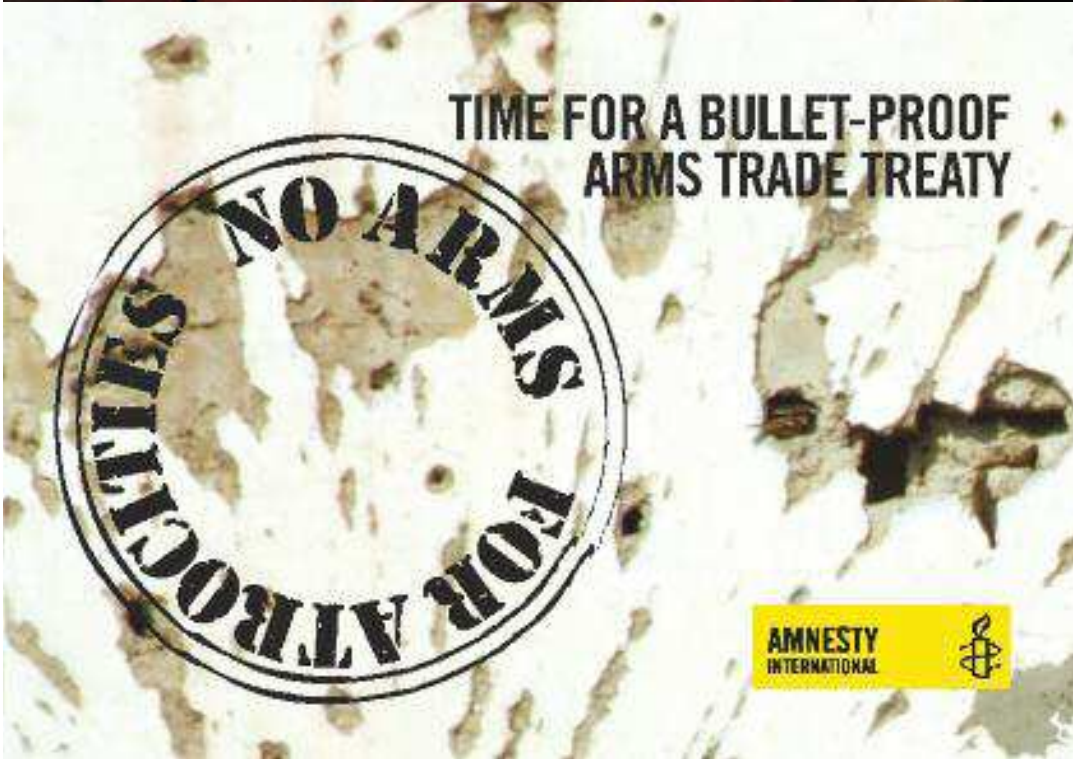
**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
NOW IN CHINA**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

**GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER
JOURNALISTS KILLED WITH IMPUNITY
IN SOMALIA**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

**TIME FOR A BULLET-PROOF
ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**NO ARMS
FOR ATROCITIES**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**“FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLES WHO
HAVE WEPT, WHO HAVE BEEN
MARGINALIZED, WHO HAVE
BEEN MISTREATED AND INSULTED
– WE, THE SARAYAKU PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO SAY ‘ENOUGH!’”**

José Gualinga,
President of the Sarayaku community

50
YEARS



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

Dear Prime Minister,

Since December 2011, three journalists have been deliberately shot dead by gunmen in Mogadishu. Abukar Hasan Mohamud Kadaf was killed by unidentified gunmen on 28 February 2012. Hassan Osman Abdi "Fantastic" was shot outside his home on 29 January 2012. Abdisalan Sheikh Hassan was shot in the head by a man wearing a government military uniform on 18 December 2011.

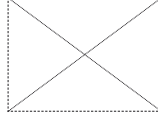
At least 26 journalists have been killed in Somalia since January 2007, and no one has been brought to justice for their deaths.

I urge you to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of Abukar Hasan Mohamud Kadaf, Hassan Osman Abdi, Abdisalan Sheikh Hassan and all other journalists killed in Somalia. I also urge you to support the establishment of an independent Commission of Inquiry, or similar mechanism, to address impunity for crimes under international law committed in Somalia.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____



Hon. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali
Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal
Government of Somalia
C/O The Embassy of Somalia
Jabavu Road, Hurlingham
PO Box 623-00606
Nairobi
Kenya

Index: AFR 52/003/2012

*Image: The burial of Said Tahlil Ahmed, the director of Radio HornAfrica, killed by gunmen in February 2009. © NUSOJ
 Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. amnesty.org*

Children of the Jaguar follows the Sarayaku community's journey to present their case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The stakes are high. The decision of the Court will affect not just the future of the Sarayaku, but the future of thousands of Indigenous communities throughout the Americas.

Watch the trailer and share the link:
www.childrenofthejaguar.org

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Your Excellency,

China's Constitution and international law guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Yet every year hundreds of people are detained in China for peacefully exercising these rights. Some are tried and imprisoned for "endangering state security" under vaguely worded criminal laws that have become tools for silencing critics and activists. Some demonstrations are broken up by excessive, even lethal, force.

I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure freedom of expression, association and assembly in China. When policing demonstrations, law enforcement officials should exercise restraint, using firearms only as a last resort and when absolutely necessary to protect life.

I also urge you to ensure that international fair trial standards are upheld in law and practice in China.

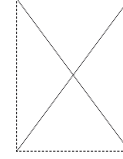
Yours sincerely,

Name _____

Country _____

Index: ASA 17/010/2012

*Image: Protesters outside the Liaison office of China's Central Government in Hong Kong, February 2011. In response to online calls to protest, inspired by events in the Middle East and North Africa, the Chinese authorities detained dozens of activists. © AP Photo/Vincent Yu
 Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. amnesty.org*



Premier
WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Dear _____

The irresponsible and poorly regulated global trade in arms is fuelling serious human rights abuses, armed violence, poverty and conflict around the world.

Millions of people are killed, injured, raped, repressed and forced to flee their homes every year as a result. Health, education and other services are being denied and livelihoods destroyed.

The world needs an effective Arms Trade Treaty that prevents arms transfers when they are likely to contribute directly to serious human rights abuses or poverty. The Treaty must cover all conventional arms including ammunition.

I call on all UN member states to secure an Arms Trade Treaty that prevents arms from fuelling such atrocities and abuses, and protects lives and livelihoods.

Name _____

Address _____

Index: ACT 30/028/2012

*Image: The burial of Said Tahlil Ahmed, director of Radio HornAfrica, who was killed by gunmen, Somalia, February 2009. © Amnesty International
 Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. amnesty.org*

