



**HUMAN RIGHTS  
ARE MY PRIDE**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**2013**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
CANADIAN SECTION (ENGLISH SPEAKING)**

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S MISSION

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Our vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights.

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

Amnesty International promotes public awareness and understanding of the full range of human rights, and we work with a global community of organizations to ensure broad support and respect for all human rights.

Amnesty International is governed by our members. We are independent of all governments, political persuasions and religious creeds. We are funded by our members and donors, and neither seek nor accept funds from governments for our research and campaigning work.

Cover photo (Christos Tsirbas/seetsirbas.com): Amnesty International supporters marched in the 2012 Toronto Pride parade to show solidarity with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities around the world who are being criminalized, tortured or ill-treated because of their sexuality.

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Toronto's CN tower was lit up in Amnesty yellow on December 10, 2012, to mark International Human Rights Day.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

Every year when I read this report, I am so impressed by what we achieve together.

In these pages I see our heartfelt commitment to those we have stood with year after year, like the people of Grassy Narrows and our friends at Women of Zimbabwe Arise, and I see our excitement for new action, through our work with the Idle No More movement, calling for freedom for the members of Pussy Riot, and the campaign for an effective global Arms Trade Treaty. I see our indefatigable activists hosting photo exhibits and film festivals and letter writing circles across the country, and I see our remarkable staff conducting research, giving testimony, and standing in solidarity with human rights defenders around the world. I see our donors and fundraisers helping us grow and do more great work, and I see our volunteers helping us reflect, recharge, reorganize, and do better work. I see over 2,000 *Write for Rights* events, and the CN Tower lit up in yellow for International Human Rights Day. We are one dedicated, creative, resourceful, and persistent bunch of people, and this is our story.

This was a challenging and inspiring year to represent our membership internationally. The long-awaited process of decentralizing from London, UK, and expanding our international presence in the global south has been underway this year, and we have seen the opening of international offices in Hong Kong and Johannesburg, as well as growing local support in Brazil and India. By some measures this process has been exciting; Amnesty India recently gathered over 1.5 million signatures on a petition against impunity in Sri Lanka, an incredible achievement that hints at the possibilities for human rights change in the region. Of course, the transition has also been very difficult for us internally, as we have seen labour action at our international and UK Section offices, and have lost excellent members of our staff. I have been proud of the many thoughtful and constructive ways our Branch leadership has engaged with the entire transition process, from offering feedback to showing leadership to urging transparency and effective conflict resolution.

Our Branch has continued its excellent record of international participation on other fronts as well. We attended an exciting meeting of American Sections and Structures in Uruguay, where we discussed a regional campaign on sexual and reproductive rights. We have continued to strengthen our relationship with our neighbours in Amnesty USA as they faced another in a row of very challenging years. We received the independent review of the International Executive Committee, and considered how we might use its recommendations to ensure stronger performance and accountability in our governance. We have responded thoughtfully to a range of consultations, and have initiated important discussions about the way we work and how we might improve.

Looking back on the year past makes me appreciate what we have done, and looking ahead to the next reminds me of how very much there is to do. Hamid Ghassemi-Shall and Saeed Malekpour remain on death row in Iran. There has been no justice for astounding numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada. People around the world remain at risk of discrimination and violence because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. There is a desperate need for strong and effective corporate accountability mechanisms. Thank you all for a year to be proud of and here's to another!



Sarah Beamish, President



Sarah Beamish  
President

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL



Alex Neve  
Secretary General

### FACING HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES WITH UNYIELDING DETERMINATION

Events across North Africa and the Middle East were continually in front of us last year. Who would have thought that 2012 would end with Egyptians gathering once again in Tahrir Square, calling for human rights, women's equality and justice?

At the same time, in Libya, lawless militia groups unleashed their own wave of abuses. Repression and conflict raged on in Syria, with staggering casualties and a death toll that is mounting daily. Working in dangerous circumstances, Amnesty researchers pushed hard with Syrian authorities, armed groups, the UN, and influential governments to bring the violations to an end.

When missile and rocket attacks once again engulfed Gaza and Israel, we responded. And when the UN granted non-member observer status to Palestine, we demanded that recognition be followed by signing on to the International Criminal Court.

In Iran we stood with brave women imprisoned because they dared demand that rights be protected. The human rights crackdown in tiny Bahrain came close to home when Canadian citizen Naser al-Raas was arrested and badly tortured in Bahrain in 2011. We immediately took up his case, and were delighted to welcome him and his wife back to Canada in 2012. Both are now actively volunteering with Amnesty.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), we called for stronger efforts by the UN mission to protect civilians and ensure the safety of women and girls when a rebel offensive once again brought turmoil and displacement to the eastern DRC. Following a terrible attack in Côte d'Ivoire against a displaced persons' camp and in the midst of renewed arbitrary arrests and torture, an Amnesty International delegation returned to the country, with Alex among the Amnesty team.

We insisted there be justice and accountability for years of mass human rights violations in Sri Lanka. Early in 2012, concerns about impunity in that country were the subject of a UN resolution for the first time. In China, we insisted there must be real human rights change in Tibet.

Decades of work for international justice finally gave birth to the International Criminal Court in 1998. What a milestone, therefore, when the ICC's first conviction came down in March 2012 against Thomas Lubanga, found guilty of using child soldiers in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Amnesty continued to campaign against the death penalty. 2012 brought news that the state of Connecticut had abolished the death penalty and more countries than ever supported a UN resolution calling for a global moratorium on executions. We continued efforts to prevent the executions of Canadians in Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United States.

We continued to work for a human rights-based global Arms Trade Treaty. Governments nearly agreed to a draft in July, but didn't quite get there. Clearly we have more work to do in 2013.



Bob Goodfellow  
Executive Director

We worked to hold corporations to account. In Guatemala, the operations of numerous Canadian mining companies increasingly imperil human rights, particularly in Indigenous communities. We stood with inspiring local human rights defenders, such as Yolanda Oqueli, for whom the Guatemalan authorities agreed to provide protection in 2012.

In Colombia, one-third of the country's Indigenous nations face extermination. The threats include the impact of the rapidly growing number of mining companies pushing into Indigenous territories. With the new free trade deal between Canada and Colombia, Canada risks becoming part of this growing tragedy. We have prioritized this work.

We have maintained a strong focus on human rights protection in Canada. We continue to campaign for a national action plan to address violence against Indigenous women in Canada, and to uphold land and water rights and the rights of children. Our efforts have been strengthened by inspiring and indefatigable activists from Indigenous organizations and communities.

2012 brought punitive legislative reforms and staggering cuts to refugee health care. With lawyers, refugees and support groups, we rallied to draw attention to the unacceptable impact of these changes on refugee rights.

In our work for Omar Khadr, we circulated petitions, postcards and letter-writing actions, used social media, joined in court proceedings, were present in Guantánamo and carried out countless media interviews. In September, Omar Khadr was finally transferred to a Canadian prison. Although this was an important step, we continue to seek justice in his case.

Over and over again, throughout the year, Amnesty activists stood up for human rights. Whether in campaigns that took place in schools, film festivals and music concerts, whether in small or in large places, we demanded human rights change. We took action sometimes alone, sometimes with partner organizations, and more and more frequently with the very people and communities whose rights are on the line. We were active in letter writing, internet petitions, social and traditional media, and in many other ways.

And we also pushed ourselves to provide the much-needed financial support that sustains all of our efforts and helps to build Amnesty in Canada and internationally.

We have done so much important human rights work together this year, and we've done it well. And having done all this work, we are prepared to do it all over again, and again, until we see the change that is required.

Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly told the Amnesty members who campaigned for her freedom that, just as we didn't give up our work for her, we must not give up on our work for the many others whose freedom has been taken away.

Thank you for being an essential part of the effort to address the enormous human rights challenges of 2012.



Alex Neve, Secretary General



Bob Goodfellow, Executive Director

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



David Smith  
EC Chair

The Executive Committee (EC) is Amnesty Canada's board of directors. Ten elected volunteers are responsible for overseeing the operations of Amnesty International Canada (ES) and doing strategic reflection on the directions the organization is taking and should consider for its future. These tasks are naturally carried out in close collaboration and consultation with many other volunteers and with staff.

As you can read in the financial section of this report we set ourselves an ambitious goal of raising \$12 million in the 2012 financial year. We fell just shy of this goal but fortunately not so far off as to have any significant effect on our program spending. On the spending side we naturally see to it that controls are in place to ensure against fraud and waste. More important—and more challenging—is that the board is responsible to members and donors for seeing that the money they give is used appropriately and efficiently to further the human rights goals we have set for ourselves.

We have been working hard with staff over the past year to find clear ways to measure how well spending matches the priorities set out in the six-year Branch Plan and our annual priorities statement. While we get complete and transparent information from staff on activities, we are still trying to develop a set of indicators that will allow us to more easily evaluate how well we allocate our resources and how effective different programs actually are. While complicated, the exercise is proving to be useful both to the board and to the staff.

Some of the other dossiers the board worked on in 2012:

- We offered to Amnesty USA what support we could at staff and board levels, as they continued to recover from the financial crisis of several years ago. EC members attended two Amnesty USA board meetings and welcomed Amnesty USA's treasurer to Amnesty Canada's November 2012 board retreat. The support we are offering them has been appreciated and we feel there is value in the links being established between the two boards.
- We have also been working to keep the international movement responsive to the concerns of our members and donors by engaging as a board with the International Secretariat (IS) and the International Executive Committee (IEC) on the process of decentralization (known as "Moving Closer to the Ground") that is now getting underway. A robust discussion has been ongoing between Amnesty Canada's board and the IS and IEC which has been good for us all despite occasional challenges.

- At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Vancouver in June 2012, Amnesty Canada voted to meet in a large gathering once every two years rather than annually. This vote is another step in a process that has been ongoing for several years as we researched and planned how to make the most of our meetings. The board and a number of dedicated volunteers have been hard at work developing the implementation plan for the new meeting calendar.
- Recent changes to the law regulating not-for-profit organizations in Canada mean that Amnesty Canada needs to make a number of changes to our by-laws. While these will not have much impact on how we do our human rights work, we are taking advantage of the opportunity to make sure that the by-laws reflect our current practices and respect the governance standards that will likely be adopted by the international movement at the 2013 International Council Meeting.

All this work is only a part of what the board is engaged in. Over a dozen different committees do work on topics ranging from gender-mainstreaming through diversity, nominations, finance and international strategy all the way to the planning of the AGM. In 2012, we put in place tools to help improve the visibility of each committee's work to other board members and to help us keep each other accountable for this work.

None of this work would be possible without our very dedicated staff and we are very proud of them. Of course, thanks are also due to all the members of Amnesty Canada that support the work of the board and the organization in so many different ways. The ten members of the EC are conscious and grateful for the support and advice from the thousands of other volunteers across the country who all share a vision of a world in which a culture of human rights is firmly established.

David Smith  
Chair, Executive Committee



Four of the many Amnesty International members who attended the Annual General Meeting held in Vancouver, British Columbia, in June 2012.

## BRANCH AT A GLANCE

### GROUPS AND ACTION CIRCLES

**115** in 2004      **90** in 2012

### YOUTH GROUPS

**405** in 2004      **526** in 2012

### FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

**52,312** in 2004      **58,409** in 2012

### MONTHLY DONORS

**25,322** in 2004      **31,858** in 2012

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	MEMBERS
British Columbia	13,916
Alberta	6,000
Saskatchewan	1,335
Manitoba	1,780
Ontario	28,241
Quebec	3,153
New Brunswick	638
Nova Scotia	2,184
Prince Edward Island	145
Newfoundland and Labrador	399
Yukon	139
Northwest Territories	106
Nunavut	23
Foreign addresses/unknown	350

# 1. PROTECTING PEOPLE'S FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

“We will oppose efforts of governments around the world to suppress freedom of expression and belief, for instance when people risk imprisonment or other penalties because of severe restrictions on access to the internet. We will continue to demand that human rights defenders be allowed to work without impediments and without fear for their physical safety. Amnesty has long worked to free prisoners of conscience, and such work will continue to feature prominently in the Branch's work. Women's human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples will continue to be areas of strength and focus for our Branch.”

— Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012: DEFENDING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

In February 2012, Amnesty International members from communities all over Canada participated in the *Roses for WOZA* campaign. They helped raise thousands of dollars and sent messages of support to Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA), a movement of 80,000 courageous human rights activists who are peacefully protesting against the worsening economic conditions and human rights crisis in Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, WOZA members marched in February to demand respect for their rights and seven members were arrested. On February 14, at *Roses for WOZA* events in Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver, members gathered to learn about the human rights issues affecting people in Zimbabwe and to write messages of solidarity to WOZA. Amnesty also met with South African Embassy officials to lobby for increased pressure on Zimbabwe to meet its human rights commitments.

Amnesty members across Canada logged on to an Amnesty webinar on February 29 to learn more about how women in the Middle East and North Africa are fighting for human rights, and how Amnesty members in Canada could take part in strengthening those voices.

On March 8, International Women's Day, Amnesty members participated in and helped organize events across Canada. Amnesty was highly visible at these events, demonstrating Amnesty's ongoing commitment to supporting women's rights. In Ottawa, Amnesty members helped organize “*I'm a feminist, but...*” at the National Archives of Canada. In Toronto, Amnesty members had an early start on International Women's Day, taking part in a march down Bloor Street on March 3. In Vancouver, members took part in a Flash Mob in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Amnesty's website highlighted four online actions for International Women's Day and received many thousands of page views. One of the actions gave Amnesty members the opportunity to write solidarity messages to women who had survived sexual violence at the hands of armed forces, paramilitaries, and guerrillas in Colombia's decades-old armed conflict. The vast majority of these assaults are never reported—and when they are reported, crimes frequently go unpunished.



On March 8, 2012, International Women's Day, Amnesty supporters in Vancouver participated a Flash Mob in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Throughout the year, members responded to other actions and petitions on women's human rights issues. More than 5,000 Amnesty supporters spoke out for Guatemalan women's rights activist Norma Andrade, leader of the women's rights organization *Fundación Sobrevivientes*. Like many others, she has received repeated death threats because she has supported victims of violence and taken action to prosecute those responsible. Amnesty received positive feedback from Norma about the importance of Amnesty members' solidarity. In addition, a Syrian women's human rights online action was taken up by more than 1,600 people.

### DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF CANADIANS AND CANADIAN RESIDENTS DETAINED ABROAD

The Branch continued efforts to safeguard the lives of Canadian citizen Hamid Ghassemi-Shall and Canadian permanent resident Saeed Malekpour who are both on death row in Tehran's Evin Prison. The family of Ghassemi-Shall learned in April 2012 that his execution could happen at any time. Ghassemi-Shall has been in prison since 2008 when he and his brother were arrested by the Iranian authorities. Ghassemi-Shall had gone to Iran to see his sick mother. The authorities accused him of espionage, tried him and sentenced him to death in 2009. His brother died while in prison. Saeed Malekpour's death sentence was confirmed by Iran's Supreme Court on January 17, 2012. His crime was to have written a program allowing people to upload photos to the internet. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard charged Malekpour with "corruption on earth". In 2012, Amnesty members pressed Prime Minister Stephen Harper to strengthen efforts to protect the rights of both men and to prevent the implementation of the death penalty sentences imposed on them.



Amnesty members in Regina, Saskatchewan, demonstrate in support of Canadian Hamid Ghassemi-Shall who is facing execution in Iran.

January 20, 2012, was the fifth anniversary of the rendition of Canadian citizen Bashir Makhtal from Kenya to Ethiopia. Amnesty International activists joined with members of Makhtal’s family and community to organize a protest outside the Prime Minister’s Office on Parliament Hill. Amnesty sent an open letter to the Prime Minister of Canada urging him to communicate with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi (who died in August 2012) and demand that Mr. Makhtal either be immediately released from prison or given a fair trial.

## DEFENDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The Branch’s *Individuals at Risk* program continued to grow. Members of this program take action online to protect people who stand up and speak out to defend human rights in their countries and communities—people who are often threatened, harassed, attacked or killed because of their work. In 2012, the *Individuals at Risk* subscriber list grew by 80% to 38,000 and the number of individual actions passed 100,000. Activists took action in solidarity with, among others, Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh (serving a six-year jail sentence on charges of “spreading propaganda” and belonging to an “illegal” organization, the Centre for Human Rights Defenders) and Guatemalan human rights defender Yolanda Oqueli (shot and wounded on June 13, 2012, for her anti-mining activism).

2012 marked the sixth anniversary of Huseyin Celil’s imprisonment in China. Celil is a Canadian citizen serving a life sentence in China after an unfair trial. Celil is a member of the Uighur people of western China. While visiting his wife’s family in Uzbekistan in 2006, he was expelled by the Uzbek authorities to China. Amnesty members have campaigned doggedly for his release, none more so than Wilf Ruland and the members of the Amnesty group in Burlington, Ontario.

## 2. DEFENDING PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE BY STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS

“We will maintain our Branch’s longstanding work against torture and the death penalty. We will continue with our efforts to stop violence against Indigenous women through the Stolen Sisters campaign. Through crisis work and other avenues we will work to protect the rights of civilians, particularly women and children, during armed conflict. We will speak out about the continuing violence of national security and public security laws and practices that violate and erode human rights standards. We will also press for greater accountability of businesses, to ensure that their operations do not contribute to violence and other human rights violations.”

— Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN

On October 4, 2012, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Prince George, British Columbia, Stolen Sisters vigils were held in memory of friends, sisters, daughters, mothers, aunts, and grandmothers who have experienced violence. Community members gathered to pray, sing, drum, share a meal, march, and light candles. According to the best available statistics, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women in Canada are at least 3.5 times more likely to experience violence than their non-Indigenous counterparts and seven times more likely to be murdered. The families of these missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls—these ‘Stolen Sisters’—have struggled for decades to draw attention to the violence faced by women in their communities and to receive justice for their loved ones. Participation in these important public awareness and solidarity-building events continues to grow, among both Amnesty’s membership and the wider public. Amnesty continues to serve an important role as a mediating space and convener of diverse organizations and individual family members. In 2012, there was broad consensus around calling for a National Action Plan on Violence Against Aboriginal Women. Earlier in 2012, Amnesty members added their names to an online petition urging the government of Canada to work with Indigenous women to develop a comprehensive and coordinated anti-violence strategy.

In April 2012, Amnesty International joined 14 other groups, including the Vancouver February 14th Women’s Memorial March Committee, the Native Women’s Association of Canada, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the BC Civil Liberties Association, in announcing that they would not participate in the flawed BC Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. The organizations were deeply concerned that while the Vancouver Police Department, RCMP, individual officers, and the government itself all had extensive legal support to participate in the Inquiry, the provincial government had refused to fund the participation of civil society including Indigenous women’s organizations and frontline services providers. This exclusion of crucial voices, along with other serious flaws in the process, led Amnesty to withdraw its support for the Inquiry. The final report from the Commission of Inquiry was released in December 2012.

On October 4, 2012, Amnesty members across Canada joined with the Native Women's Association of Canada, KAIROS, and other organizations to honour missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. Shown here is the Sisters in Spirit Rally on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario.



Amnesty was honoured to be part of a new initiative to support Indigenous families who have lost sisters, daughters, and mothers to violence. The 'Embracing the Families' initiative is a collaboration between Beverley Jacobs, a highly respected advocate for the rights of Indigenous women and long-time Amnesty partner, and Mix 3 Productions, an Indigenous-owned media company based in Vancouver. On May 11, 'Embracing the Families' launched a powerful video performance, written by artists Khodi Dill and Theresa Point, as well as a new website featuring an ongoing series of benefit performances.



Amnesty members in Vancouver formed a flashmob on September 13, 2012, to mark the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## STANDING ALONGSIDE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Amnesty's work continues to demonstrate the value of collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and the common ground that can be achieved through the use of a human rights framework. The joint work around the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13, 2012, was one of the highlights of the year, bringing together the national and international strands of our work, strengthening relations with Indigenous partners, and providing a new opportunity for member engagement. Events on or around this date included a press conference, webinar with the Assembly of First Nations, public reception, and member events in several cities.

Amnesty presented a submission to the United Nation's highest body for combating racism—the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The submission outlined concerns about Canada's record in three areas: rights of Indigenous Peoples, refugees and migrants, and security and human rights. The submission reflected the breadth and depth of our research and campaigning and partnerships in these three areas. Craig Benjamin, Amnesty's Indigenous rights campaigner, was in Geneva in February 2012 when the Canadian delegation appeared before the Committee for review. The coordinated lobbying and media strategy with Indigenous partners resulted in almost all of the recommendations on Indigenous rights Amnesty made in its submission being picked up in the Committee's concluding report, including strong recommendations on the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and the right to free, prior, and informed consent. A joint statement from Amnesty, the Assembly of First Nations, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Chiefs of Ontario, Grand Council of the Crees, Haudenosaunee of Kanehsatàke, KAIROS, MiningWatch Canada, and Treaty Four First Nations, urged the Canadian government to implement a number of the Committee's crucial recommendations:



- A national plan of action to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Creation of a Treaty Commission;
- Sufficient funding to ensure adequate child welfare services in First Nations reserves and an end to the removal of First Nations children from their families;
- Good faith implementation of the right of consultation and free, prior, and informed consent “whenever their rights may be affected by projects carried out on their lands”;
- Strengthened efforts to end discrimination and violence against Indigenous women including a national plan of action to stop violence against Indigenous women;
- “Speeding up” the provision of safe drinking water; and
- Giving preference, wherever possible, to alternatives to imprisonment for Indigenous offenders.

In October, Amnesty was accepted as a participant in the public review of the proposed New Prosperity gold and copper mine on the traditional territory of the Tsilhqot’in people in central British Columbia. The review, expected to take place in 2013, will be the first opportunity for Amnesty to make the argument that environmental impact assessments must uphold international human rights standards, including standards set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Towards the end of 2012, the Idle No More movement had unprecedented success in putting Indigenous rights issues in the public spotlight. It also met with a considerable, public backlash. Many of the issues raised by the movement, including the need for effective independent assessment of large-scale resource development projects affecting Indigenous lands and resources, are central to our Branch’s ongoing campaigning in support of Indigenous land rights.

## **DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

Throughout 2012, much of Amnesty's lobbying, media relations and activism on human rights in the Middle East and North Africa was focused on Syria where a worsening human rights crisis had led to the deaths of an estimated 40,000 people by the end of the year. Amnesty International campaigned for the crisis to be referred to the International Criminal Court. Amnesty also campaigned for a comprehensive arms embargo and for the assets of Syrian officials and their family members to be frozen.

On and around February 11, 2012, Amnesty members took action and sent messages of support in solidarity with people confronting brutal repression in the Middle East and North Africa. A focus of the Branch's International Women's Day events in March 2012 was on speaking out for women in Syria and in the Middle East. Members and activists took action on the cases of women in Syria, Iran and Yemen. We used our online Social Media Action Centre to help us send thousands of messages to Syria's First Lady, urging her to speak out for women's rights. Amnesty's researchers on the ground helped raise the profile of human rights concerns in a rapidly-changing environment. Amnesty members responded to a series of Urgent Action appeals issued on behalf of people at grave risk in Syria, resulting in thousands of individual letters being sent by Amnesty members and a number of positive outcomes, including the release of at least 16 detained individuals. Amnesty members in Canada signed an online action calling on Russia to suspend arms transfers and to support having the Syrian situation referred to the International Criminal Court. Although Russia has yet to commit to this, we know that Amnesty's lobbying efforts led to a number of other governments using Amnesty's recommendations in their meetings with Russian officials.

Regarding other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Amnesty issued a large number of Urgent Action appeals on behalf of individuals in Bahrain, Yemen, and elsewhere on a range of human rights issues including freedom of expression, arbitrary detention, torture in custody and impunity.

In April 2012, an Egypt researcher from Amnesty's International Secretariat appeared before Canada's Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Human Rights in the context of the Committee's study of discrimination against the Coptic Christian community in Egypt.

The Branch created two new volunteer coordination positions for Syria and Egypt with a strong focus on working with diaspora communities in Canada.

## **CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN MEXICO AND COLOMBIA**

The Branch made significant advances in 2012 in raising awareness in Canada about the emergency situation for Indigenous Peoples in Colombia. A powerful collection of photographs travelled around Canada. From Shelburne, Nova Scotia, to Belleville, Ontario, and on to Prince George, British Columbia, the photographs inspired support for a campaign to protect Indigenous Peoples in Colombia who are threatened with extermination. Strong, beautiful images of women and men belonging to the Wayúu, Kankuamo and Zenú peoples—three of 35 Indigenous nations whose survival is in jeopardy according to Colombia's Constitutional Court. The court has ordered the Colombian government to protect the Indigenous nations without delay. The images by photographer Juan Pablo Gutiérrez are a joint project of Amnesty International Canada and the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia.



Alex Neve and Kathy Price on a solidarity mission to a large national gathering of Indigenous Peoples outside Bogotá, Colombia, in October 2012.

The subject of each photograph holds a handwritten message to explain what is endangering Indigenous Peoples in Colombia and where hope lies. The photographs were exhibited at more than 30 venues in six provinces and helped generate more than 35,000 signatures on petitions and postcards to both the Colombian and Canadian governments. The photographs have had successful showings in venues as diverse as the Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec, Ottawa's National Convention Centre and small-town church halls.

In October 2012, Amnesty Canada's Alex Neve and Kathy Price undertook a solidarity mission to a large national gathering of Indigenous Peoples outside Bogotá—the congress of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (known as ONIC), a gathering that happens every four years. Community leaders representing scores of diverse Indigenous Peoples travelled from across Colombia for discussions about the threats they face and the strategies needed to protect their survival. Alex and Kathy's presence was greatly appreciated by Amnesty's Indigenous partners in Colombia, creating a strong foundation for future collaboration. Kathy was able to hand over letters and cards from our activists to members of beleaguered Embera Katío communities, expressing solidarity with their struggle to bring to justice the paramilitaries responsible for forcibly disappearing their leader, Kimy Pernía Domicó. Alex and Kathy also shared posters, entitled Faces of Solidarity, bearing the photos of scores of Amnesty Canada members holding up solidarity messages.

All of these symbols of our concern and action for Indigenous rights in Colombia were received with enormous appreciation by Embera Katío women and men and the organizations that work tirelessly to defend their rights. Another moving moment was the opportunity to present a magnificent Kimy Pernía banner, signed by many concerned Canadians, to the new school in an impoverished Bogota neighbourhood that bears Kimy's name. It now hangs in a special place of honour. Alex and Kathy had a substantive meeting with Canada's Ambassador in Colombia and were able to bring back moving testimonies and video clips to inspire new, strengthened activism.

On February 27, 2012, Canadian Amnesty activists and supporters taking part in a Fax Jam Action contributed to the more than 4,400 faxes sent to Colombia's President Santos on behalf of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. The faxes called on President Santos to ensure effective protection for the Peace Community's vulnerable families amidst ongoing threats, attacks and killings.

The Canadian government missed a May 2012 deadline to evaluate the direct impact of the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement despite a human rights impact assessment being required by Canadian law. On June 7, 2012, Alex Neve testified to MPs about the Canadian government's failure to conduct the impact assessment and the dire human rights situation affecting those living in areas of economic interest in Colombia. Before Alex spoke, government officials argued there was insufficient time and data for a comprehensive analysis. Alex challenged this argument and asserted that the government had failed to comply with international norms for taking sufficient care to ensure its trade and investment policy was not contributing to the ongoing human rights crisis in Colombia. In Colombia, human rights abuses are often committed as a means to forcibly remove civilian communities from areas of economic interest. Much of the land targeted for development—typically for turning into plantations, or for mining, or oil and gas drilling—is land that is inhabited by Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

In 2012, Amnesty members took action to protect a number of human rights defenders and their families facing death threats in Colombia. In March, the son of jailed human rights defender David Ravelo Crespo received a death threat signed by a paramilitary organization. In February 2012, threats were made against members of MOVICE, the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes. The threats were delivered from the Black Eagles Capital Bloc paramilitaries one week before a national demonstration organized by MOVICE. The demonstration demanded full land restitution and supported the rights of victims of human rights violations.

In December, schoolchildren in Canada created hundreds of colourful doves and mailed them to President Santos, calling for action to protect Indigenous children from harm, amidst ongoing attacks against Indigenous communities. These messages were deeply appreciated by the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, as it continued to campaign for Indigenous Peoples at risk of extermination during the ongoing armed conflict.

Amnesty International Canada worked with universities in Toronto, Ottawa, Saint John, Fredericton and Waterloo to host the *No More Blood* tour, a visit by four respected Mexican human rights defenders in March 2012. Each human rights defender had a compelling story to tell about courageous efforts to protect rights and dignity in Mexico amidst a terrifying increase in threats and violence. The tour raised the public profile of the human rights crisis in Mexico and included standing room only public events, as well as meetings with MPs and government officials. There was significant media interest with articles in the *Ottawa Citizen*, *Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail*, and *Embassy* magazine. Canadian government and Canadian



Sister Maudilia López Cardona speaking at Amnesty Canada's Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, June 2012. Sister Maudilia is a community activist in Guatemala and she spoke to Amnesty members about the effect of mining on her community.

embassy staff in Mexico responded positively to Amnesty's requests for follow up action: for example, by meeting with the families of disappeared. Canadian MPs expressed their concern about the human rights crisis in Mexico. Just weeks after visiting Canada, one of the human rights defenders—Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, a lawyer with the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre in Guerrero State—received a death threat. And in December another of the human rights defenders—Alberto Xicotencatl, director of a shelter for migrants in the northern city of Saltillo—was threatened because of his work. In both cases, Amnesty members in Canada responded without delay, contacting Mexican authorities to demand protection for the human rights defenders.

## HOLDING CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

A key focus of our Branch's work in 2012 was on mining and human rights in Guatemala. Amnesty International organized a range of activities to pressure Canadian mining corporation Goldcorp to change its policies and practices to improve its human rights performance in Guatemala. Amnesty staff met with senior Goldcorp management to discuss issues at the company's Marlin Mine. One of the main thrusts of the campaign was to call on Goldcorp investors to support a shareholder resolution that was presented at Goldcorp's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in South Porcupine, Ontario. The resolution asked the company to fully fund a long-term closure plan for the Marlin Mine. The communities living near the mines say that the existing closure plan was developed without the full participation of the Mayan communities whose rights are at stake.

The people are worried that when the mine closes in a few years, they will be left with water they can't drink and land they can't farm. To encourage investors to support the resolution and to show Goldcorp's investors that Canadians and human rights defenders around the world think that this issue is important, Amnesty International quickly collected more than 5,000 signatures in support of the resolution. Public events and meetings were organized in Toronto and in Timmins. The Goldcorp shareholder resolution was not adopted, but the company publicly committed to implementing the main 'asks' of the resolution. It was seen as a major step forward that Goldcorp committed to increase its surety bond for Marlin from US\$1 million to US\$27.6 million during its AGM (surety bonds cover the cost of clean-up of exhausted mine sites, as well as monitoring for problems). Significant environmental damage and human rights violations can occur in the post-closure period and experts suggest monitoring for a period of decades. The company agreed to consult with affected Indigenous Peoples, although this did not appear to happen in 2012.

Amnesty Canada campaigner Tara Scurr took part in a second Amnesty research mission to Guatemala in May 2012 (following a mission in November 2011) to investigate the human rights impact of Canadian-owned mines. Amnesty's findings about the Escobal Mine, owned by Vancouver-based Tahoe Resources, and the Marlin Mine, owned by Vancouver-based Goldcorp, will be documented in Amnesty reports to be released in 2013. The reports will outline Amnesty's concerns regarding the criminalization of activists, community conflict, environmental impacts, and inadequate consultation with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities as required under international human rights law.

Our Branch co-sponsored visits to Canada by two Guatemalan human rights defenders—Oscar Morales and Sister Maudilia López Cardona—who attended Amnesty's AGM in Vancouver in June 2012. Oscar Morales is a community leader in San Rafael las Flores in eastern Guatemala who has campaigned for a municipal consultation on Tahoe Resources' Escobal mining project. Sister Maudilia López Cardona lives near Goldcorp's Marlin Mine in San Miguel Ixtahuacán in western Guatemala.

Over the summer and into the fall, public mobilization was focused on the case of Yolanda Oqueli, a mining activist who was shot in June as a result of her work as a human rights defender. Amnesty issued an action on her behalf, collecting more than 9,000 online signatures. In late September, the Guatemalan state adopted precautionary measures and provided Yolanda with state protection for six months. Throughout the fall, Amnesty members sent Yolanda hundreds of greeting cards expressing solidarity and support. One of our Branch's *Write for Rights 2012* cases featured Yolanda's story.

In March, Amnesty filed for intervener status in the HudBay legal case. The case involves the killing in Guatemala of Maya-Q'eqchi community leader Adolfo Ich Chaman, the shooting of German Chub Chuoc, and the gang-rapes of 11 women in the community allegedly committed by security guards contracted by HudBay's subsidiaries, CGN and HMI Nickel. HudBay is a Canadian mining company based in Toronto. The mine is located in the eastern Guatemalan department of El Estor. HudBay argues that it does not owe a duty of care to the community where it operates and is not responsible for the actions of its subsidiaries. Amnesty will provide expertise on international human rights law relevant to this case.

In 2012, Amnesty members continued to campaign to protect the human rights of 31 million people living in the Niger Delta whose water, food, health and the right to work are threatened by oil pollution. Although the oil industry in Nigeria has generated about \$600 billion since the 1960s, most people in the Niger Delta continue to live in extreme poverty. An oil spill in 2008 dumped an estimated 4,000 barrels of oil per day for over three months, destroying the water supply and the earth used for farming. In April, Amnesty members took part in a global week of action and called on Shell Oil to address the devastating impact of its Niger Delta operations on people's lives and the environment. The campaign called on Shell to clean up the Niger Delta and compensate the people who have lost their livelihoods.

## CAMPAIGNING ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The names of many Canadian members of Amnesty International were among the 164,058 signatures delivered to the White House in January 2012 calling for an end to the Guantánamo Bay detention centre. The petition called for detainees in Guantánamo to be either charged and prosecuted in fair trials or released to countries that will respect their human rights. Across Canada, Amnesty members participated in events to mark the tenth anniversary of Guantánamo Bay.



January 11, 2012, marked the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Guantánamo Bay detention centre. Amnesty members in Toronto joined a global day of action calling for Guantánamo's closure.



On June 27, 2012, Amnesty members, volunteers and staff in Ottawa spoke out for an Arms Trade Treaty that safeguards human rights.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR AN ARMS TRADE TREATY

Amnesty International has been campaigning since the 1990s for a global treaty shaped around a very simple idea: if there is a substantial risk that arms exported to another country will contribute to serious human rights abuses, those arms supplies must be stopped. In 2012, it seemed that an international Arms Trade Treaty was finally within reach with negotiations set for July 2012 at the United Nations. On March 23, in the run up to the UN negotiations, Amnesty launched *100 Days of Action*. The campaign focused on gathering thousands of signatures for the global appeal “No Arms for Atrocities” demanding that all governments stand up for a treaty with strong human rights protection rules. One component of the petition was innovative “banana” postcards that highlighted the absurdity that there are more restrictions on the trade in bananas than the trade in conventional arms. Members organized public events and dressed in banana costumes. Our Branch collaborated with other organizations in Canada such as Oxfam, Project Ploughshares and Red Cross to get more signatures from Canadians. Thousands of Canadian names were among the more than 600,000 signatures presented by Amnesty to the UN at the start of the July negotiations. Our Branch also called on the Canadian government to play a positive role in the UN negotiations and support an effective Arms Trade Treaty. Members wrote personal letters to Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs calling on the government of Canada to do all it could to promote and support an adequately funded, comprehensive and robust Arms Trade Treaty. On July 27, the final day of four weeks of challenging negotiations, states were on the verge of agreeing to a landmark Arms Trade Treaty. A strong draft text that applied human rights criteria to arms transfers was under discussion. But at the last minute, the US, China and Russia asked for a delay. While disappointing, it did not mean the end of the treaty. More than 90 countries, including Canada, had stated their commitment to moving ahead. We remain optimistic a treaty will result from a follow up Arms Trade Treaty negotiation conference in March 2013.

## REPRESENTATIONAL WORK

Throughout 2012, the Branch was involved in a wide range of initiatives and activities with respect to a number of UN human rights processes and experts. In February 2012, Alex Neve appeared before the Senate Human Rights Committee and provided testimony assessing Canada's Universal Periodic Review (a UN process within the UN Human Rights Council, under which the human rights record of every UN state is reviewed). Canada was first reviewed in 2009 and will be reviewed again in 2013. In early March, the Branch made a submission to the Canadian government outlining key issues that should be covered in Canada's next report. Then, in October, Amnesty International provided its formal submission for the periodic review to the United Nations. Amnesty Canada's Craig Benjamin attended hearings by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination during its review of Canada's record in February. Many of the Branch's concerns, particularly in the area of Indigenous rights, were reflected in the Committee's final Concluding Observations. In April 2012, the Branch, working with the International Secretariat, submitted a brief to the UN Committee against Torture, in advance of its review of Canada in May. Alex Neve and Branch articling law student Raha Bahreini attended that review. All of Amnesty's concerns were reflected in the Committee's report. Amnesty has since met with Canadian government officials urging that an action plan be developed for implementing the Committee's recommendations, which cover a range of human rights issues that Amnesty has been working on for many years. In September 2012, Amnesty Canada provided a submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child when it reviewed Canada's record. Our submission focused on the rights of First Nations children and the case of Omar Khadr. Several Branch staff were involved in events related to the visit to Canada by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in mid-May. Alex Neve testified before the House of Commons Sub-Committee on International Human Rights with respect to the situation in Eritrea.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER SPECIFIC COUNTRY WORK

**CHINA:** The Branch was active in advance of the visit to China in February 2012 by Canada's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Working with coalition partners we prepared an open letter to the Prime Minister, took part in a national press conference and other media interviews, and met with an official in the Minister's office to provide a briefing on key concerns. And in further work with coalition partners, Amnesty made a submission to the Canadian government regarding the proposed takeover of Calgary-based Nexen by China's state-owned CNOOC. The submission urged that human rights considerations should be central to the Canadian government's decision-making process.

**MYANMAR:** In June 2012, Amnesty's Ottawa office hosted an NGO roundtable with a visiting Rohingya leader, Nezamu Hasan. The Rohingya are native to Rakhine State along Myanmar's north-western coast. Distinct by their Muslim faith, they have suffered persistent prejudices, exclusion, discrimination, and repression in Myanmar. In June, there was an outbreak of communal violence between Buddhist and Muslim communities in Rakhine. The Myanmar government declared a state of emergency and security forces conducted massive sweeps in areas that are heavily populated by Rohingyas. Hundreds of mostly men and boys were detained and some subjected to ill-treatment.

**SRI LANKA:** There was considerable work on Sri Lanka in 2012 related to an effort launched by the US government, supported by Amnesty International, to bring a resolution about justice and accountability in the country before the UN Human Rights Council in March 2012. The Branch met and discussed the resolution on a number of occasions with Canadian officials, who went on to support the resolution. The resolution later passed at the Council session.

### 3. DEFENDING UNPROTECTED PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

“Globally and within Canada, Amnesty International has long worked to protect the rights of refugees. In recent years, Amnesty’s global human rights program has increasingly taken up concerns about other displaced people who are particularly vulnerable to serious human rights violations, including internally displaced persons, migrant workers and victims of trafficking, particularly women and children. We will continue to work on refugee protection and, in keeping with available resources, develop strategies to implement the broader international directions such as ending abuse of migrant workers.”

— *Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16*

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012 DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

In February 2012, the Canadian government introduced new refugee legislation—an omnibus Bill C-31, *Protecting Canada’s Immigration System Act*, which brought changes to the *Balanced Refugee Reform Act* that had passed in June 2010. Amnesty International was part of a coalition of organizations—the Justice for Refugees and Immigrants Coalition—that united to try to stop Bill C-31. The Bill violated Canada’s international human rights obligations, treated refugees unfairly and directly went against Canada’s tradition as a country of safety and refuge. On March 26, the coalition held a press conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Outside, Amnesty supporters joined other activists on the Hill to demonstrate against the Bill. Members sent letters of protest to their MPs. More than two thousand people signed an online petition opposing the Bill. Amnesty International Canada appeared before the Parliamentary Committee reviewing this legislation at the beginning of May. Two days later, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration announced some changes to Bill C-31, but Amnesty believed the Bill continued to violate central principles of international refugee law. Despite our tireless campaigning, Bill C-31 received its Royal Assent on June 28, 2012. The new law authorizes long-term detention with inadequate review for certain groups of refugees, discriminates against refugees according to their country of origin or mode of arrival in Canada, separates families of convention refugees for more than five years; creates an unfair refugee claim process that could result in Canada sending people back to a risk of torture, persecution or even death; and has the potential to strip away permanent resident status and deport people with refugee status whom the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration believes are no longer in need of protection. Amnesty International is reviewing its work with refugees in order to understand how we can provide meaningful assistance to refugees under the new Act.



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Amnesty Canada's Alex Neve conducting an interview in Yida refugee camp, South Sudan. In April 2012, Alex was a part of an Amnesty team investigating the human rights crisis in Sudan and South Sudan. The Sudanese government's warplanes had bombed the country's southern states, causing more than 200,000 people to flee across the border into South Sudan. See page 46 for a report on the mission.

The government brought forward further immigration reforms later in 2012 with Bill C-43, a Bill that restricts deportation appeal rights for people who have been criminally convicted, including on minor charges. Amnesty Canada's Secretary General Alex Neve and Branch articling student Anna Shea appeared before the House of Commons Committee examining the Bill to convey Amnesty's concerns.

Our Branch's campaigner for refugee and migrants rights worked on approximately 105 cases in 2012 and intervened in 40 cases (including refugee claimants from Mexico, Eritrea, Iran, Sri Lanka, Somalia, and the Czech Republic). Our Branch also worked on the case of Kimberly Rivera, a US war resister who was removed to the United States. We are aware of positive outcomes in five cases we worked on, including one from Colombia which we started work on in 2009. In this case one member of the family had been kidnapped, raped and had a child as a result. Another female was kidnapped and had a finger cut off. They had received two negative decisions before the final victory.

## 4. EMPOWERING PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY

“We will strive to strengthen the ability of people living in poverty to claim and defend their own rights. We will take up the global themes of the [Demand Dignity] campaign, including human rights abuses associated with maternal mortality and slums. We will also campaign on concerns in Canada, including the situations of various Indigenous Peoples’ communities and the issue of corporate accountability. Our campaigning efforts will highlight the harm that violations do to vulnerable groups, including women and Indigenous Peoples.”

— Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012 *DEMAND DIGNITY* CAMPAIGN

The *Demand Dignity* campaign continued to move forward in three primary areas of activity in 2012: maternal health; housing (forced evictions); and economic and social rights—particularly around the Millennium Development Goals. Work on these three areas involved engaging in national (Canadian) and international (UN and civil society) events and debates on how to ensure that the next set of international goals reflect the international human rights framework. Other activities included producing a toolkit for members on maternal health and sexual and reproductive rights, which is now used by members in several Amnesty Sections. Actions on *Demand Dignity* campaign issues continued to be posted and promoted, including through the work of the Health Network and the Lifesaver youth actions.

### PREVENTING FORCED EVICTIONS

On March 2, 2012, Amnesty Canada pressed the Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia to stop a forcible eviction of 33 Roma families in Belgrade. Canadians added their names to an Amnesty International global petition. Although six families had been offered places at a centre for internally displaced persons, the housing there lacked basic facilities. Any family refusing the offer would have been made homeless. Another 10 families were told to return to Kosovo. The campaign was successful and the evictions did not proceed.

Two years after Romanian authorities in the city of Cluj-Napoca evicted 350 predominantly Roma residents by force, the 76 families were still living on the city outskirts. On one side lies the city’s garbage dump; on the other side is a former chemical waste site. The housing lacks hot water and gas. In one house, parents live with their eleven children in one room. The nearest bus stop is 2.5 km away, making it difficult to access education, employment, healthcare and markets. Amnesty supporters taking part in *Write for Rights 2012* sent nearly 2,000 solidarity cards to the community and sent appeals to the mayor asking him to provide utilities, basic services and a long-term housing plan. The mayor outlined plans



Claudia (left) was one 350 predominantly Roma residents evicted by the authorities in the city of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The families were moved to the city outskirts near a garbage dump and a former chemical waste site. Amnesty supporters taking part in *Write for Rights 2012* sent thousands of solidarity cards to the community.

to help residents find jobs and he spoke of the need for improved social housing for Roma people. Claudia, a representative from the community, responded warmly to the messages of solidarity from Amnesty members: “We are really touched to know that people from all over the world are thinking about us and have written to us. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.”

## WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

In March 2012, a major breakthrough was achieved by the people of the Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) in northwestern Ontario who won an important victory in their long struggle to protect their right to live on the land. Until an ongoing court case was finally resolved, the Ontario government agreed that it would, for a large part of their traditional territory, only license logging if the community gave its consent. It is rare for a government in Canada to agree to uphold Indigenous land rights while a case is still before the courts. The legal action had been initiated by three trappers over the impact of logging on their Treaty-protected rights. Amnesty International has long campaigned for the province to respect the right of free, prior and informed consent, arguing that the people of Grassy Narrows, who have already suffered massive disruption and loss from pollution of their river system, as well as other harmful effects of government policy, deserve the highest standard of protection.

Fifty years after a pulp mill dumped mercury into the river system they depend on, the people of the Grassy Narrows First Nation are still suffering from the health impact—and still struggling for justice. People in Grassy Narrows have been found to have dangerously high levels of mercury in their bodies. Collaboration between Amnesty International and partner groups around a community-led campaigning initiative significantly raised the profile of land rights concerns at Grassy Narrows. In a public statement on June 5, 2012, 20 human rights, environmental, social justice and faith groups, including Amnesty International, joined



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The Wabigoon River, northwestern Ontario. The Grassy Narrows First Nation relied on these waters for fishing, but in the 1960s a paper mill polluted the river with mercury. In 2012, 20 organizations, including Amnesty International, joined with the people of Grassy Narrows in calling for government action to protect the health of the community.

with the people of Grassy Narrows in calling for immediate action to protect the health and well-being of the community. The letter coincided with a week of action in the provincial capital organized by Grassy Narrows youth and other activists. The following day, the Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (and future premier) Kathleen Wynne said “No one should have to eat tainted fish”. The Minister had come to talk to members of the Grassy Narrows First Nation as they fried fish on the lawn of the provincial legislature. The fish had been caught in the waters of the Grassy Narrows traditional territory.

The Federal Court ruled In April 2012 that the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal must examine evidence of discrimination in the funding of First Nations children’s services. In doing so, the Court firmly rejected the federal government’s arguments that the issue was effectively outside the scope of the Canadian Human Rights Act. The case was brought by Cindy Blackstock and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. Amnesty had supported the case through years of letter-writing and as an intervener in the case. Amnesty was represented on a pro bono basis by Justin Safayeni, a lawyer with the Toronto firm Stockwoods. The Federal Court decision also affirmed the obligation to ensure that interpretation of Canadian laws conforms with Canada’s obligations under international human rights instruments, expressly endorsing Amnesty’s submissions.

In June 2012, federal Environment Minister Peter Kent made a welcome commitment to recognizing the right to safe drinking water and to basic sanitation. For many years successive Canadian governments had refused to acknowledge the existence of the rights to water and sanitation under international law. Canada’s change in position, while long overdue, was an important step forward. In a public statement on June 12, Amnesty International urged the federal government to demonstrate its commitment to the rights to water and sanitation by giving urgent priority to closing the resource gap for water and sanitation in First Nations communities.

## 5. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

“We will make a determined effort to ensure that we are working with individuals and communities whose rights are imperiled, in ways that ensure their voices will be heard and respected. Our efforts will be directed first and foremost to helping them claim their rights. Working alongside our many partners and within the various networks and coalitions in which we are active, we will demonstrate leadership and solidarity in efforts to strengthen the human rights movement in Canada, both with respect to domestic human rights concerns and concerns abroad... We will make a determined effort to mainstream a commitment to women’s human rights throughout all aspects of our work, including the issues we take up, the way we take action, and how we govern ourselves.”

— *Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16*

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012

As an organization we have agreed to take a two-track approach to gender mainstreaming, bringing a gender analysis and women’s human rights perspective to our work while continuing to support a strong program of work focused on the human rights of women. We maintain a strong Women’s Human Rights Action Network that focuses on the rights of women.

We have continued attention to work for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee and Amnesty staff worked together to integrate gender in our Branch’s campaigning in support of women’s rights in the Middle East and North Africa. Webinars and online materials were developed on women’s rights in these areas.

All campaign team members integrated and cross-promoted their work and women’s human rights work in Women’s Human Rights communications (including the amnesty.ca blog, Voice newsletter, and Activism Guide).

Branch personnel assisted with gender analysis training at the International Secretariat and with our Branch’s Executive Committee. The Branch contributed to international materials for the development of action plans on gender mainstreaming and diversity among Sections and Structures across the movement.

The Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee and the Branch’s Diversity Taskforce met to coordinate their efforts. At their joint meeting, participants reviewed the Branch’s Diversity materials.

Diversity considerations have become a standard part of meeting planning at national and regional levels. A comprehensive “enhancing diversity checklist” was created for organizers of membership meetings. The committee planning the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Vancouver was mindful of diversity and gender sensitivity throughout the AGM. Special care was given to ensure that non-Amnesty participants and guests felt welcomed and included. The Branch’s Nominations Committee (a subcommittee of the Executive Committee) rewrote the nominations forms for Executive Committee and International Council Meeting members with the goal of increasing diversity amongst our leadership.

## 6. MEMBERSHIP ACTIVISM

“[Our Branch] will work towards building a larger, stronger, more connected Amnesty, not just in Canada but also playing our role in supporting human rights activists in the Global South and East. We will ensure a clear focus for the activism of our members. We will support members working on the full range of human rights work in ways that are both fulfilling and effective. We will ensure that members have the information and opportunity to become involved in any part of the organization, from local letter-writing action to regional discussions to decisions about the directions and future of Amnesty Canada. We will continue to build and evolve our youth program.”

— Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012 ACTIVISM HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS CANADA

In 2012, Amnesty activists in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia reached larger, more diverse audiences through the work of urban and rural action circles and youth groups, through partnerships with allies, and with the support of area fieldworkers. Amnesty members helped organize fundraising concerts, a social media fundraiser, film events, photography and painting exhibits, events to mark the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, the 3rd Annual Mi'kmaw Grandmothers Sacred Water Walk, the Women of Courage tour, Halifax Pride Parade, the UNDRIP anniversary, Colombian photography exhibit and Sisters in Spirit vigils. Increased visibility and recruitment possibilities were achieved through relationships with area media and partnerships with organizations including KAIROS, Halifax Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre, the Rainbow Action Network and Oxfam. The eighth Annual Maritimes Regional Meeting was held in November with a focus on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, corporate accountability, legal rights as activists, and gender mainstreaming. In the second half of the year, a great deal of preparatory work was done to open a new Amnesty office in Halifax and establish Amnesty Canada's first “activism regional hub”.

2012 was a busy year for Amnesty members in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Activists participated in a “Close Guantánamo” event in January, International Women's Day rallies in March, and the “We are all Shareholders” event in April focused on corporate accountability. On March 21, 2012, about 40 people came together at the Amnesty International Toronto office to celebrate free speech and the writings of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo who is in jail in China for speaking out for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. On March 29, Amnesty International's Iran Action Circle in Toronto welcomed more than 80 guests to its third annual Iranian New Year (Nowruz) celebration. Seven Iranian human rights cases were highlighted and guests wrote action letters and solidarity cards, and signed petitions. Through the summer, members in the GTA were tabling at Afrofest, an International World



Protestors gathered outside the Russian Embassy in Ottawa, Ontario, on August 17, 2012, and called for the Russian authorities to release the members of the punk rock band Pussy Riot jailed for performing in a Moscow cathedral.

Youth Day event, and summer concerts. A “Letters for Change” initiative was successfully launched in the GTA in October. “Letters for Change” promotes letter-writing action circles at seniors’ retirement homes in the city. Events with speakers, priority campaign actions, and film screenings were held at three retirement homes in Toronto. The 2012 Reel Awareness Film Festival took place at Toronto’s Carlton Cinema from November 15 to 18 with films focused on priority campaigns and countries, generating hundreds of petition signatures and solidarity messages. 80% of the audience were people not previously connected with Amnesty. Amnesty activists in Toronto gathered on November 30, 2012, for the sixth year running for Cities for Life, a global campaign encouraging cities around the world to declare themselves death-penalty free. In 2012, more than 1,400 cities around the world took part. In the fall, photo exhibits on Colombia and Guatemala were organized at two public venues (Beit Zatoun and Lula Lounge). Throughout the year, Amnesty members raised money for human rights—two examples were Bowling for Human Rights in April, and the Toronto Waterfront Marathon in October. In 2012, a Volunteer Recognition Program was established in the GTA—a great way to acknowledge the amazing work of Amnesty volunteers.

In August 2012, BC youth took part in a Summer Human Rights Camp that provided training and workshops. In January 2012, Amnesty members organized three separate film festivals in the Kootenays—in Castlegar, Kaslo and Nelson. The organizers did a fantastic job of promoting their events and getting their communities to come out. A Comedy Night Fundraiser in July 2012 drew a large crowd. The Vancouver office organized two Young Professionals events in 2012 that drew crowds of individuals who expressed a keen interest in Amnesty’s work. Amnesty activists and volunteers staffed information tables at events in the Vancouver area,



Activists from Saskatoon got their yellow on at the annual meeting that was held in Regina on October 13, 2012, for Saskatchewan's Amnesty members.

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and introduced human rights themed films at several non-Amnesty film festivals including the Vancouver International Film Festival and the Latin American Film Festival. Events were held in Vancouver and Victoria on September 13 to mark the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The BC Regional Meeting for Amnesty International was on October 20, 2012, in Richmond, BC (2012 was the 30th anniversary of the founding of Amnesty Group 92 Richmond). In November 2012, Amnesty activists in Vancouver organized and ran the 17th annual Amnesty International Film Festival. In December, one of the highlights of a week of events around International Human Rights Day was a *RightsRock* concert. In 2012, an Iran Action Circle was established in Vancouver.

In June 2012, Canadian musician and long-time Amnesty International supporter David Usher built and launched an *Artists for Amnesty Canada* website. The website connects music fans and musicians who share a belief in justice and freedom. Artists donate music, which is then given away free in exchange for listeners signing up to an Amnesty International mailing list.

When the Russian authorities jailed the members of punk rock band Pussy Riot for performing in a Moscow cathedral, Amnesty members joined others around the world in calling for the musicians' freedom. Members wrote to the Russian authorities calling on them to overturn the court ruling and release the women. On August 17, Amnesty members in Ottawa gathered outside the Russian Embassy in Ottawa to protest.

## WRITE FOR RIGHTS WRITE-A-THON

*Write for Rights 2012* turned out to be the biggest write-a-thon yet. Over 2,000 events were held across Canada on and around December 10 to mark International Human Rights Day and more than 30,000 Canadians participated. They joined activists in more than 80 countries around the world to write letters calling for the protection and promotion of human rights. The global letter-writing counter surpassed a total of 1.5 million letters. And on December 10, Toronto's CN Tower was lit up in Amnesty yellow.

## YOUTH AND STUDENT PROGRAM

"The Human Rights College was an incredible experience that I will take with me into my future endeavours as an advocate for human rights. I will be returning to my campus club with new ideas and approaches, and the knowledge that my fellow participants will be there to help overcome the inevitable obstacles we will face in striving for justice and freedom."—Courtney Klumper, delegate at the Human Rights College (HRC) for Youth, which took place in June 2012 in Vancouver, British Columbia. HRCs bring together youth from across Canada, with different backgrounds, stories, and levels of involvement with Amnesty. In 2012, for the first time, the HRC included significant numbers of Indigenous youth as participants and leaders. Delegates at the 2012 HRC felt the various workshops and activities brought them closer together and allowed them to share their ideas. Amnesty Canada's Youth and Student Program continued to grow in 2012. Youth participated in priority Amnesty campaigns and were a strong presence at regional Amnesty meetings.

Lifesaver actions are letter-writing appeals designed for young activists. In 2012 the topics of Lifesaver actions were closely aligned to campaigning priorities. Campaigners produced Lifesaver actions on displaced people in Libya, forced evictions in Romania, Indigenous issues in Colombia, Iranian prisoner of conscience Nasrin Sotoudeh, mining issues in Guatemala, Mexican human rights defender Norma Andrade and Gambian prisoner of conscience Amadou Scattered Janneh.

The Amnesty group at the University of Manitoba was busy in 2012 organizing high-profile events to promote key Amnesty campaigns. Across Canada, there are over 500 Amnesty youth and student groups.



## COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ACTION CIRCLES

Amnesty Canada currently has 90 active community groups and action circles. In February 2012, a report on the Branch's community groups was released (the report followed a survey conducted the previous fall). The report identified strengths and challenges and measured the capacity of groups to take on additional campaigning activities. The report confirmed that community groups are mostly long-time Amnesty members engaged in letter-writing and working on prisoners of conscience, long-term action files and urgent actions. Action circles, on the other hand, have no set structures, have open membership (many participants are not Amnesty members) and flexible meeting schedules. Many action circles focus on a single theme or issue (for example, women's human rights, human rights in Iran) and/or work specifically with one specific constituency (for example, church congregations, the LGBT community).

## URGENT ACTION NETWORK

"I would like to thank Amnesty and its movement for the help and support provided while I was detained. It's the second time Amnesty assisted me in a moment I really needed it. If you didn't campaign for me, I would be still in detention or probably dead." These were the words of Congolese opposition party leader Eugene Diomi Ndongala after his release from prison in the Democratic Republic of Congo on October 11, 2012. He had been held for 100 days in isolation and had been the subject of an Urgent Action. Amnesty Canada's Urgent Action Network distributed 349 appeals in 2012 and about as many updates. By year's end, the number of writers joining the Network had increased to six or seven each week. Many Urgent Actions prompted members to take action on Amnesty's priority issues including Colombia, Mexico, the Middle East and North Africa, Indigenous Peoples, corporate accountability, and the Demand Dignity campaign.

## COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Throughout 2012, Amnesty International members used a variety of ways to raise money and public awareness for Amnesty's human rights work. On April 28, studios, schools, workplaces, and community centres across Canada rolled out yoga mats with one common goal of raising money and awareness for Amnesty International's work on women's human rights. In 2012, members also hosted *Taste for Justice* dinners and took part in sponsored road races. Fieldworker Tracy Oakley in Lakeside, Nova Scotia, came up with a great way to turn a personal goal into support for Amnesty's human rights work—by losing weight at a healthy pace with Weight Watchers and collecting pledges from friends to benefit Amnesty. Tracy set \$200 as her initial goal, but had to double it because of the enthusiastic support she received from family and friends.

## STRENGTHENING ACTIVISM

2012 saw a number of significant achievements in our work to support and grow activism. An Activism Implementation Group met seven times, including a face-to-face meeting in October in Ottawa. This group is developing activism programming for our Branch with a focus on the recruitment and retention of new supporters, combining digital and face-to-face engagement and developing an overall approach to leadership development. The group is made up of five members and three staff. Throughout 2012, a series of webinars provided training and education opportunities for members. In fall 2012, regional meetings were organized by members in British Columbia/Yukon, Saskatchewan, Eastern Ontario and Quebec, and the Maritimes. A great deal of work was done in preparation for establishing a community hub in the Maritimes including organizing a Maritimes Hub meeting in Halifax on November 3.

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Fieldworkers contributed hundreds of hours of work towards building community activism across the country, connecting community groups, youth groups, and individual activists with Amnesty campaigns. Fieldworkers facilitated human rights workshops, organized events and connected with the media as well as participated in committees at the national level. In April 2012, seven new fieldworkers received initial training, and under the guidance of their fieldworker mentors became fully engaged in supporting Amnesty activism in Lethbridge, Toronto, Regina, Halifax, Leamington/Windsor, and the Niagara Region. In 2012, fieldworkers helped organize a human rights film festival (Regina), were key organizers for regional meetings (Montreal, BC/Yukon, and Maritimes), and were involved in organizing a Community Hub Meeting (Halifax). The Fieldworker program provides an excellent model of a volunteer-owned, well-run and self-managed program. In 2012, fieldworkers in Canada were called on by Amnesty Australia to provide advice to the Australian Fieldworker Program.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Branch's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held over a weekend in June at the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The three-day event brought together people who had known each other for a long time and others meeting for the first time. People shared stories of the human rights victories and challenges faced over the previous 12 months. The official business of the AGM took the form of speeches, voting, and decision-making. The Saturday was given over to the Branch's first ever human rights conference. AGM delegates were joined by local activists, Amnesty friends and colleagues from other organizations for a series of workshops and presentations on the Middle East and North Africa, women's human rights, refugee protection, the arms trade and human rights, gender mainstreaming, and the global scramble for resources and its impact on human rights. As part of the closing ceremonies, a fascinating panel discussion brought together six members who had each joined the movement in a different decade. The six discussed how they joined Amnesty and why they joined. The AGM's keynote speaker was child welfare activist Cindy Blackstock. Her powerful and riveting speech about her work advocating for First Nations children captivated the attention of everyone in the hall. Also at the AGM were two inspiring community activists from Guatemala: Oscar Morales and Sister Maudilia López Cardona.



Margaret John (left) and Jennifer Wade at Amnesty's 2012 Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. They were part of a panel discussion that brought together six Amnesty members who had each joined the movement in a different decade.

## 7. FUNDRAISING

“We will focus on maximizing income from existing donors and through strengthening our core areas—monthly giving, major gifts and planned giving. [We will] strengthen donor recovery and donor retention work, continue to develop digital fundraising techniques, [and] better integrate fundraising and campaign planning.”

— *Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16*

The Branch raised more money for human rights in 2012 than it had in any other year. We came close to breaking \$11.6 million in income, which is 3.5% growth over 2011 and 10% over 2010 (we have increased revenue by \$1.1 million since 2010). So we are continuing to grow revenue, albeit at a slower rate than we had expected.

In fundraising terms, 2012 was a year of notable successes and difficult challenges. The first half of the year was extremely successful in most fundraising programs and we were on track to surpass our ambitious growth target of \$12 million for the year. However, in the second half of the year, several programs then had to contend with a variety of challenges. After enormous effort in the fall to reverse some of the worrying trends, we had a strong December, but still fell short of our overall income target for the year, despite achieving growth over 2011's results.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012:

- Our monthly giving program grew by \$361,035 over 2011 results (just under 5% growth). As good as this growth was, we had expected an even stronger performance from our monthly giving program. Now that face-to-face fundraising is our only significant source of new monthly donors, it is proving much more difficult to grow this income. Attrition of new monthly donors is high—a difficult challenge that most large charities in Canada and around the world are also facing.
- Following our test in the previous year, we continued to use two vendors for our face-to-face work, Public Outreach and Fundraising Initiatives, and will do so again in 2013. This approach not only balances our risk (in many countries face-to-face vendors can be very volatile and we don't want to put all our recruitment eggs into what might become a risky basket) but helps us get greater geographic coverage and diversity of donors.
- We continued to recruit new monthly donors through two-stage acquisition (inviting online petition-signers to become monthly donors). Results were good, but the volume was small. We are keen to expand this fundraising area but will need to inspire higher numbers of people to sign petitions in order to do this.
- Our upgrade calling campaign in the fall went well. Thousands of our generous monthly donors increased their giving amounts and we added more than \$12,000 per month in increased donations. Our monthly donor recovery work focuses on bringing back donors lost because of invalid credit card or chequing information. This work produced good results throughout 2012 and in a typical month recouped \$4,000 in lost donations.



Amnesty International fundraisers from around the world met to share fundraising ideas, innovations and insights at a “skillshare” meeting in May 2012.

- The Direct Mail program posted 11% growth in 2012 compared to 2011, the strong performance driven in part by greater investment in acquisition mailings. Direct Mail had a strong year-end—December brought in 30% of 2012’s income for the program.
- Planned Giving has surpassed \$1.1M in revenue in each of the last two years and had its best year ever in 2012. Halfway through the year, we revised the 2012 goal up to \$1.2 million and although we did not quite reach this ambitious target due to one large bequest which was delayed, the program performed well above our average of the past several years.
- Retaining and growing income in the Major Gifts program is a critical challenge. As the year progressed, it became clear that several significant donors would be unable to donate in 2012. In the last few months of 2012, we put enormous efforts into bringing in gifts from current donors. We created a roster of specialized proposals and used these extensively. In the end, we raised just over \$810,000, which was lower than 2011’s revenue, but better than anticipated.
- Digital fundraising had a strong fourth quarter but this did not make up for the revenue decline in 2012 compared to 2011. Income directly attributed to the program declined to \$217,000 from \$243,000 in the previous year. Marketing and fundraising efforts were negatively affected in mid-2012 by the necessary rebuilding of our website. With help from Amnesty USA, we were able to launch a more marketing-friendly website and email platform before year-end. With these new systems in place, we expect to see a return to growth in the program in 2013.
- Assisted by an excellent, dedicated team of volunteers, Member Services kept on top of month-to-month demands throughout the year, responding to more than 10,000 emails, phone messages, and letters from members and the general public.

The Branch has a healthily diversified fundraising program overall, with a wide range of channels and ways for donors to give, and in 2012 we raised more income than we ever had before. Our greatest challenge remains that of sustainable growth, but we are striving to build on our strong foundation of generous and committed human rights supporters.

## 8. WORKING GLOBALLY

“We will increase Amnesty Canada’s contribution to the international movement, support continued growth and development of Amnesty Mexico, sustain strong collaborative work with the francophone Branch, [and] develop ways for members to participate in the increasingly global Amnesty.”

— *Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16*

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012

Branch president Sarah Beamish participated in Chairperson Assemblies. She and Executive Director Bob Goodfellow attended the Americas regional meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October 2012 which began the development of a plan for the growth of Amnesty in the Americas region.

Secretary General Alex Neve was part of Amnesty research missions to South Sudan and Côte d’Ivoire along with follow-up work in Washington and New York (see separate entries in this Annual Report on those missions). Tara Scurr, Campaigner for Business and Human Rights, took part in an Amnesty research mission to Guatemala in May 2012 to investigate the human rights impact of Canadian-owned mines.

Craig Benjamin, our Branch’s Campaigner for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and one of our movement’s most senior and expert campaigners in this area, participated in a policy meeting at the International Secretariat to advance movement policies and strategies on Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Alexandra Lopoukhine, Director of Communications and Marketing, and Shauna Maclean, who coordinates social media activism for the Branch, attended a Digital Skillshare hosted by the International Secretariat in July 2012 that helped to build understanding of digital work across the movement

Our Branch participated in the international Fundraising Management Team and Campaigns Management Team. Our Fundraising Director Rosemary Oliver began a half-time two-year secondment to the international movement focused on assisting Amnesty USA to build their monthly-giving program.

The Branch worked regularly with the francophone Branch in Canada, and where needed the Branch supported the participation of their Directrice générale in global work. We also made an additional voluntary financial contribution to the International budget.

In December, the Branch communicated with leadership of the movement on a range of issues related to the process for transitioning into the new global organizational model. We hosted visits of international guests, including Thomas Schultz-Jagow who is Senior Director of Communications and Campaigns at the International Secretariat, to discuss the global campaigns agenda for 2014.

## 9. COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING/INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

“We will maintain our high media profile, strive toward better integration of communications, fundraising and campaigning,...[and] increase our use of social media tools and vehicles. We will contribute to a more globalized and strategic approach to media across the Amnesty International movement.”

— *Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16*

### WEBSITE AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

2012 was a year of renewal and innovation for Amnesty International Canada’s website and digital communications, and we have built a strong foundation for improved communications and management of supporter journeys in 2013.

In the spring of 2012, we began a website redesign project with the goals of increasing the number of Amnesty members, boosting public participation in actions and other campaigning and activism work, and better conveying the work of Amnesty International.

The first step of the project was a full digital communications review in order to understand Amnesty Canada’s digital communications needs, assess digital communications tools, and look at the larger context of how everything fitted into Amnesty’s activism and fundraising work.

It was judged that the most effective and quickest solution to strengthening our website and digital communications was to take the website newly developed by Amnesty USA and then to adapt it for our Branch’s needs. Using Amnesty USA’s site brought significant cost and time benefits to our website project. We also introduced a new e-advocacy platform.

In November, we launched the new amnesty.ca website together with a new email system. This was the first of three phases to the roll-out plan. The second phase was the introduction of a more robust and streamlined blog. The third phase, which will focus on the modification of content and improve the members section of the site, will roll out through 2013.

Sign-ups to e-communication channels dramatically improved with the new site. Our Branch acquisition list, *Speak Out*, grew to a total of 34,000 subscribers, and 73,311 signatures were added to online actions in 2012.

### SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

Throughout 2012, we communicated through our growing social media channels, where we saw a doubling of followers—on Facebook to 11,500 and on Twitter to 5,500.



A team from Ten Four Publicity, a Toronto public relations firm, generously put their energy, time and resources into organizing an event for Amnesty on December 10, 2012. The event brought together Canadian artists for Amnesty under one roof, created a media moment, and celebrated International Human Rights Day. Hosted by the CBC's Deana Sumanac, the evening featured live music by Jeremy Fisher, Snowblink and Todd Clark.

## MEDIA RELATIONS

There continued to be high media interest in Amnesty International materials produced on the ongoing human rights issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Amnesty was called on to comment on the Syrian crisis with good media pick up for a number of news releases and reports. With the China Coalition, Amnesty voiced concerns about the takeover of Nexxen by China's CNOOC. In the final months of 2012, it proved difficult to obtain print media coverage of human rights concerns because the US Presidential election dominated the news. However, this trend was counter-balanced in part by increased coverage on TV news channels and radio. *Write for Rights* had more regional coverage in 2012 than in previous years, particularly Saskatchewan, and Halifax on Global TV; having the CN Tower in Toronto lit in Amnesty yellow on December 10 was also a high-point of this international event. Amnesty's concerns about the designated safe countries for refugees received national media coverage in December. We saw an excellent media response to the Human Rights Agenda for Canada at the end of the year. Regional events, such as Cities for Life and Reel Awareness Film Festival got good local coverage which helped increase the numbers of people attending the events.

## 10. EVALUATION AND IMPACT

“[Our 2010-16 Branch] Plan will develop our work on impact assessment in three areas: development of a scorecard on member activism to be presented at each Executive Committee (EC) meeting as a basis for the on-going analysis of our work on this area; the tracking of five to seven key indicators and reporting on them to the AGM and the winter EC meeting; doing periodic assessments of different parts of the plan that will focus as much as possible on impact assessment.”

— *Amnesty International Canada (ES) Branch Plan 2010-16*

Determining the impact of our work is a challenge. We can say with some certainty, for example, that our Urgent Actions often bring about immediate positive change; that we have influenced the Guatemalan government to protect a prominent human rights defender; that we have seen qualified recognition of the right to water which strengthens the argument for First Nations water rights; that developing strong relationship of trust with leaders of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia is leading to increased pressure on the Canadian and Colombian governments.

The need to know more about the impact of our work begins with good planning and involves creating feedback loops, assessing results and taking learning into account going forward with strategies and tactics.

The Branch developed an operational plan and budget for 2012 within the framework of the Branch plan and global priorities. Once in place, management reported on implementation, regularly using a scorecard that included human rights change, revitalizing membership, integration and working globally.

To become more evidence-based, we took steps to improve our information base by developing a plan to make data more accessible and usable, along with bringing the sources of our data together. Thanks to wonderful collaboration and support from Amnesty International Australia we began the installation and set up of a tool, developed by Amnesty Australia, for interacting with and enhancing our database systems.

Improvements in data and data systems will allow us to better track the implementation of our activism strategy, along with a large range of our human rights work.

In 2012, the Branch revised the staff performance evaluation, and conducted several in-depth reviews of work and operations, including a review of Information Technology, Digital Communications, and Human Resources. The Digital Communications review ultimately led to the launch of a new website (see Goal 9 for further details).

## **NASER AL-RAAS RETURNS TO CANADA FROM BAHRAIN**

“Naser al-Raas is released from Bahrain”—this was the good news relayed to Amnesty International by his fiancée (now wife) Zainab in February 2012.

Supporters across Canada celebrated after their efforts had made a difference in saving an innocent man.

In March 2011, Canadian citizen Naser al-Raas arrived in Bahrain to visit family members. While in Bahrain, he attended a number of peaceful protests for human rights. He was arrested, and his family and friends did not know his whereabouts for one month. During this time he was held in solitary confinement and he says he was tortured by being beaten with sticks and made to stand for long hours. He was eventually sentenced to five years in prison for “inciting hatred towards the regime”.

Amnesty Canada worked closely with Naser and Zainab, as well as with Canadian government officials and the International Secretariat’s team for the Gulf region, to obtain his release.

More than 5,000 Amnesty International members in Canada wrote letters on his behalf and his case was covered extensively by international and national media. In February 2012, al-Raas was acquitted and he was home in Canada by early spring. Later in the year, he was reunited with his wife Zainab, a Bahraini citizen, who was allowed to come to Canada.

On a visit to Amnesty International’s office in Ottawa, Naser al-Raas shared this message: “I would like to thank Amnesty International and everyone who fought for me without knowing me. I now believe in those who fight for justice. Thank you so much.”

Naser al-Raas, a Canadian detained in Bahrain in March 2011 and acquitted in February 2012 after Amnesty members campaigned for his release, with his wife Zainab.



## RELEASED BURMESE PRISONER VISITS CANADA



Burmese comedian Zarganar visiting Amnesty International's national office in Ottawa on March 1, 2012.

"You saved my life! Thank you!" This was the message that Zarganar, a former prisoner of conscience from Myanmar (Burma), brought to Amnesty International members during his visit to Canada in March 2012.

Zarganar is a popular comedian, actor, film director, and radio personality in Myanmar. He is also a fearless campaigner for freedom, and the authorities in Myanmar have thrown him in prison four times because of his activism.

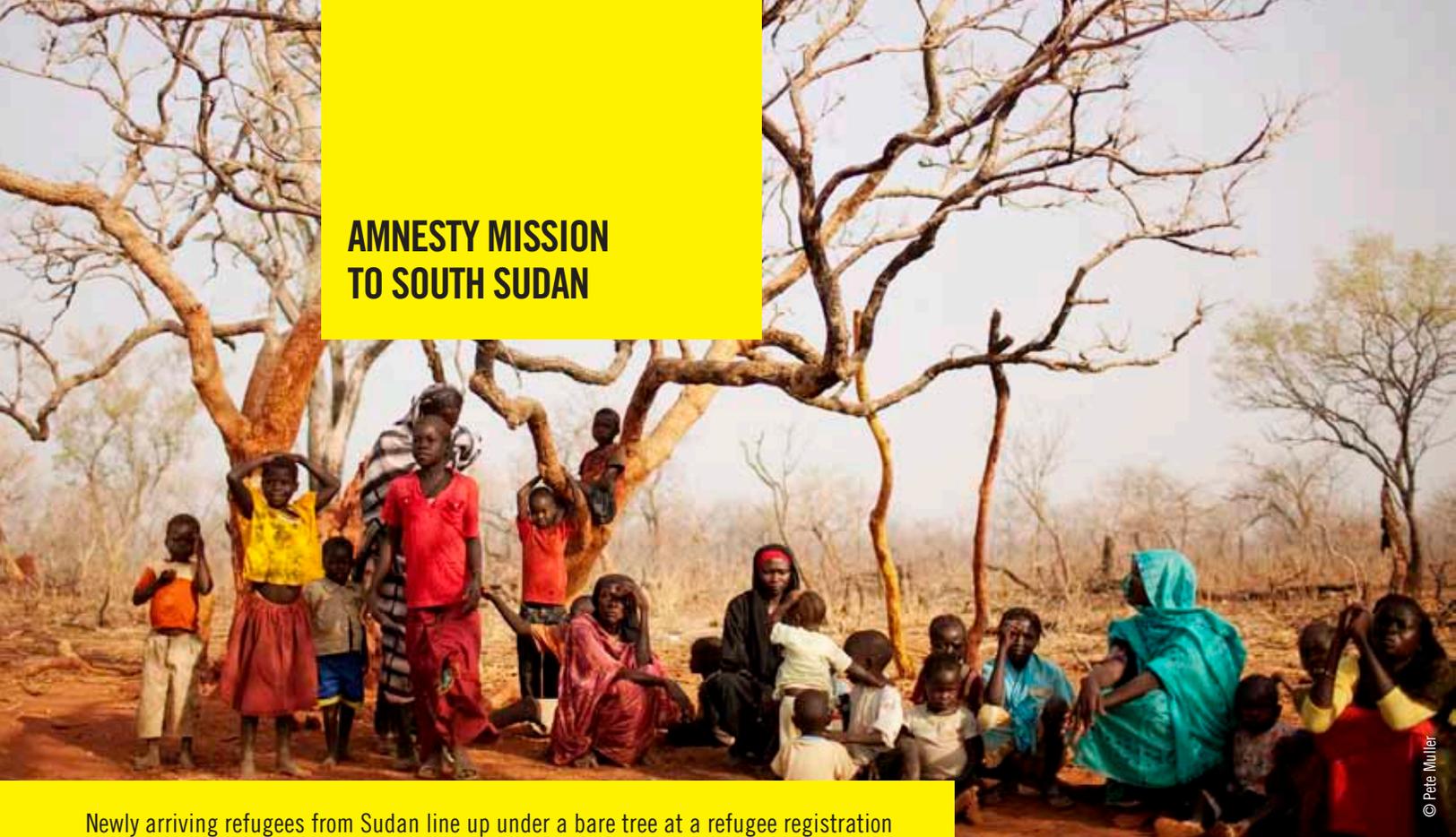
On his first-ever trip abroad, Zarganar made stops in both Ottawa and Toronto. "Thank you for your recognition and encouragement!" he told the Amnesty members, staff and volunteers who had come out to meet him.

Zarganar described the many years that he spent behind bars in Myanmar for his peaceful human rights campaigning. He spent extended periods in solitary confinement and had to sleep without blankets or a mattress. The authorities denied him much-needed treatment for serious medical conditions.

In 2008, he received a 35-year prison sentence for criticizing the government's handling of the humanitarian crisis in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, the massive storm that devastated wide areas of Myanmar. After Amnesty International launched a worldwide appeal on his behalf, he was released in October 2011.

Zarganar spoke of the postcards and messages of support he received in prison from Amnesty members all over the world including from Canada. "When I was in solitary confinement and was not allowed to have visits from my family, the cards raised my spirits."

Zarganar's closing words were a passionate appeal for everyone to continue working for human rights in his country: "Please support the 324 political prisoners who are still in jail in Burma!"



## AMNESTY MISSION TO SOUTH SUDAN

Newly arriving refugees from Sudan line up under a bare tree at a refugee registration centre outside the Yida refugee camp, South Sudan, April 2012.

In April 2012, Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, travelled to the northern reaches of South Sudan, to an isolated refugee camp near the frontier with Sudan, to investigate a devastating human rights crisis.

When South Sudan was born in July 2011, its newfound peace with Sudan was fragile at best. In a land ruled for decades by military governments from the north and armed groups in the south, enormous challenges lay ahead to protect human rights. The border is disputed by two governments which both want control of lucrative oil fields.

The Sudanese Armed Forces responded to armed opposition groups in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states by unleashing a relentless wave of attacks. Aged Antonov planes dropped unguided bombs, killing and maiming untold numbers of civilians.

Because the Sudanese government refused to allow international food assistance into Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, people had begun to starve. The bombs and the hunger forced over 500,000 people to flee from their homes—more than 200,000 into South Sudan.

Alex visited Yida, a refugee camp a few kilometres from the border with Sudan's Southern Kordofan state. Already home to more than 20,000 refugees, as many as 400 were arriving every day while he was there in April.

The story of Halima Ahmed, 18, captured the immensity of this crisis. She fled to Yida on her own in August 2011 because the fighting had forced her school to shut. UN agencies wanted the refugees to move to other camps at a safer distance from the border, and so had not built schools at Yida. More than 6,000 students relied on 135 volunteer teachers, with hardly a piece of paper between them. Halima and other girls who were on their own slept in unguarded, overcrowded shelters. Men and boys often harassed and attacked them there at night. "Usually when you scream, someone will come running to help out," Halima said.

## **AFGHAN PRISONER TRANSFERS: 10 YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORK**

One of the closing chapters in the Afghan prisoner transfer issue played out on June 27, 2012, when a delayed final report came out of hearings held by Canada's Military Police Complaints Commission.

Amnesty International first raised concerns about prisoner transfers in Afghanistan back in January 2002 in a letter to then Minister of National Defence, Art Eggleton. Our concerns were related to reports that Canadian soldiers were handing prisoners over to US troops as a new prisoner facility was being constructed in Guantánamo Bay, where US authorities were arguing that neither US nor international law applied. Our letter on January 22, 2002, recommended that the Minister "instruct Canadian soldiers to refrain from turning over captured Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters to US forces, unless and until the US government reverses policy".

We raised concerns about this approach through to the end of 2005 as the human rights problems at Guantánamo became more notorious. At that time, the Paul Martin government introduced a new policy: Canadian forces would no longer hand prisoners to the Americans but instead hand them to the Afghan authorities instead. This only solved one problem by creating another one. It was not long before an Amnesty International report highlighted prisoner transfer concerns in relation to the entire NATO mission in Afghanistan, not just Canada.

Joining with the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), we launched an application in Federal Court in 2007 seeking an order to stop prisoner transfers. We also made use of the only independent complaint mechanism within the Canadian Armed Forces, the Military Police Complaints Commission (MPCC), and filed a case there.

At various times over the following years the issue of Afghan prisoner transfers dominated the political agenda in the country. Through it all we remained focused on the human rights issues.

Represented by our tireless and generous pro bono counsel, Paul Champ (backed up at various times by University of Ottawa law professor Amir Attaran; colleagues in Paul's office, notably Khalid Elgazzar; and the legal talent within the staff and board at BCCLA), we had some important early wins in the Federal Court application. However that was followed by disappointment when the Court ultimately ruled that the Charter of Rights did not apply to Canadian soldiers outside Canada. That was upheld by the Federal Court of Appeal, and in May 2009 the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear a further appeal.

That left the MPCC process as the only avenue for legal recourse. But the MPCC only has jurisdiction over Military Police, who were involved in transfers but were not the only player. And then the Federal Court ruled that the MPCC process had to narrowly focus on just one issue: had Military Police failed in their duty to investigate the possibility that a "crime" had been committed when prisoners were handed over? The MPCC had no jurisdiction to reach conclusions regarding the overall approach to prisoner transfers or the question of conformity to international law. However, the MPCC report did reveal the degree to which information about human rights and torture was not being shared with Military Police and did not get readily passed on from one rotation of officers to another. The report also highlighted concerns about accountability within the chain of command for

military police. The report also criticized the government's uncooperative approach to the hearing and the message conveyed by government officials that they, and not the MPCC, were the ones who would decide what level and amount of scrutiny there should be of the Canadian military.

There remain many unanswered questions and unresolved concerns regarding this issue. There is still need for an independent, wide-ranging review, such as through a public inquiry. And yet we have achieved a great deal. We brought focus and attention to a difficult human rights issue. Through our work in the courts, at the MPCC, in the campaigning arena, in collaboration with journalists, and with Parliamentarians we managed to put a lot of information on the public record which should give pause to decision-makers the next time they are faced with the dilemma of what to do with prisoners apprehended on a foreign battlefield. Improvements that the government made to its monitoring deal with Afghan authorities in 2007 and 2008 would not likely have happened but for our pressure. The many times that the military suspended transfers, often for months at a time, were almost certainly a result of the scrutiny and pressure we had brought to bear, and may have spared prisoners from being tortured or ill-treated. A 2011 report by the UN mission in the country highlighted concerns about the torture of transferred prisoners, and then NATO decided to halt prisoner transfers—both developments were likely influenced by the pressure and attention we kept up over many years.

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## **OMAR KHADR TRANSFERRED TO CANADA**

On September 29, 2012, Omar Khadr was finally transferred from Guantánamo Bay to a Canadian jail after ten long years. Captured in Afghanistan at the age of 15 in July 2002, Khadr's return to Canada followed a decade of Amnesty International campaigning. When we first pressed the Canadian government about his case, Omar Khadr was still in Afghanistan. Yet the human rights violations were already mounting. We were concerned about US failure to recognize he was a minor, lack of consular access, being held without charge, and his possible prisoner-of-war status.

It is hard to think of a front where Amnesty International was not active on Omar Khadr's case. Amnesty members signed petitions and postcards, wrote letters and took part in demonstrations. We've been present in courtrooms at Guantánamo and in Ottawa; in front of Parliamentary Committees and UN human rights bodies. We took part in numerous media interviews and press conferences.



Protestors in Ottawa in 2008 demand Omar Khadr's repatriation from Guantánamo Bay to Canada. Khadr's transfer on September 29, 2012, to a maximum-security prison near Kingston, Ontario, was the beginning of a new chapter in the long struggle to ensure that the human rights issues surrounding this case are properly investigated.

No one should have been transferred to a detention facility operating outside the rule of law, let alone dozens of children aged 11 to 17. The transfers of children to Guantánamo happened in 2002 just after the international community had embraced a landmark agreement on child soldiers—an initiative led by Canada. But instead of demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration, child combatants sent to Guantánamo faced torture and ill-treatment, unlawful detention and the hopelessness of indefinite legal limbo.

For better or worse, Khadr's 2010 plea agreement opened the door to his case being moved out of Guantánamo and into the Canadian system. Khadr pleaded guilty to five charges and was sentenced to 40 years, capped at eight years as a result of the plea agreement. In October 2011, having served the first year of his sentence, Khadr became eligible for a transfer to a Canadian prison.

The courts, UN bodies and numerous NGOs including Amnesty International have repeatedly pointed to the human rights violations yet to be remedied in Khadr's case. The allegations of torture and ill-treatment are credible and troubling, and must still be investigated. Canadian officials were also found to have violated Khadr's Charter rights when they continued to interrogate him in Guantánamo despite the fact that his detention and treatment violated international standards. His status as a child combatant—and governments' obligations arising from that—must also be addressed.

Discussions of remedy often focus on matters of financial compensation and apologies. But a vital part of the picture is the need to ensure non-repetition. For too long, Canada has been inconsistent in its approach to Canadians detained abroad facing serious human rights violations. Omar Khadr's case stands out as one of the most spectacular failures to stand up for a citizen.

## AMNESTY MISSION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**SEPTEMBER 2012:** Alex Neve and the Amnesty research team had only been on the ground in Côte D'Ivoire for a few hours and already the range and number of human rights concerns being brought to their attention was mounting. They heard numerous accounts of arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, torture and ill-treatment, and allegations of summary killings as well. It was clear that the long-entrenched tradition of impunity in Côte D'Ivoire was continuing.

Alex had last been in Côte D'Ivoire in June 2011. At that time the country was emerging from many months of fighting and widespread human rights violations associated with the stand-off and violence that came in the aftermath of the 2010 presidential election. The government of Laurent Gbagbo, and its abysmal human rights record, had given way to the government of Alassane Ouattara. There was a vital need for Ouattara to ensure that his administration would be accountable for their own violations and take steps to rein in security forces and militias still committing abuses.

Alex wanted to get a sense of what progress there has been in 15 months, what setbacks had occurred, and what action was needed to provide full protection to all Ivoirians, regardless of their ethnic background or political views.

One activist whom Alex met had been among the many Gbagbo supporters rounded up after the former president was captured in April 2011. He and others were held for months without charge or trial in a remote part of the country, in harsh conditions and allowed little contact with the outside world. After eight months, he was conditionally released. He told Alex that, although he was being held far from the capital Abidjan, he and the other prisoners had heard of Amnesty's 2011 mission. While that mission and report had not led to any immediate change in his own situation he said that it had been a source of hope because he had known that the outside world was aware and was concerned about the illegal detentions. He said that once he knew that Amnesty International was following what was happening he felt confident that "at least now we could not be executed." His words were a reminder of the importance of Amnesty's work.

Over the two weeks of the September 2012 mission, Alex and the other Amnesty researchers gathered many testimonies, brought attention to forgotten and overlooked prisoners, and pressed for action to give all Ivoirians the confidence that their rights matter equally and are being protected equally.

The Amnesty team were inspired by the women and men working to improve human rights protection on the ground in Côte D'Ivoire. Some of these individuals were human rights activists, volunteering with existing human rights associations or taking steps to set up their own local organizations. Others didn't think of themselves as human rights activists but were standing up for human rights through their work as priests, aid workers, journalists, and even police officers. It was difficult and often dangerous work.



Amnesty Canada's Alex Neve with Amnesty researcher Gaëtan Mootoo were part of a September 2012 Amnesty mission investigating human rights abuses in Côte d'Ivoire.

By the end of the September 2012 mission, the Amnesty researchers had a clear sense of the entrenched impunity that had trapped communities in Côte D'Ivoire in decades of enmity and conflict, and crimes against humanity. Key to putting an end to the impunity would be bringing to justice those individuals who had ordered, planned or carried out attacks.

So far the justice has been one-sided. Many of the officials responsible for terrible human rights violations during the years that Laurent Gbagbo was president have been arrested and Gbagbo himself is facing a trial before the International Criminal Court in The Hague. But there has still been no effort to ensure that individuals associated with the current President, Alassane Ouattara, are held accountable for those abuses committed before assuming power and violations since. The moment these individuals are held accountable is when justice begins.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

2012 turned out to be a good year for the organization from a financial standpoint despite the Branch falling short of its fundraising target of \$12 million for the year. Resource Development revenue for the year amounted to \$11.559 million while income from other sources amounted to \$198,000, resulting in total revenue for the year of \$11.757 million. Expenditures for the year amounted to \$11.706 million, with the result that the Branch finished the year with a fiscal surplus of \$51,000.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current assets, which include cash in banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and prepaid expenses, amounted to \$1.541 million as of the end of 2012, down by 9% from the end of the previous year, but still such that the Branch was quite able to meet all of its financial commitments as they came due.

Long-term investments amounted to approximately \$408,000. These are recorded at their fair market value in the Statement of Financial Position. Realized and unrealized changes in fair value are recognized in the Statement of Revenue and Expense as Miscellaneous Income and in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets as an increase to the Toronto Building Fund.

Capital assets at the end of the period amounted to \$1.865 million. Capital assets were initially recorded at cost and have since been depreciated over their estimated useful lives at 4% per year (building), 10% (iMIS membership and fundraising database) and 20% (computers and office equipment).

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities have decreased by 23% from the amount reflected in the accounts as at December 2011. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities as at the end of 2012 were comprised of amounts due to suppliers and accrued salaries payable at year-end. The balance as at December 31, 2011, contained a monthly payment to the International Secretariat of \$285,000 which was payable at the end of the year. No such payment was due as at the end of 2012.

The Branch finished the year in a strong financial position with its net assets or equity having increased from \$2.679 million to \$2.73 million. The ratio of current assets to current liabilities increased to a level of 2.64:1, up from 2.07:1 at the end of 2011, meaning that the Branch's current assets were more than twice its current liabilities at year-end.

### STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE AND SPECIAL FUND BALANCES

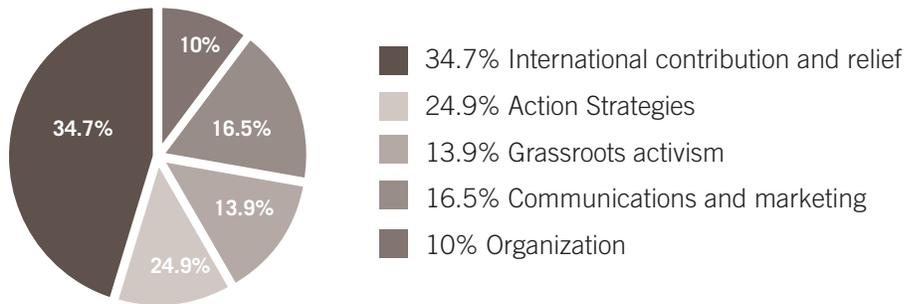
Resource Development Revenue for 2012 was up from actual Resource Development Revenue raised in 2011 by \$336 thousand, or higher by 3%.

Other income amounted to \$198 thousand in 2012 as compared to \$134 thousand in 2011, an increase of 48%.

The Branch made payments in 2012 of \$2,748,984 (in comparison, payments for the year ended December 31, 2011, were \$3,420,296) to the International Secretariat (Amnesty International Charity Limited in the UK) under an agency agreement. These monies fund research of human rights violations around the world, information for use by Canadian activists, campaign materials and support for the organization's members.

Additional voluntary international development contributions of \$79,724 (in comparison, payments for the year ended December 31, 2011, were \$79,763) were also provided to the International Secretariat. The majority of these funds were used to assist other Sections requesting financial or administrative assistance.

In addition to these payments to related parties, Program and Organization Expenses also include expenses for Action Strategies, Grassroots Activism, Communications and Marketing, and Finance and Administration. These expenses, as depicted in the chart below, totalled \$7.527 million as compared to \$7.789 million for the year ended December 2011.



Special Funds are classified as Internally Restricted or Externally Restricted. For 2012, Special Fund revenue amounted to \$27,800 while total expenses from Special Funds amounted to \$51,100. Transfers amounting to \$75,000 were made to the Special Funds from the General Fund resulting in a net increase in the Funds of \$51,700. Special Fund Revenues included increases in the Toronto Building Fund of \$17,400, a grant to the Ottawa Building Fund of \$5,000, contributions to Relief Funds of \$2,900, contributions to the Membership Cooperation Fund of \$1,400, and contributions to the Campaign and Action Fund of \$1,100. Fund expenses consisted of Ottawa Building Fund expenses of \$20,500, expenditures from Relief Funds of \$18,300, from the Membership Cooperation Fund of \$6,700, and from the Campaign and Action Fund of \$5,600.

The full audited financial statements can be obtained by calling the National Office at 613.744.7667 or emailing [members@amnesty.ca](mailto:members@amnesty.ca).

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31 2012	2012	2011
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,149,966	\$ 1,177,398
Short-term investments	132,152	234,553
Accounts receivable	125,237	123,745
Prepaid expenses	133,576	142,353
	<b>1,540,931</b>	1,678,049
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	408,273	389,187
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	1,865,451	1,985,951
	<b>\$ 3,814,655</b>	\$ 4,053,187
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 583,533	\$ 788,668
Deferred revenue		
Current portion of long-term debt	79,713	75,022
Current portion of obligations under capital lease	12,533	8,937
	<b>675,779</b>	872,627
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>	331,598	411,801
<b>OBLIGATIONS UNDER CAPITAL LEASE</b>	76,783	89,316
	<b>1,084,160</b>	1,373,744
<b>COMMITMENTS</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
General Fund		
Unrestricted	82,906	47,520
Invested in capital assets	1,364,824	1,400,875
Internally restricted funds	870,688	841,025
Externally restricted funds	412,077	390,023
	<b>2,730,495</b>	2,679,443
	<b>\$ 3,814,655</b>	\$ 4,053,187

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012	GENERAL FUND	INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL GENERAL AND INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS	EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS	2012	2011
<b>REVENUE</b>						
Resource development revenue	\$ 11,550,407	\$	\$ 11,550,407	\$ 8,516	\$ 11,558,923	\$ 11,223,183
Less resource development expense	(4,229,731)		(4,229,731)		(4,229,731)	(3,581,647)
	<b>7,320,676</b>		<b>7,320,676</b>	<b>8,516</b>	<b>7,329,192</b>	<b>7,641,536</b>
Groups / networks	56,090	1,394	57,484		57,484	63,699
Publication sales	449		449		449	7,255
Investments	9,354		9,354	11,794	21,148	19,248
Miscellaneous	112,760	6,063	118,823		118,823	43,416
	<b>7,499,329</b>	<b>7,457</b>	<b>7,506,786</b>	<b>20,310</b>	<b>7,527,096</b>	<b>7,775,154</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Action Strategies	2,001,774	5,630	2,007,404	18,256	2,025,660	2,154,758
Grassroots Activism	2,123,825	6,688	2,130,513		2,130,513	2,320,340
Communications and Public Awareness	2,444,694		2,444,694		2,444,694	2,479,856
Organization	854,701	20,476	875,177		875,177	833,906
	<b>7,424,994</b>	<b>32,794</b>	<b>7,457,788</b>	<b>18,256</b>	<b>7,476,044</b>	<b>7,788,860</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 74,335</b>	<b>\$ (25,337)</b>	<b>\$ 48,998</b>	<b>\$ 2,054</b>	<b>\$ 51,052</b>	<b>\$ (13,706)</b>

## IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM 2012 RESOLUTIONS

### **RESOLUTION A-1 GETTING BACK ON THE RIGHTS TRACK: A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA FOR CANADA**

*Matching International Commitments with National Action: A Human Rights Agenda for Canada* was published in late December 2012 and distributed to Canadian government leaders and selected Members of Parliament in December 2012 and January 2013. The publication identifies Canada's current stand on human rights issues nationally and globally and is a sequel document to 2011's *Getting Back on the Rights Track: A Human Rights Agenda for Canada*.

### **RESOLUTION B-4 PREFERENTIAL VOTING METHOD**

Online voting for elections to the Executive Committee of AICS(ES) will be tested in 2013. It will use the "preferential voting" system.

### **RESOLUTION B-5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The by-law related to staff serving on the Executive Committee has been amended so that it now states that no person who has served on the staff of AICS(ES) may be eligible to present his or her candidacy for the Executive Committee until two years have elapsed since leaving the staff. The Branch Policy Manual has been updated with an item stating that no person having served on the Executive Committee of AICS(ES) shall be appointed to the post of Executive Director or that of Secretary-General of the Branch for two years following the end of their elective mandate.

### **RESOLUTION B-6 BRANCH POLICY MANUAL**

The Branch Policy Manual was amended with the changes agreed at AGM 2012. Outdated policies contained in the manual were updated or expunged.

### **RESOLUTION B-7 MOVING FROM AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO A BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING**

AICS(ES) will move from holding large membership General Meetings on an annual basis to holding such meetings every two years, which will be referred to as Biennial General Meetings (BGMs). The Board and Working Group related to AGMs continued their work and a requested Implementation Plan will be provided to AGM 2013. A time will be set aside at AGM 2013 to further discuss changes to the way AGMs are held in our Branch. Recommended by-law changes are included in a resolution to AGM 2013.

### **RESOLUTION C-8 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements for the fiscal period January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011, were accepted.

### **RESOLUTION C-9 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS—FISCAL YEAR 2012**

Deloitte carried out their obligations as auditors for the fiscal year January 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012. Audited financial Statements will be distributed at AGM 2013 and are available on request.



The 2012–13 Executive Committee of Amnesty International Canadian Section (English Speaking).

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(DECEMBER 31, 2012)

- President:** Sarah Beamish, Toronto, Ontario  
**Vice-President:** Sharmila Setaram, Mississauga, Ontario  
**Chairperson:** David Smith, Hemmingford, Quebec  
**Secretary:** Nancy Kingsbury, Ottawa, Ontario  
**Treasurer:** Brian Radburn, Gatineau, Quebec  
**Directors:**  
 Margaret Flynn, Oakville, Ontario  
 Matthew Ponsford, Ottawa, Ontario  
 Renee Saviour, Toronto, Ontario  
 Andy Thompson, Waterloo, Ontario  
 Lana Verran, Vancouver, British Columbia

## FIELDWORKERS

(DECEMBER 31, 2012)

- Gordon Barnes, Regina, Saskatchewan  
 Louise Briggs, Toronto, Ontario  
 Nicole Cameron, Calgary, Alberta  
 Alexandra Catchpole, Vancouver, British Columbia  
 Stephanie Coward-Yaskiw, Ottawa, Ontario  
 Corinne de Réland, Gatineau, Quebec  
 Karen Eaton, Thornhill, Ontario

- Tricia Jane Edgar, North Vancouver, British Columbia  
 Bill Gilsdorf, Alexandria, Ontario  
 Marcel Lennon, Montreal, Quebec  
 Christine Lintott, Regina, Saskatchewan  
 Priti Maheshwari, Lethbridge, Alberta  
 Marilyn McKnight, Barrie, Ontario  
 Linda Murray, Napanee, Ontario  
 Dave Myles, Burnaby, British Columbia  
 Mariann Northeast, Langley, British Columbia  
 Tracy Oakley, Lakeside, Nova Scotia  
 Katie Omstead, Leamington, Ontario  
 Salahuddin Rafiquddin, Mississauga, Ontario  
 Halena Seiferling, Regina, Saskatchewan  
 Deborah Smith, Gatineau, Quebec  
 Samantha Snow, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 Seiko Watanabe, Prince George, British Columbia  
 Zewditu Wayeissa, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## FIELDWORKERS IN TRAINING

- Fatima al-Samak, Coquitlam, British Columbia  
 Ryan Donnelly, Thorold, Ontario  
 Crystal Giesbrecht, Regina, Saskatchewan  
 Mary Pyne, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
 Tammie Zielinski, Calgary, Alberta



Amnesty members in Regina, Saskatchewan, marked the fifth anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13, 2012, by exhibiting photographs of Indigenous people from Colombia at First Nations University.

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## COORDINATORS

(DECEMBER 31, 2011)

### **Campaign for Abolition of the Death Penalty:**

Aubrey Harris, Toronto, Ontario

**Medical Network:** Don Payne, Toronto, Ontario

### **Medical Network (Health and Human Rights Project):**

Shobana Ananth, Toronto, Ontario

**Medical Network (Nurses Committee):** Ken Agar-Newman,

Victoria, British Columbia

### **Business and Human Rights (BHR) Coordination Group:**

Ian Heide, Ottawa, Ontario

**BHR Coordination Group:** Sam Brown, Toronto, Ontario

**BHR Coordination Group:** Sarah-Jane Hamilton,

Gatineau, Quebec

**BHR Coordination Group:** Matthew Ponsford, Halifax,

Nova Scotia

**BHR Coordination Group:** Stéphanie Gervais, Ottawa, Ontario

**Branch Relief Officer:** Elizabeth Wightman, Edmonton, Alberta

## AFRICA

**West Africa:** Yao Klousseh, Montreal, Quebec

**West Africa:** David Shellnutt, Toronto, Ontario

**South Africa/Southern Africa:** Josée Filion, Ottawa, Ontario

**Zimbabwe/Southern Africa:** Stephanie McBride, Greely, Ontario

**Rwanda/Burundi/Democratic Republic of Congo:** David Smith,

Hemmingford, Quebec

## AMERICAS

**Mexico:** Cara Gibbons, Toronto, Ontario

**Mexico:** Michael Ballin, Toronto, Ontario

**Mexico:** Cesar Peralta, Toronto, Ontario

**Haiti:** Andrew Thompson, Waterloo, Ontario

**Colombia:** Paula Kelsall, Ottawa, Ontario

## ASIA

**China:** Yvonne Christensen, Montreal, Quebec

**China:** Michael Craig, Toronto, Ontario

**China:** Brandon Yao, Vancouver, British Columbia

**South Korea/North Korea/Japan:** Sue Hickey, Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador

**Sri Lanka:** John Argue, Toronto, Ontario

**Malaysia/Singapore:** Margaret John, Ancaster, Ontario

**Myanmar:** Jennifer Robinson, Toronto, Ontario

**Myanmar:** Hy Rosenberg, Toronto, Ontario

**Philippines:** Johsa Manzanilla, Winnipeg, Manitoba

## EUROPE

**Turkey:** Mala Naraine, Toronto, Ontario

## MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

**Iran:** Nazila Mofrad, Toronto, Ontario

**Iran:** Charles Perroud, Trois-Rivières, Quebec

**Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories/Lebanon:** Jim Joyce, Pointe Claire, Quebec

**Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories:** Andrea Marie Portugal, Belloil, Quebec

## BRANCH STAFF (DECEMBER 31, 2012)

### STRATEGY UNIT

**Executive Director:** Bob Goodfellow

**Secretary General:** Alex Neve

**Director of Communications and Marketing:** Alexandra Lopoukhine

**Director of Finance and Administration:** Gordon Mair

**Director of Resource Development:** Rosemary Oliver (T)

**Director of Campaigns and Activism:** Alain Roy

**Executive Assistants:** Bonnie Harnden (C), Aden Seaton (on leave)

## CAMPAIGNING AND ACTION

### CAMPAIGNERS

**Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** Craig Benjamin

**Security and Human Rights:** Hilary Homes

**Business and Human Rights:** Fiona Koza\* (V) Tara Scurr\* (V)

**Major Campaigns and Women's Human Rights:** Kate McInturff (C)

**Urgent Action Network:** Marilyn McKim (T)

**Central and South America:** Kathy Price\* (T)

**Refugee Program Coordinator:** Gloria Nafziger (T)

**Articling Student:** Anna Shea

### GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

**Regional Development Coordinator—Nova Scotia/New**

**Brunswick:** Kim Cahill\* (H)

**Regional Development Coordinator—Greater Toronto Area:**

Elena Dumitru (T)

**Regional Development Coordinator—BC and Yukon:**

Toshio Rahman (C) (V), Don Wright (on leave) (V)

**Grassroots Support and Organizing Coordinators:**

Shauna Maclean, Lily Mah-Sen

### COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Digital Communications Officer—Fundraising and Supporter**

**Engagement:** Andrew Bales\*

**Digital Communications Officer—Technology and New Media**

**Innovations:** George Irish\*

**Digital Communications Officer—Websites:** Susanne Ure

**Media and External Communications:** Beth Berton-Hunter (T),

John Tackaberry

**Information Services Coordinator:** Denise Glasbeek

**Operations Support Coordinator:** Louise Mulvihill\*

### INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION, SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

**Information Technology Coordinator:** Brenda Jamieson

**Supporter Information System Specialist:** Greg Clarke (C)

### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Assistant Accountant:** Nelly Almeida

**Computer Records Coordinator:** Sue Bellefeuille

**Accountant:** Kathy Breau

**Toronto Office Coordinator:** Nancy Cameron (T)

**Finance Clerk Autodraft:** Diane Daley

**Mail Clerk/Office Maintenance:** Sandy Lagimonière

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**Fundraising Programs Manager:** Marie-Hélène Boubane (C)

**Member Services and Communications Manager:**

David Griffiths

**Fundraising Assistants:** Sara Ageorlo (T), Lydia Mutyaba\* (C) (T),  
Michelle Segal (C) (T)

**Special Events:** Hala Al-Madi\*

**Member Services:** Jennifer Auten, Aengus Bridgman\* (C),  
Jessica Brodribb\* (on leave), Will Bryant

**Direct Marketing:** Nicole Burgess

**Major Gifts:** Grace Wu (T)

**Monthly Giving:** Cheryl Rooney (T)

**Planned Giving:** Heather Warren\*

#### LEGEND:

(C) Fixed-term contract (H) Halifax  
(T) Toronto (V) Vancouver Office  
(\* ) Part-time

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**NATIONAL OFFICE** 312 LAURIER AVE E, OTTAWA ON K1N 1H9  
**TORONTO OFFICE** 1992 YONGE ST, 3RD FLOOR, TORONTO ON M4S 1Z7  
**VANCOUVER OFFICE** 430-319 WEST PENDER ST, VANCOUVER BC V6B 1T3

TEL: 613-744-7667 OR 1-800-AMNESTY (1-800-266-3789)  
FAX: 613-746-2411; EMAIL: [MEMBERS@AMNESTY.CA](mailto:MEMBERS@AMNESTY.CA)