



Update

Amnesty International Edmonton Group 12/26

April 2013

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April Meeting letter writing

Our April Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23rd at 7.30p.m. in the Knox Metropolitan Hall on 83rd Avenue just east of 109 Street. Please ring the bell for entry.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

We will be writing letters on current cases.

Follow us on Twitter@AmnestyEdmonton

Minutes General Meeting March 26, 2013

Assault cases on women were reviewed.

Azza Hilal Ahmad Suleiman from Egypt is waiting for justice.

Within Canada violence against women is highest in Alberta.

Ilona works in this field and is a Director for the Women's Shelter and has seen all this violence in Edmonton. Education is key to solving the issue and parents must educate their children both boys and girls. There was a recent case where an Edmonton woman was taken into custody for an outstanding warrant rather than looking at her as a woman who had been sexually assaulted. She was not given an appearance notice but was kept in the remand centre. Paramedics and police should have all taken her to see a doctor immediately. A rape kit was taken several days later. Stereotypes were of an aboriginal woman who is intoxicated.

There should be a complaint brought forward possibly to the

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Update Appeals

Please sign and send the appeal letter that is attached or write a letter in your own words making the same requests as outlined in the sample letter. If you receive a reply please forward a copy to the National Office, at 312 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1H9 or fax it to 613-746-2411.

The first letter is on behalf of 5 students in Nepal who were taken into custody by police and have not been seen or heard from since then.

Sanjiv Kumar Karna's arrest is believed to be linked to his interest in student politics and his former membership in the All Nepal National Independent Student Union (Revolutionary). However he resigned from the ANNISU - R in 1998 and his family said that he had no involvement with the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist).

Amnesty International is calling on the authorities in Nepal to conclude and make public the investigations into the disappearance of these five students : Sanjiv Kumar Karna, Durgesh Kumar Labh, Pramod Narayan Mandal, Shailendra Yadav, and Jitendra Jha.

Those implicated in their disappearance should be brought to justice, and appropriate compensation needs to be provided to their families.

The second letter is on behalf Lydia Cacho, a journalist and human rights defender, who is based in Cancún, Quintana Roo state, southern east Mexico, who has received a death threat via a handheld transceiver used only for emergencies.

Lydia Cacho first received multiple threats and harassment after publishing a book in 2005, in which she exposed a child pornography ring which allegedly operated with the knowledge and protection of politicians and business people of the Quintana de Roo and Puebla states.

She continued to receive threats in the following years, on some occasions in reprisal for her work as a journalist and as a human rights defender at a women's shelter in Cancún. Following the latest threats, there are serious fears over her safety and security.

Thank you for taking these actions on these cases.



Minutes of the March 26, 2013 General Meeting continued

Police Commission directly to circumvent the bureaucracy.

There is a need for statistics.

Sexual Assault Voices Edmonton is an organization <http://www.saved-monton.com/> which states that if you are intoxicated you cannot consent. Focus groups and “Don’t be that guy” campaign was launched. The campaign needs to be extended to the vulnerable sector of society. Statistics are needed to quantify the violence. A credible source of information is needed so that action can be taken. Statistics can include reports from hospitals and university research.

We will contact the National Office Craig Benjamin, and the Criminology Department at the U of A.

Project KARE does not pursue outstanding warrants in cases such as the above. There were spontaneous protests by aboriginal women following news broadcasts about the girl’s situation.

There needs to be a strategy and police policy of how to deal with such cases. Empower women.

Girls would rather bleed to death than call 911 when they know they will be taken directly to remand.

Child welfare and the justice system are not protecting them.

In the past our group has worked with the Edmonton Police Department to integrate human rights education into the training of officers.

Business Meeting

Lily Mah Sen is asking for someone to phone new donors that are found during the door to door canvassing campaign. Some may be interested in volunteering with our group. Ilona volunteered to do this.

Palestinian Bazaar. We are hosting a table at the bazaar. Jonn is setting up the schedule.

Consent and the Law

Consent and the Law

The principles of consent that apply to assault also apply to sexual assault. The victim of sexual touching must freely consent to the act, and must understand the nature of the act being consented to. The courts have applied the definition of consent to mean that a person cannot consent to having serious bodily harm done to himself or herself (R. v. Jobidon (1991, S.C.C.)).

Consent means the voluntary agreement of the complainant to engage in the sexual activity in question.

No consent is obtained when:

- The agreement is expressed by the words or conduct of another person other than the victim (complainant)

- The complainant is incapable of consenting to the activity

- The accused (by abusing a position of trust, power or authority) induces the complainant to engage in the act

- The complainant expresses by words or conduct a lack of agreement to engage in the act or

- The complainant, having consented to engage in the sexual activity, expresses (by words or conduct) a lack of agreement to continue to engage in the activity

Legal Age

A person who is under the age of sixteen cannot consent to sexual activity with another person who is five or more years old than them. A person who is under the age of fourteen years cannot consent to sexual activity with another person who is two or more years old than them. In any case, a person in authority cannot use consent as a defense of having sexual activity with a person under the age of sixteen.

Taken from the website for Sexual Assault Voices of Edmonton
www.savedmonton.com

Edmonton Group 12/26

Edmonton Groups 12/26, Box 52060, Garneau Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T5
Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the Knox Metropolitan Church Hall on 83 Ave at 109 Str the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, August and December.

Amnesty International is a worldwide voluntary, activist movement that works impartially to prevent violations of people's fundamental civil and political human rights by governments and opposition groups. We campaign to free all prisoners of conscience: people detained anywhere for their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, colour, language, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or other status, provided they have not used or advocated violence; ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners; abolish the death penalty, torture, and other cruel treatment of prisoners; end political killings and "disappearances".

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