



Update

Amnesty International Edmonton Group 12/26

February 2013

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C.E.A.S.E. at February Meeting

Our February Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26nd 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.

Speaker:

Kate Quinn, Executive Director of the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation will speak to us about the Centre.

See their website for more information at

<http://www.ceasenow.org/>

Global Visions Festival February 27 - March 3

We are sponsoring the film "Call Me Kuchu" at the Global Visions Film Festival. It will be shown on February 27th, at 7 pm at the Garneau theatre.

<http://globalvisionsfestival.com/film/call-me-kuchu/>

Here is the Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/503745703010486/>

This is the film's website, for anyone who would like to watch the trailer and read about the movie:

<http://callmekuchu.com/>

Please come out and support us in this event.

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 Darius Evangelista who was tortured and murdered by POLICE in the Philippines.

Margie Evangelista's husband had been missing since his arrest on 5 March 2010. Imagine her shock when someone told her that on 17 August 2010 a video of her husband being tortured was broadcasted in a news program on national television in the Philippines (and then worldwide on CNN, Al Jazeera and youtube).

The Evangelista family has filed a criminal complaint for torture against nine policemen. The primary suspect, who was seen committing the act of torture in the video, was dismissed by the National Police in January 2011. He later worked as a lecturer for a criminology college, teaching crime detection investigation to trainee policemen and women.

In November 2011, a Manila Court ordered the arrest of seven of the policemen suspected of torture in the case. Joselito Binayug, Joaquin de Guzman, Rodolfo Ong, Dante Bautista, Nonito Binayug, Rex Binayug, and Rogelio Rosales, Jr. were charged for the violation of the Anti Torture Act of 2009. The case remains pending in court. As of June 2012, only two of the suspects are in custody, and the other suspects including the primary suspect and his superior are in hiding.

The second letter is on behalf of Ahmet Yildiz, 26, a physics student who represented his country at an international gay gathering in San Francisco in 2007. He was shot leaving a cafe near the Bosphorus strait. Fatally wounded, the student tried to flee the attackers in his car, but lost control, crashed at the side of the road and died shortly afterwards in hospital. His friends believe Mr Yildiz was the victim of the country's first gay honour killing.

Ahmet's father, Yahya Yildiz, stands charged with murder after traveling 600 miles, allegedly hunting his son down and then shooting him five times on July 15, 2008. It is viewed as the country's first reported anti-gay "honour killing." And critics say that after three years, a pattern of indifference by the police in prosecuting the crime underscores the injustice.

Turkey was all but closed to the world until 1980 but its desire for European Union membership has imposed strains on a society formerly kept on a tight leash. As the notion of rights for minorities such as women and gays has blossomed, the country's civil society becomes more vibrant by the day. But the changes have brought a backlash from traditionalist circles wedded to the old regime.

Against this backdrop, the issues of women's rights, sexuality and the place of religion in the public arena have been particularly contentious. Ahmet Yildiz's crime, his friends say, was to admit openly to his family that he was gay.

Thank you for taking these actions on this case.

Minutes of the January 22, 2013 Annual General Meeting

**Amnesty International Group 12/26
Annual General Meeting
January 22, 2013**

The Invisible War

Wednesday January 23, 2013 at 7.00 pm at Metro Cinema (Garneau).
Cathy and Sophie will host the table.

Human Rights Film Series at the Metro

Jon is looking into how we can partner with the Garneau on this. It will cost \$300 to bring in a film. Jon is meeting with the Garneau next week.

Global Visions Film Festival Feb 27 – March 3 at the Metro Cinema

We will sponsor a film as we usually do. It will be “Call Me Kuchu” which is the primary feature.

“In Uganda, a new bill threatens to make homosexuality punishable by death. David Kato, Uganda’s first openly gay man, and retired Anglican Bishop Christopher Senyonjo work against the clock to defeat state-sanctioned homophobia while combating vicious persecution in their daily lives. But no one is prepared for the brutal murder that shakes their movement to its core and sends shock waves around the world.”

February 26 Meeting

Kate Quinn will speak to us about her organization Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation.

April

Host an Amnesty Yoga Day – admission by donation.

Write for Rights Event

The U of A group is hosting an event next Tuesday, at Steeps in College Plaza. The Harry Ainley High School Group is invited and our group is also invited to participate.

Benefit Concert

The U of A is putting together a benefit concert. Further details will be on Facebook.

Twitter

Our group does not currently have a twitter account. Sophie will open an account “aiedmonton”.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting continued

Romeo D'Allaire

He is speaking at the Robins Health Centre at Grant McEwan University College on Thursday this week at 5.00pm. Tickets are \$10.

Elections

Co-Chairpersons: Sophie and Allison

Treasurer: Katrin and Rosemarie

Secretary: Isabelle

Membership: Ilona

Urgent Action: Judith

China file: Mary and Tovah

Directors: Jonn, Cathy and Rosemarie

Media: Jonn

Newsletter: Isabelle and Dorothea

Facebook: Isabelle, Sophie and Jonn

Twitter: Sophie

Annual Report

Please send information from your 2012 Activities to Sophie for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Write for Rights – generated over 130 letters.

Income from Just Xmas to be submitted by Rosemarie.

AGM – could we have an election every 2 years?

Minutes submitted by Isabelle Nash



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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