



Update

Amnesty International Edmonton Group 12/26

February 2015

Update Appeals
Page 2

Page 3, 4 & 5
Minutes of the Annual Meeting.

Coordinators
Page 6

Bahrain Uprising

Our Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24th 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.

Agenda

General Meeting Location

Video of the Bahrain Uprising

Bahrain

Like many countries in the Middle East and beyond, Bahrain erupted with anti-authoritarian protests in 2011 when the Arab Spring took the region and many of its repressive leaders by surprise. While Arab Spring uprisings found favor with many in the West, unfortunately for the people of Bahrain, their own revolution was largely forgotten. But it never went away - for three years, near-nightly protests have been brutally quashed by militarized security forces.

Earlier this year, VICE News correspondent Ben Anderson travelled to London to speak with Nabeel Rajab, the unofficial leader of Bahrain's uprising, and then headed undercover to Bahrain, where he met activists, protestors, grieving parents, and alleged torture victims.



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 Human rights activist Blanca Nubia Díaz who has been seeking justice for her daughter, Irina del Carmen Villero Díaz, ever since the 15-year-old Indigenous girl was raped and killed by paramilitaries working with the security forces in May 2001 in the Cuestecitas area of Albania Municipality, La Guajira Department.

She was able to establish the whereabouts of her daughter's body, but had to leave La Guajira following threats from paramilitaries. In 2010, she was finally able to reclaim her daughter's remains and the burial according to Wayúu ritual took place in August 2010.

The criminal investigation into the rape, torture and killing of her daughter have made little progress. Many witnesses are too frightened to come forward. She, too, has received repeated death threats because of her work.

Blanca reported her daughter's rape and murder to the local Office of the Attorney General in Maicao, La Guajira Department, but there was no progress in the case. However, the investigation was transferred to the Human Rights Unit in Bogotá after it was included among the 183 cases presented by the Constitutional Court in its Auto 092 ruling.

The second letter is on behalf of Hussain Jawad. He was arrested at around 1.30am on 16 February 2015 by masked police officers in plain clothes. They searched his house and then took him to the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID). They did not say why they were arresting him, but Amnesty International fears it may have been because of his human rights work.

Around 10 hours after his arrest, he phoned his wife and said that he was fine. She asked him whether the police had hurt him: he said "yes" and the line was cut off. Many of those taken to the CID in recent weeks and months have said they were tortured or otherwise ill-treated. His lawyer has written to the Public Prosecution Office (PPO) asking to be told when Hussain Jawad is brought for interrogation, so that she can be present with him. Amnesty International has written to the PPO to ask why he was arrested and ensure that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

Hussain Jawad, Chairman of the European-Bahraini organization for Human Rights (EBOHR), was arrested before, after giving a speech during a protest rally in 2013. He was charged with "criticizing government institutions", "insulting the flag and emblem of the country", "attempting to disrupt public security" and "illegal gathering". He is currently on trial for those charges and the next hearing is scheduled for 25 February.

Thank you for taking these actions on these cases.

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Amnesty International

January 27, 2015

Location: Garneau School

Attendance: 13

Discussion regarding Meeting location

The Knox Metropolitan Church is \$500 a year for the use of their meeting room.

Parking is difficult at the church.

Parking is better at the school. The cost is \$13 per hour for Garneau School. \$26 per evening if our meetings are 7-9pm.

The cost is \$30 per hour at the Faculty St Jean which has a lovely room which is accessible. It is further away and not near the University of Alberta which is a disadvantage.

Neither the Knox Metropolitan Church nor the Garneau School are accessible as they have stairs.

Motion: Sophie moved and Jonn seconded that we continue to meet at the Garneau School.

Carried.

AGM

Elections

Co Chairpersons Sophie and Ilona

Treasurer Katrin

Secretary Isabelle

Website Isabelle and Sophie

Director Jonn

Director Kirk

Director Iona

Events Coordinator Jonn

Urgent Action Judith

Motion: Sophie moved Kari Morton seconded that the slate of nominees be accepted as listed.

Carried

Urgent Action Required

Saudi Arabia: Blogger Raif Badawi

1000 lashes have started and are planned to take place over 20 weeks. Please take action on his case.

Raif Badawi should be in Canada today, with his wife and their three children. Instead he is spending time in Briman prison, Jeddah city, Saudi Arabia.

UPDATE: RAIK BADAWI HAS NOT BEEN FLOGGED FOR THE 6TH CONSECUTIVE WEEK. Raif received 50 lashes in public on Friday, January 9th during prayer time in Jeddah. Raif remains at risk of flogging as long as the court verdict and sentence remains in place. **THANK YOU AMNESTY SUPPORTERS FOR KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE!**

Please act on his behalf.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015 continued

Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
REVENUES		
Membership Fees	0	0
Donations -private	1,400	1,500
Donations - corporate	3,400	1,500
Donations - United Way	1,700	1,500
Merchandise Sales	830	500
TOTAL REVENUES	7,330	5,000
EXPENSES		
Donations to National	0	0
Room Rental	500	500
Merchandise Order	830	500
Phone/Yellow Pages	250	0
Website Hosting	70	70
Postal Box	220	220
Office Supplies	80	80
Special Events	2,600	1,000
Postage	3,170	3,000
Regional Meeting	0	500
EXPENSES TOTAL	7,720	5,870

The budget was reviewed.

The group has \$6,000 in chequing and \$6,000 in savings account.

Metro Cinema

Metro shoulders the costs of films that we have helped promote is there is no cost to us.

Motion: Cathy moved and Rosemarie seconded to accept the budget as proposed.

Carried.

U of A Chapter Events - Meghan

Jan 30 Amnesty International U of A Hosts a conference on Immigration Laws located at International House meeting Room at 5pm-6:20pm

February 3-Tabling Event at Grant MacEwan noon-4:30pm (Topic is Immigration Law and Refugees in Canada)

Valentine’s Day Candygrams with actions

Mar 6 & 7- Human Rights Conference in Calgary Hosted by U of C Chapter (registration will be on Eventbrite). Amnesty members from all over the province and Vancouver as well as other related organizations so will be a great networking event.

March 12- Benefit Concert at the Druid

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015 continued

March 16- International Day for the Elimination of Racism- “mini heritage day” on campus, tabling of organizations of a human rights and/or cultural focus and local restaurants selling food. (Location to be announced)

March 21 & 22- H.S.S.A. tabling event on campus (details to follow)

March 31 Easter Bake Sale and petition/letter signing

Pride Week- possible film screening

Edmonton Chapter Meeting for 2015

Speakers are needed for meetings.

Documentaries

Metro Cinema is bringing in Citizenfour the documentary about Edward Snowden the whistle blower. February 21 at 7.15pm

Global Visions – Jonn will meet with Guy regarding our sponsorship.

We sponsored three films last year and tabled at Metro and the Art Gallery. 250 letters were signed that week. This is well worthwhile.

Action File

Saeed Malekpour a computer programmer was charged and convicted in Iran for blasphemy. His sentence was reduced to life in prison and he is entering his 7th year in prison. His sister is in Edmonton. Lily asked that Jonn be the contact. Saeed is a permanent resident of Canada not a citizen.

We can host an event that profiles his case and others in Iran.

An email was received from Lily asking that we take on his case which we have agreed to do. Please see the website below.

<https://peoplewithoutnation.wordpress.com/>

Sophie K

Invitation from Morgan Cherry at the University. Social Transition of the Privileged needs volunteers. Sharing of your story with this researcher. He lives in Calgary. He would come up to interview. He currently needs male volunteers.

National AGM 2015

An AGM is held every second year now. 2015 it is in Halifax at St Mary's University May 29-31.

Feb 26 is the deadline for submitting resolutions.

Membership

If you are donating to national office you have to indicate that you want to be a member.

Ideas for future Meetings

The Ukraine ceasefire is not in force. Russia is sending in arms to the rebels. It is very political and NATO's expansion into eastern Europe is a catalyst.

Is there anything on the Amnesty website about Ukraine?

David Marples professor at the U of A could to speak to us.

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".

National Information Line, 1-800-AMNESTY

National Website www.amnesty.ca

Edmonton Group Website <http://edmontonamnesty.org/>

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