



Update

Amnesty International Edmonton Group 12/26

January 2013

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Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22nd 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:

Review of 2012 Activities

Election of Officers

Screening of The Invisible War on January 23rd at 7 pm at the Garneau theatre.

Global Visions Festival February 27 - March 3

The Invisible War

will be shown on January 23rd, at 7 pm at the Garneau theatre, as a joint effort between our group and the U of A Amnesty group, as well as the gender violence prevention groups Hollaback and ConsentEd.

Here is the Facebook event:

<http://www.facebook.com/events/447493865305558/>

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

<http://invisiblewarmovie.com/>

Please come out and support us in this event.

The letter regarding sexual assault in the military is attached with this Update.

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 regarding Huseyin Celil a member of western China's Uyghur minority. He has been a Canadian citizen since November 2005.

He fled persecution in China because of his campaigning on behalf of his community. The Chinese authorities routinely accuse Uyghur activists of "terrorism" without providing credible evidence for such charges.

In March 2006 Huseyin was picked by Chinese police in Uzbekistan while on holiday visiting his wife's family. He was extradited to China to face trial, and was held in secrecy without access to a lawyer, his family, or consular assistance. He was subjected to threats that he would be 'disappeared' or 'buried alive' unless he signed a confession. China does not recognize Huseyin's status as a Canadian citizen, and Canadian officials were barred from attending the trial.

On 19 April 2007 Huseyin Celil was handed a sentence of life imprisonment in a Chinese jail.

Please send copies of your letter to
His Excellency LU Shumin
Ambassador for the People's Republic of China
515 St. Patrick Street
Ottawa , Ontario K1N 5H3
Fax: (613) 789-1911

The second letter is regarding sexual assault in the Canadian military.

A 2008 report by the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal claimed that there were at least 170 sexual assaults in that single year. Most sexual assault incidents occurred on land bases, and half of the survivors were underage individuals victimized by older, adult offenders. The people who are victimized are especially vulnerable to abuse or are less likely to talk about it because the older offenders, due to the chain of command, tend to have authority over younger victims.

<http://www.rawa.org/temp/runews/2010/10/12/what-the-military-wont-talk-about.phtml>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/report-raises-concerns-about-military-sexual-assaults-1.377389>

Thank you for taking these actions on this case.

Minutes of the November 2012 General Meeting

Meeting November 27, 2012

Sophie spoke about the situation regarding the Uyghur following her meeting with an Uyghur activist.

Who are the Uyghur?

- ethnically and linguistically Turkish
- Muslim
- 20 million people
- 1 of 5 ethnic groups in China
- related to ancestors of First Nations people in North and South America
- Uyghur people in Canada

History

China's minority Uighur community

Uighurs are a mainly Muslim ethnic minority who are concentrated primarily in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Since the 1980s, the Uighurs have been the target of systematic and extensive human rights violations. This includes arbitrary detention and imprisonment, incommunicado detention, and serious restrictions on religious freedom as well as cultural and social rights. Uighur political prisoners have been executed after unfair trials. In recent years, China has exploited the international "war on terror" to suppress the Uighurs, labeling them "terrorists", "separatists", or "religious extremists".

What kind of issues do they face?

- cultural genocide and forced assimilation
- nuclear activity (cancer, birth defects)
- threats to Uyghur activists outside of China
- religious persecution
- scapegoating
- death penalty for "political crimes"
- military presence in their region
- riots

What can we do?

- public pressure on our governments
- public awareness
- Sign and send the letter regarding Canadian Citizen Huseyin Celil that is attached with this Update and also send this letter to the Chinese Ambassador. It could also be sent to Prime Minister Harper. There is a letter sent by Alex Neve and others to Prime Minister Harper as an example at <http://www.uyghurcanadiansociety.org/sidebar/openletter.htm>

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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