



Update

Amnesty International Edmonton Group 12/26

March 2014

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March Meeting

Our March Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25th 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

Film: Born Into Brothels

Short Business Meeting

Film: Born Into Brothels

Born into Brothels, by Ross Kauffman and Zana Briski, is the winner of the 77th annual Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. A tribute to the resiliency of childhood and the restorative power of art.

Born into Brothels is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in the red light district of Calcutta, where their mothers work as prostitutes. Zana Briski, a New York-based photographer, gives each of the children a camera and teaches them to look at the world with new eyes.

The film, released by THINKFilm, premiered theatrically at the Film Forum in New York City in December 2004. It has since opened in over one hundred theatres nationwide.

The film-makers claim that the lives of children appearing in Born into Brothels have been transformed by money earned through the sale of photos and a book on them. Ross Kauffman, co-director of the documentary, says that the amount earned is \$100,000 (about Rs.4.5 million), which will pay for their tuition and for a school in India for children of prostitutes. Briski has started a non-profit organization to continue this kind of work in other countries, named Kids with Cameras. A film is being made on the life story of a high-profile trio of call girl sisters, Shaveta, Khushboo and Himani, born in one of the brothels of Haryana.

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 Laisa Santos Sampaio.

Many people think that Laísa's work to protect the Amazon rain forest is very important, but illegal loggers disagree and this puts Laísa in real danger. People who don't agree with her work have threatened Laísa and her family for years. In 2011, her sister and brother-in-law also environmental activists were killed for standing up for the Amazon. The person accused of ordering their deaths was not arrested and Laísa believes he is one of the people who continue to threaten her.

Human rights defenders play an important part in making sure that economic activities, like logging, are sustainable and good for society. Laisa's right to speak out must be protected.

Laísa is very scared. Since the police haven't helped to protect her, she has had to leave her home and community in order to live in a place where she will be safe.

The second letter is regarding a proposed law in Mozambique.

March 20, 2014

Human Rights activists in Mozambique have marched through the capital Maputo to protest a colonial era law still included in new legislation that allows rapists to go unpunished if they marry their victims. The "marriage effect" clause sees convicted rapists given a five-year suspended sentence if they marry their victims and stipulates that the perpetrator should stay married to the victim for at least five years. At the protest, a young woman dressed in a blood-spattered wedding gown led a group of about 300 mostly female protesters as they marched to parliament.

Thank you for taking these actions on these cases.

Minutes of the 2014 February General Meeting

February 25, 2014

12 people in attendance

International Women's Day movie at the Metro – Jonn

Fundraising – Ilona

Bylaws Review – Char

Approved Budget to go in the Update newsletter

Alternate Space – St. George's Anglican Church. Muna will find out more information.

Have a Heart for First Nations Children

February campaign

Film "I love you forever" listed for many awards.

Hearings started in 2013. A public case is being heard on First Nations. Not the only case on child welfare but a precedent will be set and has implications for water and living conditions on reserves.

Shannon 14 years old wanted to go to school. They had very poor conditions in the school portables on the Attawapiskat Reserve in northern Ontario. They were unheated, had mold etc. and Shannon went locally but also nationally on You-tube, Facebook. Education is a human right. She got schools and teachers behind her and Shannon became the face of the children without a school. She had to leave Attawapiskat in Grade 9 to go to High School. She was killed in a car accident at the age of 18. The community was grief stricken but pushed on to realize Shannon's dream. A new school is set to open in Attawapiskat and is named after her. 2 letters to MP and the Prime Minister asking for education that all other Canadian children enjoy. Starts in the Justice Building in Ottawa. Many children representing all Aboriginal Children across Canada. Shannon was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize. Shannon was a good speaker and people started to listen and got behind her.

www.shannonsdream.ca

She talked about the inequity. The funding for a new school has been promised for Attawapiskat. MP was in Timmins, Ontario a \$700 flight out of the reserve.

The school was demolished due to it being uninhabitable. 12 years later they are still waiting for a new school. Portables were put up but are unheated and cold. Teachers leave after 1 or 2 years. Turnover is great. Monies given per child by the Federal Government is half what is given to off reserve schools. Three ministers have promised a new school. None have come to fruition.

1893 first church built

1930 next church built.

People were happier in the past hunting and trapping and fishing. The Attawapiskat Community is very poor.

Shannon's dream was to go to university to be a lawyer and come back to serve the community. Shannon and Serena Koostachin went to High School outside the community. They were homesick and were not well prepared for High School and struggled to get good marks.

Kids wrote letters to the government to ask for better support for education on reserves.

First Nations children went to the United Nations in Geneva to speak to the Rights of the Child. No child should have to beg for equal rights.

Children stood outside the Parliament of Canada to protest the lack of proper educational opportunities for aboriginal children.

Charlie Angus MP NDP for Timmins-James Bay, Ontario sponsored in the House of Commons the Shannon's Dream Motion. Shannon's family traveled to Ottawa when the motion was put forward in the House of Commons. Equal opportunity for education for all children in Canada. MPs voted on the Shannon's Dream motion and all members of all parties voted "yes".

The new school was started in 2013 and will take two years to build.

Letter Writing followed on the issue to Prime Minister and Local MPs.

Approved 2014 Budget

**Amnesty International Group 12/26
Budget 2014**

EXPECTED REVENUE	
Membership Fees	\$1,000
Donations, including United Way	\$4,000
Merchandise Sale	\$800
Transfer from Savings	\$1,420
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,220
EXPECTED EXPENSES	
Membership Fees-AI National	\$1,000
Merchandise Sale	\$800
Room Rental	\$500
Website Hosting	\$100
P.O. Box	\$220
Office Supplies	\$100
Special Events	\$500
Film Festival	\$1,000
Postage	\$2,000
Group Brochure-Printing	\$500
Regional Conference	\$500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,220

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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