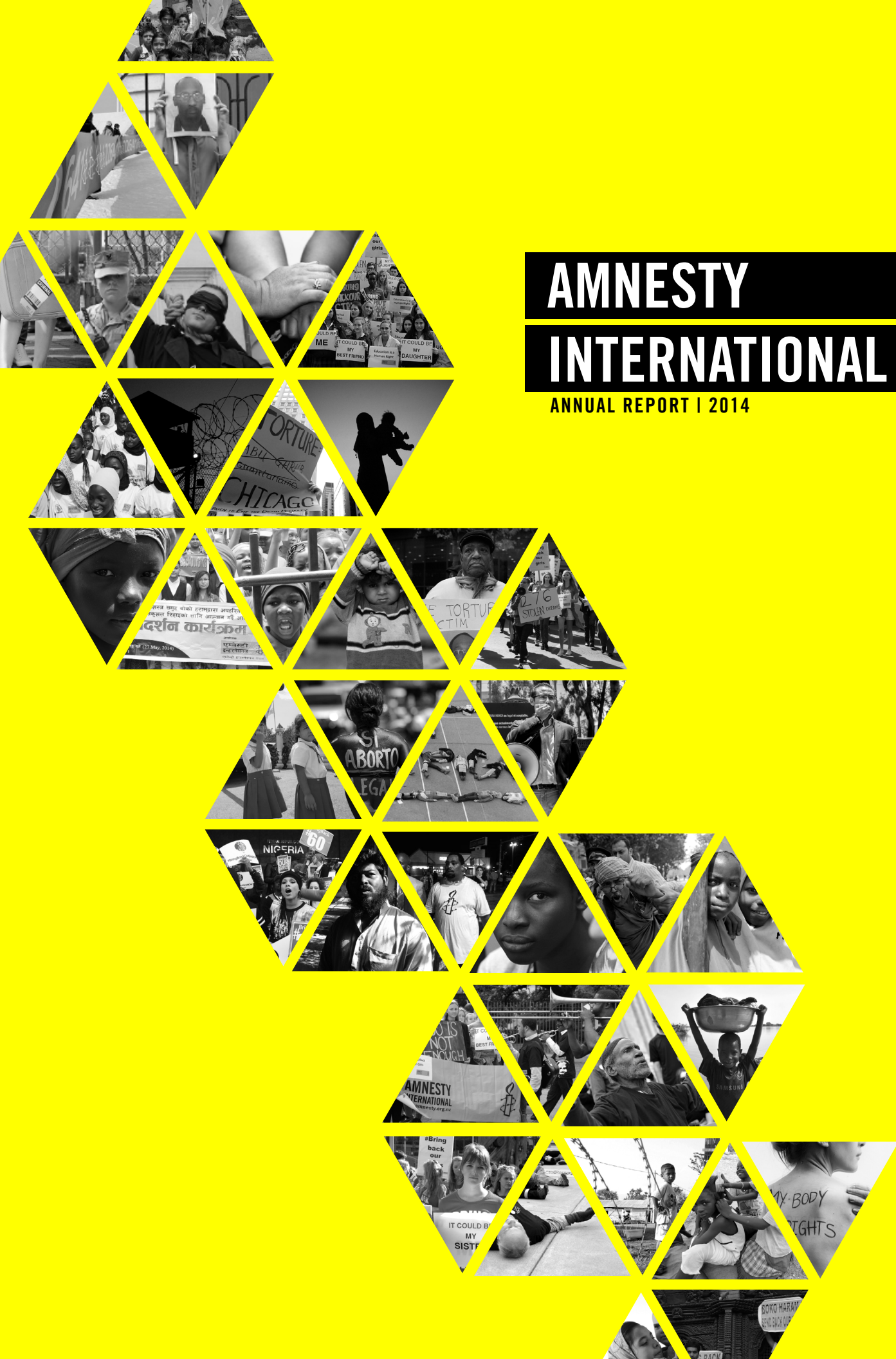


## ANNUAL REPORT | 2014





“It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.” –Chinese proverb

I learned from an early age that an individual has the power to make a lasting and meaningful impact through action. I was a student activist and a strident critic of my government, opposed to the policies of apartheid in my native South Africa. After I was jailed for my beliefs, Amnesty issued an Urgent Action on my behalf, named me a prisoner of conscience, and helped secure my release. This, the power of Amnesty, lies in you, our members, and your unrelenting fight for justice on behalf of those who have suffered human rights violations the world over.

The past year has in many ways been a difficult one for human rights. In the United States, we have seen police killing hundreds of individuals and reacting with violence to protests demanding accountability; in South Sudan, Afghanistan, Syria, and elsewhere, thousands of civilians have been killed and millions more displaced by ongoing conflicts; in Nigeria, 276 girls were abducted from what should have been the safety of their school by Boko Haram; hundreds more were abducted by the armed group in the months that followed; and in Mexico, 43 students were forcibly disappeared, their bodies still missing and no one held accountable.

As Chair of the Board of Amnesty International USA, I am so grateful to the many thousands of members, activists, and supporters who continue this fight for human rights in the face of these seemingly insurmountable odds. I am here to tell you – you can, and you do, make an impact. You rallied behind our action on behalf of a 10 year old Paraguayan girl, raped and impregnated by her stepfather and denied access to an abortion even in the face of threats to her health; you participated in the call for justice as we released a report about U.S. states’ severe lack of compliance with international standards governing police use of lethal force; you spoke out about the mishandling of the global refugee crisis; and you pushed for a thorough investigation of the disappeared students in Mexico. You participated in our 2014 Write for Rights initiative in record numbers. Through all the adversity, you illustrated that Amnesty members don’t back down– you rise up.

As 2015 closes and we move into 2016, new challenges await us. It is my great honor to join my Amnesty family in the ongoing struggle for justice, freedom, and dignity. Together, we have the power to change the world.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ann Burroughs".

**ANN BURROUGHS**  
BOARD CHAIR

## Amnesty International USA (AIUSA)

is the largest country section of Amnesty International, with members who work for human rights independently; through national online networks; and with high school, college, and community groups. Founded in 1961, Amnesty has grown into one of the world's most trusted human rights organizations, receiving a Nobel Peace Prize and advocating on human rights issues around the globe. With millions of members, supporters, and activists in virtually every country of the world, and complete independence from government, corporate or ideological interests, Amnesty International is the world's foremost human rights campaigning force, changing lives, reshaping policies, challenging corporations, and holding governments to account around the world.

Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. To that end, Amnesty International unites people from all over the world to fight for human rights using a signature three-pronged approach.

AIUSA addresses a wide range of human rights issues both domestically and abroad, including prisoners of conscience and other people at risk; the death penalty; national security and counter-terrorism; sexual and reproductive rights; refugee and migrant rights; torture; women's rights; children's rights; censorship and free speech; LGBT rights; arms transfers; and international justice. By inspiring people to take injustice personally and by mobilizing the humanity in everyone, together we bring the world closer to the day when all people can fully enjoy the full range of their human rights.



## RESEARCH

Amnesty International keeps vigilant watch on the rights of people around the world and publishes hundreds of independent reports based on rigorous research, free of corporate or government influence.

## ACTION

Through dynamic campaigns and long-term casework, Amnesty International members propel key human rights concerns and stories of individuals at risk into the glare of the international media and demand the attention of government officials, corporations, international institutions, and policy makers.

## ADVOCACY

Amnesty International combines high-level legislative work, media outreach, and grassroots mobilization to shape and promote legislation and policies to advance human rights, protect individuals, and free prisoners of conscience—people imprisoned around the world solely for the peaceful expression of their beliefs or identity.



**In 2014**, Amnesty International USA's staff, members, and activists worked together with other activists around the country and the world to advocate for respect for human rights for all people everywhere. Together, we helped to push for transparency in the use of drones, speak out against torture, raise international awareness of the kidnapping of hundreds of school girls by the armed group Boko Haram in Nigeria, contribute to the release of prisoners of conscience, and make significant progress on other cases. 2014's Write for Rights letter writing campaign, which featured cases involving issues such as gun violence, freedom of expression, abortion, torture, and the death penalty, generated over 3.2 million letters, online petitions and Tweets by hundreds of thousands of participants in over 200 countries and territories around the world. In the U.S., almost 14,000 participants generated more than 160,000 actions. Amnesty's grassroots approach to human rights creates real change by raising the collective voices of millions of activists worldwide. The following pages highlight just a small percentage of the very important work that AIUSA undertook in 2014.





# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

## MOROCCO

The Moroccan parliament voted unanimously on 23 January to amend a law that blocked the prosecution and punishment of any person who, accused of statutory rape, married the victim.

## UNITED NATIONS

On 24 December, after more than two decades of campaigning, the Arms Trade Treaty came into force. The treaty creates a framework intended to prevent the flow of arms to countries when they would be used to commit atrocities.

## FERGUSON, MO, USA

AIUSA sent human rights observers to monitor protests and report on the situation.

## PARAGUAY

In June, Paraguay's President Horacio Cartes signed into law a bill that returned more than 14,000 hectares of traditional land to the Sawhoyamaya indigenous community, after 20 years of campaigning.

## CHIBOK, NIGERIA

Amnesty mobilized to #BringBackOurGirls after almost 300 schoolgirls were abducted by Boko Haram.

## PALESTINE

AIUSA partnered with scores of other AI activists around the globe to mobilize for the release of prisoner of conscience Ahmad Qatamesh, a Palestinian academic who has been repeatedly targeted by the Israeli authorities for administrative detention.

## CHINA

AIUSA Local Groups campaigned for the release of Tibetan filmmaker Dhondup Wangchen. He was detained for his role in making the film "Leaving Fear Behind," which expresses Tibetan attitudes toward the Beijing Olympics and the Dalai Lama. He was sentenced after a secret trial and was reportedly tortured.

## JAPAN

Hakamada Iwao, 78, was released from prison in Japan in March after spending most of his life on death row waiting to be executed. He was convicted of murder in 1968. The court questioned the evidence used against Hakamada, revoked his death sentence and ordered a retrial.

## SUDAN

Over one million people took action and helped secure the release of Meriam Yehya Ibrahim, who had been sentenced to be flogged for marrying a Christian and to be hanged for practicing Christianity.



staff also worked with the Senate to draft and introduce a similar amendment in the Senate Bill.

## INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

In November 2013, the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) was reintroduced in the House of Representatives with Republican Members joining Democratic Members as original sponsors—an historic first for IVAWA. AIUSA worked to continue to build support throughout 2014, securing a record number of Republican cosponsors and ensuring a bipartisan bill in both the House and Senate. AIUSA's Legislative Coordinators, Fall Lobby Week participants, and local activists

met in their districts and in the halls of Congress to secure the highest number of co-sponsors the bill had seen to that point.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA)

AIUSA was successful in its efforts to push for support of Afghan women's human rights and an end to gender-based violence through the insertion of key language in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The AIUSA-drafted amendment was included in the version of the NDAA that passed the House in the spring; AIUSA

## MY BODY, MY RIGHTS

In 2014, Amnesty International launched the My Body, My Rights campaign—an international priority campaign focused on sexual and reproductive human rights around the world. AIUSA lobbied the U.S. Government, including raising concerns before the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to take steps to end violence against Indigenous women in the United States and ensure that Indigenous women receive critical post-rape care. AIUSA staff also worked with other country sections of Amnesty International on the release of Amnesty's report on El Salvador's total abortion ban, ensuring that the recommendations included in the report were shared with key U.S. officials in the administration and Congress.



# DEATH PENALTY

In March 2014, AIUSA worked with Amnesty's International Secretariat to release the 2013 Global Death Penalty Report. The report was a collaborative effort, with AIUSA contributing content on the death penalty in the United States as well as assisting in distribution of the report after its release. The report drew substantial attention, causing a large surge in AIUSA's website search traffic, with 100,000 unique visitors to the site in the 36 hours following the report's release – double the usual number. AIUSA campaigned extensively to end the death penalty over the course of the year, capitalizing on key cases and issues to make strides in public awareness.

Following the “botched” execution of Clayton Lockett in Oklahoma, AIUSA worked with other organizations to successfully push for investigation and the stay or delay of several other scheduled executions. AIUSA staff also worked with allies to apply pressure to several organizations, including the American Pharmacists Association and the National Board of State Pharmacies, to develop policies that would prohibit members from participating in executions. On March 12, the House of Representatives of the state of New Hampshire passed a bill repealing the death penalty in the state. This step came after several years of work by AIUSA and other groups pushing for abolition. Although the State Senate did not pass the bill, AIUSA continues to work with its allies to move strategy forward in New Hampshire.





# DRONES

Amnesty International's report "Will I Be Next? Drone Strikes in Pakistan," released in October 2013, led to results lasting well into 2014. The report spurred White House conversation about the need for new and continued reform, as well as helping to push for the introduction of legislation requiring the administration to release more information on drone killings, and leading to the longest break in drone killings in Pakistan since 2009. In the second quarter of the year, the Obama administration released a memo on legal justifications for drone strikes, a key step toward increasing transparency around the issue. AIUSA partnered with two Members of Congress to draft and introduce a bill that would force the administration to report the number of people it kills with drones.



# TORTURE

We saw major successes in our pursuit of truth and accountability for torture committed in the name of U.S. security. In December 2014, following months of advocacy by AIUSA and its partners, the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee released a summary of its report on CIA torture, prompting extensive public and media debate on torture—including new details about the torture and ill-treatment suffered by detainees still held at Guantanamo. In addition, we increased pressure on the Obama administration to transfer detainees out of Guantanamo: 28 detainees were released from the island prison.







## AIUSA's Individuals at Risk (IAR)

team continued to pursue Amnesty's signature work of freeing prisoners of conscience, supporting human rights defenders and ending other urgent, specific cases of abuses around the world. Highlights of the year's work include:

### **ALES BIALIATSKI:**

Prisoner of conscience Ales Bialiatski was freed in Belarus after three years in prison. He stated that he intends to continue his human rights work. He told us, "I want to thank you especially for the moral support. The thing that made a real difference were the letters I got from ordinary people, and I want you to say a special thank you to your activists for that."

### **ÁNGEL COLÓN:**

Prisoner of conscience and victim of torture Ángel Colón was finally released from jail in Mexico. Ángel was desperately trying to reach the USA to find a job to pay for medical treatment for his gravely ill son. Mexican police raided the house where he was staying in

Tijuana, northern Mexico, and arrested and tortured him.

### **GAO ZHISHENG:**

Much to the relief of his family and supporters, Chinese human rights lawyer and prisoner of conscience Gao Zhisheng was released after three years' imprisonment. He is one of China's most respected human rights lawyers.

### **GHONCHEH GHAVAMI:**

Iranian prisoner of conscience Ghoncheh Ghavami was released after being held in solitary confinement. She had been sentenced to a year in prison for protesting a ban on women attending sports stadiums.

### **NGUYEN VAN HAI:**

Prisoner of conscience and

blogger Nguyen Van Hai, better known by his pen name Dieu Cay ("peasant's pipe"), was released from prison, having served four years of a 12-year prison sentence.

### **INÉS FERNÁNDEZ ORTEGA AND VALENTINA ROSENDO CANTÚ:**

Since 2002, Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú have been fighting for the Mexican soldiers who raped them in separate attacks to be brought to justice. Four members of the Mexican armed forces were finally detained and prosecuted for the torture and sexual assault of these two women.

### **MERIAM YEHYA IBRAHIM:**

Six weeks after she was sentenced to hang, 27

year-old Meriam Ibrahim was freed from Sudan's death row. The mother of two was facing execution for refusing to renounce her Christian faith.

### **WRITE FOR RIGHTS:**

This year's Write for Rights letter-writing campaign was our largest ever! Held to mark Human Rights Day on December 10th, 3.2 million actions were taken worldwide, which helped resolve several cases, including the release of Nigerian prisoner Moses Akatugba and the passage of legislation ensuring reparations, including compensation, for survivors of racially motivated torture by police in Chicago—an important goal of Amnesty's Stop Torture Campaign.



## LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

During the restoration of U.S./Cuban ties, Amnesty successfully advocated for the release of 5 Cuban prisoners of conscience. Members of the AIUSA Coordination Group for the Caribbean wrote letters in support of asylum cases from the Dominican Republic and Haiti. AIUSA Government Relations staff presented recommendations to State Department officials on torture in Mexico; Government Relations staff also led advocacy efforts on behalf of human rights defenders in Colombia and 43 forcibly disappeared Mexican students.

## AFRICA

AIUSA helped lead a coalition of D.C. nonprofits' advocacy around the Boko Haram abductions in Nigeria, including by organizing a successful demonstration in Farragut Square which received extensive news coverage. Several activities were organized around the U.S./Africa heads of state summit, including a human rights forum featuring African human rights and democracy activists, meetings with government officials, and a meeting with General Kelly, head of the United States Southern Command, to discuss human rights issues in the region and convey AIUSA's recommendations.

## ASIA

For the 30th Anniversary of the industrial disaster in Bhopal, India, AIUSA Government Relations staff delivered a criminal summons to DOW Chemical, met with the State Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary and the Indian Embassy's Minister of Political Affairs, and organized a rally outside of DOW's Washington, D.C. offices. In response to the military coup in Thailand, AIUSA staff met with U.S. government officials and staff from the Thai embassy, as well as staged a demonstration.

## EUROPE

AIUSA worked with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to hold a February briefing on crisis in the Ukraine, and briefed State Department officials on deteriorating conditions in the North Caucasus. AIUSA staff and volunteer experts also testified twice before Congress on developments in the Ukraine and Russia, and initiated Congressional action regarding human rights abuses by the respective governments of Turkey and Uzbekistan.

## MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

AIUSA Government Relations staff generated a letter from 70 Members of Congress to President Obama, calling on him to raise the issue of human rights with the King of Saudi Arabia during Obama's visit to Riyadh, triggering global media coverage of AIUSA's critique of the U.S./Saudi relationship. Further news coverage followed after AIUSA sent a letter to Congress urging support for the implementation of Israeli military accountability and the suspension of U.S. weapons transfers until compliance is assured.





Amnesty International's researchers are integral to every campaign run and every human rights issue addressed by the organization. In 2014, AIUSA's researchers continued to do outstanding work supporting the rest of the organization by providing comprehensive, unbiased information on human rights issues around the globe. The AIUSA research team did significant work toward the framing of gun violence as a human rights issue for the Police Accountability & Gun Violence campaign, including sending representation to the U.N.'s 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (BMS5), including a significant focus on the

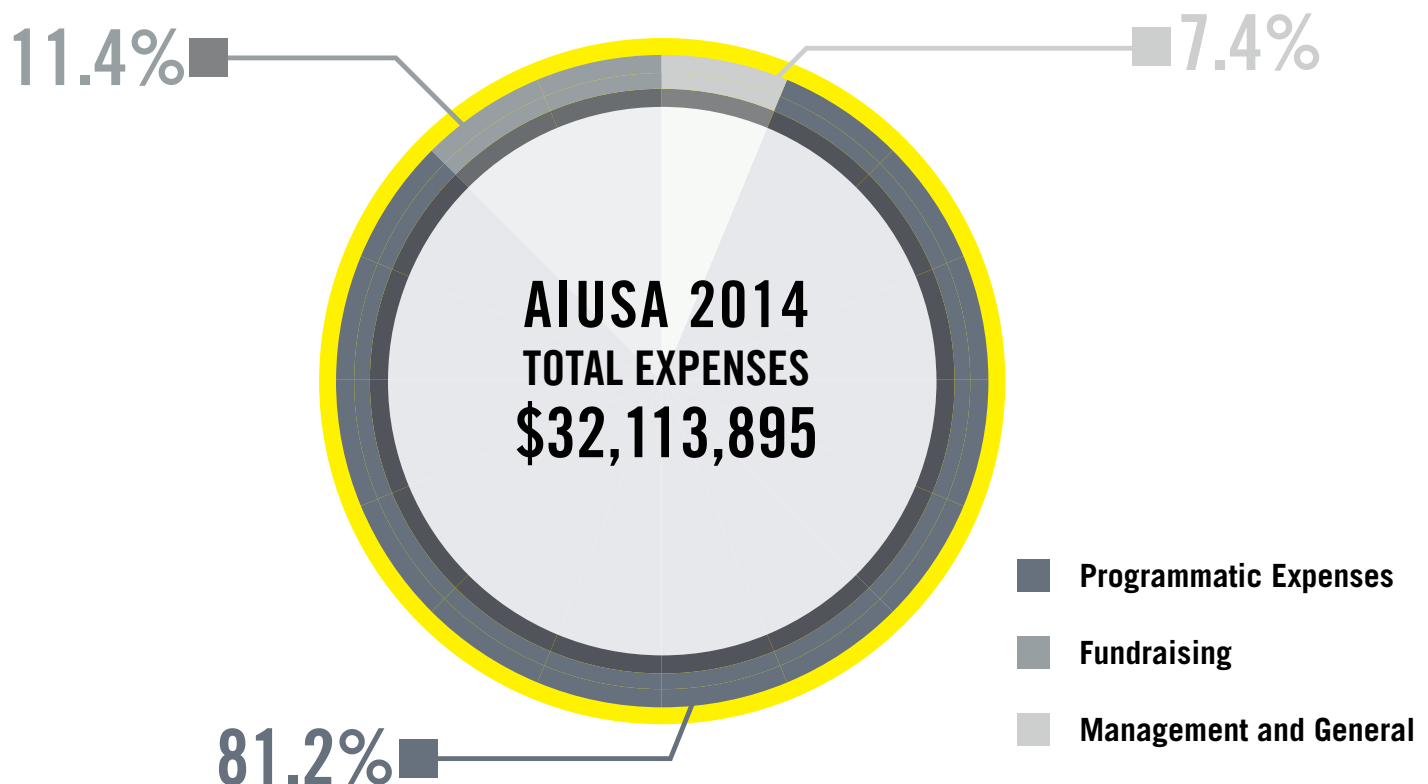
issue of women and gun violence, and to participate in meetings with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). The team also provided significant support on the Stop Torture campaign by conducting research on survivors of police torture in Chicago, coordinating and drafting Amnesty's shadow report in connection with the review of the U.S. by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and conducting research on prison conditions, including solitary confinement, maternal health, and immigration. In October, AIUSA researchers released their most widely publicized and well-received report of 2014 documenting human rights abuses in Ferguson, Missouri.



During 2014, financial performance was stable for Amnesty International USA (AIUSA). Liquidity increased by \$2.2M, while investments increased slightly over 2013's numbers. The assessment that AIUSA pays to the International Secretariat increased at the end of 2014, which resulted in increased total liabilities at the end of the year before AIUSA paid the accrued \$1.7M assessment in the first week of 2015. Revenue in 2014 declined by \$2.2M from the prior year, primarily through

a \$1.1M decrease in planned giving and a \$1M decrease in individual giving. The decrease in planned giving is due to the inherently unpredictable timeline of bequests through wills and estates, while the decrease in individual giving followed ongoing trends. In order to meet planned financial goals, AIUSA reduced its spending by \$2.1M in 2014, cutting expenses both in personnel and in communications, allowing AIUSA to end the year with a surplus.

AIUSA continues to work diligently with our staff and supporters to counter the lingering effects of the recession, and is constantly improving outreach and fundraising strategies. We are continually grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and members, and are confident in our ability to constantly improve our financial performance, enabling us to meet and exceed our programmatic goals in 2015 and beyond.





## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	12/31/14	12/31/13
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,909,255	2,669,839
Investments and restricted investments	14,928,666	14,795,779
Contributions and bequests receivable	287,713	561,813
Supplies inventory	54,116	47,136
Prepaid expenses and other assets	3,057,449	3,229,095
Fixed assets, net	372,890	377,796
	<b>\$ 23,610,089</b>	<b>\$ 21,681,458</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,548,675	698,334
Payroll and payroll taxes payable	510,490	1,078,212
Other liabilities and Charitable Gift Annuities payable	2,847,264	3,020,623
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>5,906,429</b>	<b>4,797,169</b>
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	14,203,082	13,001,978
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,285,719	1,667,452
Permanently restricted net assets	2,214,859	2,214,859
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>17,703,660</b>	<b>16,884,289</b>
	<b>\$ 23,610,089</b>	<b>\$ 21,681,458</b>

## Statement of Activities for the Years Ending

	12/31/14	12/31/13
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>		
Contributions, grants and bequests	31,785,589	34,144,311
Donated services	128,358	143,551
Other revenues	705,665	629,381
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>32,619,612</b>	<b>34,917,243</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Program services	26,087,685	29,107,753
Management and general	2,370,780	2,000,236
Fundraising	3,655,430	3,210,904
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>32,113,895</b>	<b>34,318,893</b>
Increase in net assets before investment income	505,717	598,350
Interest, dividends, realized and unrealized gains	313,654	1,553,155
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>\$ 819,371</b>	<b>\$ 2,151,505</b>

# THANK YOU.

Many thanks to the hundreds of thousands of individuals, groups, and organizations who make the work of Amnesty International USA possible through their generosity. Their contributions are essential to our ability to advance human rights for people around the world. Our donors have made our work possible for 50 years, helping us to free prisoners of conscience and speak out against human rights violations at home and abroad, creating real change through grassroots action and advocacy. *We are so grateful for their ongoing support and dedication to Amnesty's mission.*

