

Fifty years after its founding, Amnesty International has grown from one man's appeal on behalf of two "prisoners of conscience" into a global movement of over 2.8 million members, activists and supporters in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights. Here are some of the milestones Amnesty International has achieved in working to protect all rights for all people around the world.

1960

1961

Peter Benenson publishes "The Forgotten Prisoners," the seminal call-to-action that set the foundation for Amnesty International, in *The Observer London* newspaper on May 28, 1961. Benenson wrote his appeal on behalf of "prisoners of conscience" after reading a news article about two Portuguese students who were imprisoned for raising their wine glasses in a toast to freedom.



Peter Benenson, the British lawyer who founded Amnesty International in 1961, rekindles the original Amnesty International candle on the movement's 20th anniversary, outside St Martin-in-the-Fields church, London, UK, May 1981.¹



Former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela revisits the cell on Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison; South Africa, 1994.²

1962

Members from around the world meet in Belgium and officially found Amnesty International.

Amnesty International sends its first fact-finding missions to Ghana, Czechoslovakia and Portugal, establishing independent, on-the-ground research as a central tenet of its mission.

The new organization sends observers to the trial of Nelson Mandela.

1963

Amnesty International establishes the International Secretariat, its global headquarters, in London.

1964

The United Nations gives Amnesty International formal consultative status.

1965

Amnesty International publishes its first country report, on Portugal, then under the dictatorship of António de Oliveira Salazar.



Cover of "Prison Conditions in Portugal: A factual report compiled by Amnesty International" September 1965.³

1966

Amnesty International is founded in the United States as AIUSA.



AI's International Executive Committee receiving the Nobel Prize in Oslo on December 10, 1977.⁶

1970

1972

AI launches the Campaign Against Torture, its first worldwide campaign for human rights. AI is given consultative status at the Organization of American States.



Professor Luiz Rossi, subject of the first-ever Urgent Action⁵



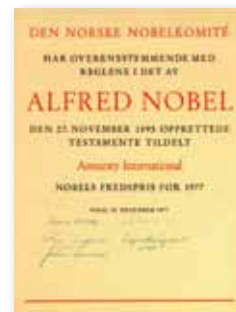
Abolish Torture posters, by Paul Peter Piech and Gustavo Espinosa.⁴

1973

The first Urgent Action is issued on behalf of Luiz Basilio Rossi, a Brazilian academic who was arrested and tortured for political reasons.

1977

Amnesty International is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its contribution to "securing the ground for freedom, for justice, and thereby also for peace in the world."



Copy of the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize received by Amnesty International.⁷

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



SHINE
A LIGHT
50 YEARS

1980



Former Amnesty International Director Jack Healey joins Bono, Sting, and other musicians at a Conspiracy of Hope concert in June 1986.⁹

1984

The Convention Against Torture is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10.

1986

Amnesty launches its Conspiracy of Hope concert tour, initiating a tradition of cultivating international popular support for human rights through music.

1987

The U.N. Convention Against Torture is ratified.

1988

The Human Rights Now! concert tours 15 countries to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Musicians such as Bruce Springsteen, Peter Gabriel, Sting, Tracy Chapman and Youssou N'Dour bring the message of human rights to music fans around the world.



A signed Human Rights Now! concert poster. The concert commemorated the 40th anniversary of the UDHR.⁸

1990

1991

AI expands its mandate to promote all human rights enshrined in the UDHR, from civil and political rights to economic, social and cultural rights.

1992

Membership passes the 1 million mark globally with 6,000 active groups in 70 countries.

1998

AI launches its first global campaign against human rights violations in the United States, focusing on police brutality, prison conditions, and the death penalty.

AI launches the "Get Up, Sign Up" campaign in 124 countries, collecting 13 million signatures in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during its 50th anniversary year.

2000



Participants in AI Nepal launch the Stop Violence Against Women campaign with a rally in Banepa, near Kathmandu, during the Holi (the National Festival of Colors) in March 2004.¹⁰

2002

The International Criminal Court, the world's first permanent international judicial body, is established following years of campaigning by Amnesty International and others.

The U.S. Supreme Court bans the death penalty for mentally retarded defendants, following an AI report and global campaign.

2004

Amnesty International launches its global campaign to Stop Violence Against Women.

2005

After a global AI campaign, the U.S. Supreme Court bans juvenile executions.

2009

Amnesty International launches the Demand Dignity campaign, expanding the organization's work to address poverty as a root cause of human rights violations around the world.

The United Nations agrees to establish a Global Arms Treaty to control the international trade of conventional arms following campaigning by Amnesty International.

Salil Shetty becomes secretary general of Amnesty International

PHOTO CREDITS: ¹Raoul Shade, ²Jurgen Schadeberg, www.jurgenschadeberg.com; ³Amnesty International, ⁴Paul Peter Piech and Gustavo Espinosa, ^{5,6}Amnesty International, ⁷Norsk Telegrambyra, ⁸Jack Healey, ^{9,10}Amnesty International



ABOVE: Princeton University Professor Kwame Appiah, editor of the Amnesty Global Ethics Series. LEFT: Joe Appiah, one of the first "prisoners of conscience" for whom Amnesty International advocated.

COURTESY ANTHONY APPIAH

REFLECTIONS ON CHANGING THE WORLD

New Amnesty International book series lays the intellectual groundwork for activism

BY HANNAH RUBENSTEIN

IN 1961 A CHILD in the young Republic of Ghana came home to find that his father had been arrested and hauled off to prison. The father, Joe Appiah, a political enemy of then-President Kwame Nkrumah, joined hundreds of people being held indefinitely under the country's Preventative Detention Act. For more than a year, a fledgling London-based organization called Amnesty International campaigned for the release of the Ghanaian political prisoners, garnering support from around the world in the form of a letter campaign to the authorities. The first

"prisoners of conscience," as they came to be known, were finally released in 1962 as a direct result of the international pressure, and the boy's father was among them.

Fifty years later, Kwame Anthony Appiah, the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor at Princeton University, is making an intellectual contribution to the organization that reunited him with his father by editing the groundbreaking Amnesty Global Ethics Series.

The series, which will debut in 2011 as part of AI's 50th anniversary celebration, is

a collaboration between AI and W. W. Norton & Company under the general editorship of Appiah. It is the first of its kind: a series of short books on a variety of complex human rights issues, authored by acclaimed scholars from around the globe and geared toward a general audience.

The series, says Appiah, is addressed to "everyone who recognizes that the dignity of each human being is the shared responsibility of us all, and who wants to listen in to the conversation of the leading thinkers of our age as they bring the intellectual tools of philosophy, law, history and the social sciences to bear on the issue of how we can carry out that responsibility."

"Amnesty is rightly focused at its heart on changing the world," Appiah explains, "but those of us who support it need also to step back from time to time and reflect. For often, as Amnesty has discovered, it takes a rich discussion of our values and a deep understanding of how the world works, if you are to take the right practical steps."

"We need thoughtful, cosmopolitan conversation about the many challenges facing our species," says Appiah. "It is that conversation that this series aims to advance."

Series contributors include *The Body in Pain* author Elaine Scarry, U.N. Secretary-General Special Representative for Business and Human Rights John Ruggie, and acclaimed philosopher Jonathan Wolff; they will address a variety of issues confronting the human rights community: Who has the right to forgive? Who advocates for future generations? What do we owe our neighbor in a globalizing world? The series will release three to four books per year, beginning in March of 2011 with Elaine Scarry's *How to Think in an Emergency* and Jonathan Wolff's *The Human Right to Health*. A book club and author podcast will accompany each release.

For more information on the series: http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Amnesty_Global_Ethics_Series/

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT AIUSA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



ABOVE: AIUSA's Annual General Meetings traditionally kick off with a march and rally, such as the march for housing rights at the 2010 AGM in New Orleans.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA will begin a yearlong commemoration of its 50th anniversary with an extraordinary Annual General Meeting (AGM) in San Francisco on March 18–20. The 2011 AGM will take advantage of the city's most beautiful historical landmarks, including a march from the Fairmont Hotel, where the conference will be held, to a rally at the Yerba Buena Gardens—the first in a series of Shine a Light events to spotlight the accomplishments of the AI movement and the urgency of increased activism for human rights.

The opening ceremony will take place at the legendary Warfield Theater, with a keynote address by former President Jimmy Carter, a welcome speech by the mayor of San Francisco, accolades from state legislators and members of Congress and performances by several of San Francisco's multicultural arts groups.

The opening ceremonies will also include the presentation of the first AIUSA Artist Award to Joan Baez. The award honors Baez's nearly four

To register for AIUSA's 2011 Annual General Meeting: www.amnestyusa.org/agm

decades of dedication to AIUSA, which began when Baez took a year off from her music career to organize AIUSA's expansion to the West Coast in 1972 with Ginetta Sagan. Sagan was an activist and educator who founded 75 AI chapters around the country and dedicated her life to human rights research and advocacy. The artist award will be named after Baez and given annually to artists who demonstrate a commitment to human rights.

The evening rally at Yerba Buena Gardens will kick off a rich AGM program, including a youth summit, working groups, long-term planning on AI campaigning and other activities to connect activists to one another. The three-day conference will celebrate and explore AI's past, present and future with special guests, former AI prisoners of conscience, and films, including a screening of two new films edited from archival footage from Amnesty's illustrious history over the past 50 years.

While participants will commemorate the remarkable accomplishments of Amnesty International, they will also participate in and shape AIUSA's human rights advocacy through workshops, strategy sessions and the resolutions process. Much of the inspiration for AIUSA's nuts-and-bolts human rights work is borne of the creative collaboration that arises from the sharing of ideas by activists from around the world.

AIUSA needs your spirit, your talents and your dedication to ensure the Amnesty International movement can grow and prosper. Mark your calendars and bring your friends to this landmark celebration.

Registration is currently open and will continue until March 4, 2011. Those who register prior to January 15, 2011, will receive a discounted rate. To register, please visit: www.amnestyusa.org/agm.

"I am drawn to AI because it covers such a broad spectrum of rights. AI has evolved throughout the time I have been involved, from its work on prisoners of conscience to the latest campaign, Demand Dignity. AI's ability to be flexible has kept me motivated, engaged and excited about the work."



—Brianna Castro, Southern Representative, AGM Planning Committee

"I love the fact that AI empowers youth activists. Unlike many organizations, youths have a strong voice here—what we feel and what we say really reaches a mass audience. We are part of the movement and we are valued."



—Aquib Yacoub, Student Area Coordinator for N.Y. State



THE AGM IS JUST ONE OF THE SIGNATURE EVENTS AIUSA IS HOLDING TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND ENGAGE MORE PEOPLE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY. PLEASE PUT THESE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR TOO. FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG

TOAST TO FREEDOM

Toast to Freedom Events will begin on May 4, 2011, with a presentation to His Holiness the Dalai Lama of the Ambassador of Conscience Award at the Robert F. Kennedy School in Los Angeles. The assembled students will announce their pledge to work for human rights to the Dalai Lama. Continuing into May and June, activists across the country will gather to honor the history and work of Amnesty International by raising a glass in memory of the two Portuguese students arrested in Lisbon for toasting to freedom—the inspiration for Peter Benenson's founding of Amnesty International in 1961.

SHINE A LIGHT

On December 10, 2011, International Human Rights Day, new and veteran activists nationwide will gather in public spaces across the country at the same moment to "shine a light," using amber-colored Amnesty Human Rights Lights, in support of human rights for all people (6 p.m. Pacific/7 p.m. Mountain/8 p.m. Central/9 p.m. Eastern). Shine a Light will be a massive public demonstration of support for the advancement of human rights for all in concert with the 2011 Global Write-a-thon.

ABOVE: The Dalai Lama lights a candle, one of 30 corresponding to 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on the occasion of World Refugee Day and the 40th anniversary of Amnesty International, in Nagano, Japan.