

# HOPE FOR HUMANITY 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

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## Amnesty International USA

We are not powerless. With justice and human dignity under attack across the world, members of Amnesty International turn their compassion into meaningful action that helps to break the seemingly never-ending cycle of human rights abuses.

In 2024, you stood in solidarity with protesters half a world away... held governments accountable for war crimes... made sure prisoners of conscience were not forgotten... shined a light on global threats to women's rights... and kept hope alive for millions of refugees and asylum seekers. On behalf of people who have been oppressed, persecuted and unjustly imprisoned, we thank you for your continued support.

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# AMNESTY IS ACTION



Grassroots mobilization, high-level legislative work and media outreach are ways Amnesty International works around the planet to press governments, companies and decision-makers to do the right thing.

## People-Powered Campaigns

Through petitions, letters and protests, Amnesty members and supporters worldwide shine a light on human rights abuses and demand action from the people and institutions who can make change happen. One of the central vehicles for Amnesty activism is our **Urgent Action Network**. In 2023, the more than 500,000 members of the Urgent Action Network worldwide were called upon to flood the mailboxes, inboxes, phones and social media accounts of government authorities on behalf of hundreds of individuals who had been denied their human rights. In addition, Amnesty is also holding its 23rd annual **Write for Rights** campaign, the world's largest human rights event. Leading up to Human Rights Day on December 10, millions of human rights activists around the world come together to make a big difference by doing something as “little” as writing a letter on behalf of individuals at risk.

## Campaign to Protect Civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel

In response to the ongoing, horrifying crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, Amnesty International mobilized its members and activists globally to urge the world's leaders to demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire and urgently take action to prevent further civilian bloodshed and trauma. Here in the United States, our members inundated the White House and Congress with petitions to protect civilian lives by stopping weapons transfers to the Israeli government after Amnesty's on-the-ground research exposed that U.S. made weapons have been used in unlawful attacks that have killed Palestinian civilians.



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# AMNESTY IS RESEARCH



Change starts with the facts. Amnesty International carries out painstaking, fact-based research into human rights violations around the world. Thanks to member support, our rigorous reports are free of government influence and are regularly cited by courts, legislators, teachers and journalists. Among our most notable 2024 investigative reports are:

## The State of the World's Human Rights

Amnesty International's annual report on human rights in 155 countries painted a dismal picture of alarming human rights repression and prolific international rule-breaking, warning that many powerful states are abandoning the values underpinning the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Notably, conflicts that have defined recent years show no sign of abating as civilians pay the ultimate price for mounting war crimes. And, throughout the world, the unchecked use of technologies such as spyware and mass surveillance tools encroach on human rights and freedoms, often targeting the most marginalized groups in society. But where leaders the world over have failed to stand up for human rights, we have seen people galvanized to march, protest and petition in unprecedented numbers for a more hopeful future.

## “On My Campus, I Am Afraid.”

In the most wide-ranging documentation to date of the Chinese government's transnational repression at foreign universities, Amnesty International carried out in-depth interviews with Chinese students studying at universities in eight countries, including the USA. These Chinese and Hong Kong students are living in fear of intimidation, harassment and surveillance. They described being photographed and followed at protests in their host cities, and many also said their families in China had been targeted and threatened by police in connection

with their activism overseas. There are an estimated 900,000 Chinese students studying abroad, and Amnesty International is calling on host governments and universities to do more to protect the rights of those who face the threat of transnational repression.



## The Human Rights Crisis in the Aftermath of Dobbs

Since the Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision, people of reproductive age have faced increased restrictions and barriers to abortion across the United States—and the impact is clear.

Bans and restrictions to abortion have created fear, confusion, and devastation, forcing people who can get pregnant to delay care and even give birth against their will, threatening their health and their lives. Our report shows the devastating impacts of bans and restrictions on abortion and demands that urgent action be taken to address this crisis.

# AMNESTY WINS!



The heart of Amnesty International is our work on behalf of individuals who have had their human rights abused. We don't give up, and our efforts can go on for years before producing breakthroughs. In 2024, your support yielded some important victories. Here are just a few.

## Amazon Reimburses Workers in Saudi Arabia

In October 2023, Amnesty International published a report documenting how contracted workers in Amazon warehouses in Saudi Arabia were deceived by recruitment agents and labor supply companies, cheated of their earnings, housed in appalling conditions and prevented from finding alternative employment or leaving the country. Many were highly likely victims of human trafficking. The report showed how Amazon failed to prevent these human rights abuses, despite receiving complaints directly from workers about their treatment. In February 2024, Amazon paid \$1.9 million to more than 700 migrant workers to reimburse them for those unlawful recruitment fees.



## Rita Karasartova Is Freed in Kyrgyzstan!

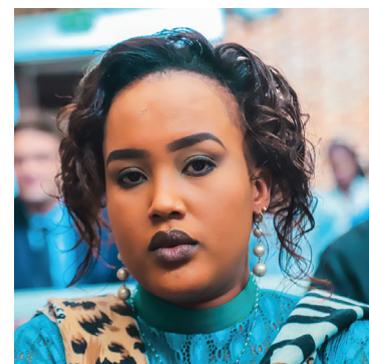
In October 2022, Rita Karasartova was arrested after engaging in peaceful protests against a deal that the Kyrgyzstan government had made with neighboring

Uzbekistan that threatened access to a freshwater reservoir that supplied much-needed water to her region. For over a year, Rita was held under house arrest and faced the possibility of 15 years

in prison if convicted of the outrageous charge of attempting to “violently overthrow the government.” During **Write for Rights** last year, 405,204 Amnesty members and supporters took action in support of Rita, calling for her immediate and unconditional release. On June 14, 2024, Rita Karasartova was acquitted of the charges against her and freed!

## Floriane Irangabiye Is Pardoned in Burundi!

Journalist Floriane Irangabiye was arrested in Burundi in August 2022 while on a visit from Rwanda, where she was living after having made comments highly critical of the Burundian government during a radio show. Four months later, she was sentenced to 10



years in prison for “undermining the integrity of the national territory,” following a deeply flawed trial in which the prosecution produced no evidence of her calling for the use of violence to overthrow the government. Weeks before Floriane Irangabiye's case was to be featured in our 2024 global **Write for Rights** campaign, President Evariste Ndayishimiye signed a decree granting Floriane a full pardon and she was released from prison.



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## AMNESTY TIMELINE: Key Human Rights Developments in 2024

### JANUARY 26

The International Court of Justice orders Israel to take immediate and effective measures to protect Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip from the risk of genocide.

### FEBRUARY 5

Amnesty International publishes *Defending the Rights of Refugees and Migrants in the Digital Age*, a briefing on the pervasive and rapid deployment of potentially discriminatory digital technology in asylum and migration management systems across the globe that poses increasing human rights concerns for asylum seekers.

### MARCH 22

Amnesty International speaks out against the appointment of Saudi Arabia as chair of the gender equality forum for the UN Commission on the Status of Women, citing the government's abysmal record regarding the rights of women and girls.

### APRIL 13

A three-day Global Youth Summit begins in Buenos Aires, hosted by Amnesty International, bringing together hundreds of youth delegates from across the globe to share ideas and envision a world that respects their digital rights and overall health and well-being online.

### MAY 15

Paul O'Brien, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, issues a public statement speaking out against the Biden Administration's transfer of weapons to the government of Israel after openly acknowledging U.S. weapons have been used to harm civilians.

### JUNE 24

Amnesty International launches the 1000 Ways to Support Abortion Rights campaign, offering compelling and influential ways for people to engage with efforts around the globe to protect the right to abortion.

### JULY 28

Amnesty International condemns violence and repression after security forces in Venezuela use lethal force against people who take to the street after President Nicolas Maduro claims victory in the presidential election, which has been highly questioned by the international community.

### AUGUST 6

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigns after her government's brutal and deadly attacks failed to quash student-led protests demanding reform.

### SEPTEMBER 22-28

Amnesty marks Banned Books Week by spotlighting 13 cases of individuals or communities whose human rights are under attack because of their work as authors, journalists, bloggers, filmmakers, poets, novelists, photojournalists, publishers, academics, musicians, and librarians.

### NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 20

Amnesty International holds its 23rd annual Write for Rights, the world's largest human rights event, mobilizing its global movement of members, supporters and activists to send letters on behalf of individuals at risk.

### DECEMBER 9

International Human Rights Defenders Day and the 26th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### DECEMBER 10

International Human Rights Day and the 76th Anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.